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Thursday, 12 August 2021

Legislative Assembly

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

VISITOR — RORY

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [9.02 am]: I give a very special acknowledgement of Rory in my gallery this morning—welcome.

PRINCESS MARGARET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.03 am]: I rise today to announce the inclusion of a place in the state Register of Heritage Places to recognise the significance of the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. Hidden behind tall palm trees, people may not have noticed the small cream, weatherboard building near the corner of Hay and Thomas Streets in Subiaco on the former PMH site. This modest building is more than 110 years old and is a rare survivor of the earliest phase of development of Perth's first children's hospital, and today it has been included in the state heritage register.

Constructed in 1909, this modest federation bungalow-style building was the original outpatients facility for the hospital, and included consulting rooms for doctors and nurses and an emergency operating theatre for minor surgeries. It was originally meant to be a temporary measure while the rest of the hospital was built. However, it went on to serve as the headquarters for the hospital's women's auxiliary, as the first psychiatric clinic in the state and then, finally, as a multi-faith centre, providing a place for people to go for prayer and spiritual reflection.

Constructed a few years after the outpatients building in 1913 overlooking the corner of Roberts Road and Thomas Street, Subiaco, Godfrey House was built as accommodation for the Chief Medical Officer at the children's hospital. The fine detailing and ornate style of the building is an indication of the status given to the role of the Chief Medical Officer in the past.

After community consultation last year, the Heritage Council of Western Australia recommended that the existing state register entry for Godfrey House be amended to also include the outpatients building, and that the entire place be renamed Princess Margaret Hospital for Children (fmr) Subiaco. Princess Margaret Hospital was one of the world's leading paediatric facilities of its time, providing care and comfort to thousands of Western Australians, and a career path for many nurses, doctors, researchers and specialist health professionals. The inclusion of these two buildings in the state heritage register provides an important historical connection to the early years of the hospital's operations and the health care offered to the children of Western Australia. Both buildings will be protected and interpreted in the government's redevelopment of the Subi East precinct.

BANDYUP WOMEN'S PRISON — BINDI BINDI MENTAL HEALTH UNIT

Statement by Minister for Corrective Services

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Corrective Services) [9.06 am]: I rise to inform the house of the recent opening of the Bindi Bindi mental health unit at Bandyup Women's Prison. The McGowan government has invested \$2.4 million in the new, dedicated unit as part of the WA recovery plan. The 29-bed unit will provide mental health assessment, treatment and rehabilitation for women prisoners from across the state.

The prevalence of mental illness in our prisons presents a significant challenge and makes Corrective Services one of the biggest mental health providers in the state. The Bindi Bindi mental health unit will accommodate and treat prisoners with a mental illness using clinical care alongside trauma-informed and recovery-focused approaches. It comprises 23 subacute beds for prisoners whose mental health needs cannot be safely managed in mainstream units and six beds for women who are acutely unwell. The government provided an additional \$4.7 million in funding for staff, training and furnishings for the unit.

The name Bindi Bindi, the Noongar word for butterfly, represents the vision of the unit to transform women to optimal health and help them lead successful and purposeful lives in the community when released. The opening of the Bindi Bindi unit follows the successful establishment of Wandoo Rehabilitation Prison, the state's first dedicated alcohol and other drugs rehabilitation prison for women. Bindi Bindi will help improve the mental health of prisoners in a non-threatening environment, aiding their rehabilitation and making prisons and the community safer places.

On behalf of the McGowan government, I wish the staff and prisoners at Bindi Bindi the very best.

EXPLORATION INCENTIVE SCHEME*Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum*

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [9.08 am]: I rise today to inform the house that last week in Kalgoorlie at the Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum I announced that the McGowan government would increase the exploration incentive scheme by \$2.5 million a year from \$10 million to \$12.5 million. The scheme offers up to a 50 per cent refund for innovative exploration drilling projects. This increase in EIS funding will further incentivise exploration investment in Western Australia, whereby in 2020 alone almost \$2 billion was invested in the state's mineral fields, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Western Australia's mineral potential continues to be recognised, with the ABS noting that about two-thirds of the total capital invested in exploration in Australia during 2020 went into Western Australian projects. As part of the WA recovery plan, the EIS received one-off funding of \$5 million in 2020–21, which temporarily increased the EIS budget from \$10 million to \$15 million. For the past two EIS rounds, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has received a significantly higher number of applications. The Tropicana, Gruyere and Bellevue gold discoveries are examples of previous EIS successes and while interest in gold exploration in Western Australia remains strong, exploration for battery minerals essential to a cleaner, greener world has noticeably increased.

A recent independent study covering the first 10 years of the EIS reiterated the robust economic benefits of the EIS, with every dollar invested resulting in a \$31 return. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the mining industry, which employs 140 000 workers, has demonstrated its resilience in maintaining its role as the major contributor to Western Australia's economy. This additional funding to \$12.5 million a year could help find the next big resource discovery, which in turn leads to new mines and new jobs for Western Australians. The old adage is that "the more you drill, the more you find" and the McGowan government will certainly support industry, through initiatives such as the EIS, in its endeavours to discover the next generation of mines that will sustain and create jobs in our state.

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS — COMPLIANCE*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection) [9.10 am]: I have the great pleasure to update the house on a record-breaking milestone for the working with children check scheme. The working with children check is a compulsory screening strategy for people engaged in certain paid or unpaid work with children. It aims to increase the safety of children in our community by helping to prevent people who have a criminal history that indicates they may harm a child from gaining employment in child-related work.

When the scheme went live, a total of 9 374 applications were lodged for the 2005–06 financial year. Each year the uptake has grown. In 2020–21, the Department of Communities focused on broadening its community outreach to educate the general public and organisations on the importance of working with children check requirements and their compliance obligations. This included targeted education through workshops, key industry bodies and relevant government departments, as well as a social and digital media campaign. The department also undertook a targeted proactive audit in which self-assessment forms were sent to organisations to complete a questionnaire for evaluation. These proactive measures identified and responded to organisational noncompliance, further adding to the protection of children. The increased focus on outreach and education has resulted in a record-breaking year of working with children checks. For the 2020–21 financial year, the unit received 145 878 working with children check applications.

I commend the working with children screening unit for its efforts in safeguarding children. Working with children checks are one way that we, as a government and community, can keep children safe. Alone, they cannot keep children safe, but they are a vital part of our armoury.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS TEACHING SUPPORT PROGRAM*Statement by Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence*

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence) [9.12 am]: I rise to inform the house about important prevention work underway to break the cycle of family and domestic violence. Violence against anyone is unacceptable. We need to promote equal and respectful relationships as the norm. Teaching young people about healthy and positive relationships is the best way to prevent violence before it starts. To do this, we introduced the WA respectful relationships teaching support program in schools in 2019. This program provides professional learning, resources and support to schools to implement a whole-of-school approach to respectful relationships education. This approach recognises that school communities can play a part in teaching young people how to recognise and challenge violence against women, reinforcing the message that violence is never okay. The program is delivered by the Department of Communities in partnership with the Department of Education and Starick services.

With the commencement of term 3 last week, another 12 schools are participating in the program, mostly in the regions, bringing the total to 33 schools that are engaged in the program. The McGowan government has committed another \$1.4 million to expand this program into 12 additional schools in 2022. We are also commencing work to

implement this program in sporting organisations in recognition of the role these organisations can play in fostering respectful relationships. This is part of a \$7 million boost to prevention initiatives in the area of family and domestic violence. Efforts at this level will have a significant impact on reducing the rates of family and domestic violence because it gives us the chance to stop the violence before it starts. The best relationships, no matter where they happen and at which stage of life, are respectful ones.

SWIMMING WITH HUMPBACK WHALES TRIAL — NINGALOO

Statement by Minister for Environment

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Environment) [9.14 am]: I am pleased to update the house on the state government's humpback whale swim tour trial in Ningaloo Marine Park. The population of humpback whales that migrate along Western Australia's coast every year is one of the largest in the world and a wonderful natural phenomenon. Humpback whales generally migrate past the Exmouth and Coral Bay coastline between July and October. This creates a unique opportunity on the Ningaloo coast to experience a close interaction with these magnificent animals on a humpback whale swim tour.

Humpback whale swim tours have been trialled in Ningaloo Marine Park since 2016 with operators licensed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Almost 10 000 swimmers have experienced this activity since 2016. The operators involved are also licensed to conduct in-water interactions with whale sharks, with visitors also getting the chance to spot other marine life including marine turtles, dolphins, dugongs, rays and sharks. Over 25 000 visitors have taken the opportunity to swim with whale sharks on the Ningaloo coast this year. This successful tourism program has been a DBCA partnership with commercial tour operators. Operators are required to adhere to licence conditions that aim to minimise risks to swimmers, while avoiding negative impacts on humpback whales. On the basis that the trial demonstrates no evidence of negative impacts on humpback whales, nor significant risks to public safety, the state government has plans to transition the tours to a licensed industry by 2024, with licences being allocated through a competitive process.

I was very pleased to see the success and continuation of this trial that showcases the unique opportunities available to visitors on the Ningaloo coast. Swimming with these incredible animals is a bucket list experience. In Western Australia, the Ningaloo coast is the only place where these tours are offered and undertaken by DBCA-licensed operators under safe and environmentally appropriate conditions. Now is the perfect time to "Wander Out Yonder" and support tourism businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

MY BUSHFIRE PLAN

Statement by Minister for Emergency Services

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Emergency Services) [9.16 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to update the house on the exciting new website and app that was introduced by the state government last year to help all Western Australians plan for bushfires. My Bushfire Plan is a mobile responsive website and an Australian-first companion app, designed and built right here in Western Australia. It provides members of our community with one place to prepare, print, share and update their bushfire plan anytime from any device. This means it is easily accessible if a bushfire threatens and they need to act.

Over summer, My Bushfire Plan was supported by a hard-hitting new advertising campaign "How Fireproof is Your Plan?" that ran on television, radio and print, online, outdoors and in social media. Our state is more than 90 per cent bushfire-prone, yet only about one in 10 Western Australians have a bushfire plan. The new campaign urged people to rethink their personal risk and plan what they will do if a bushfire strikes. The campaign depicted real-life bushfire scenarios and the consequences people face when their bushfire plan is not comprehensive enough. I am pleased to inform the house of the great success of the campaign, the website and the app. We achieved many of our objectives, including a 28 per cent increase in the number of people who wrote a bushfire plan after seeing the campaign. There was also a 20 per cent increase in the number of people who spoke to their family or housemates about their bushfire plans. We saw more than 17 300 downloads of the app, with 12 786 plans created. Interestingly, about 92 per cent of these plans were to leave early, rather than stay and defend. My colleague the member for Swan Hills will be pleased to know that the suburb with the most plans created through the app was Ellenbrook with 102, very closely followed by Baldivis with 97. The member for Warren-Blackwood will be interested to know that the country town with the most plans created was Margaret River with 78. I can also report to the Premier that seven plans have been created in Rockingham and nine in East Rockingham.

We all know the importance of having a bushfire plan. The introduction of this new website and app has made it easier than ever before to create a plan. I urge all members to encourage their community to visit www.mybushfireplan.wa.gov.au and make a plan ahead of the next bushfire season.

JUST TRANSITION PLAN — COLLIE

Grievance

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie-Preston) [9.19 am]: As the minister knows, I am the newly elected member for Collie-Preston, having replaced Hon Mick Murray, who fought very hard for the people of Collie-Preston over

his 20 years in Parliament. As the minister also knows, my husband works for Synergy at Muja power station. He got an adult traineeship with Western Power through a program supported by the then Gallop government. He had previously worked a three-and-one roster at Telstra, installing satellite radio telephones in remote Aboriginal communities, but with a young daughter, we sought to find a job that meant he would be home every night. We made the conscious decision for him to no longer work in the fly-in fly-out industry, and when the opportunity came up for a traineeship in Collie, we moved there, in 2006. That move gave us the life we wanted, in a town that has given us more than I will ever be able to return.

This life was single-handedly threatened by the Liberal Party in February this year. The Liberal Party's energy policy was a surprise move in the thick of the 2021 election campaign; it even caught the Liberal candidate for Collie–Preston by surprise. Waking up to the news that the Liberal Party had a plan to essentially close our town by 2025, I was devastated. Mick Murray was fuming, and that is putting it politely! In an experience I will never forget, we called a town meeting at the Collie Mineworkers' Institute at about an hour's notice. Hundreds of local workers, their families, local businesses owners and union members all came to show their disgust with the Liberal Party and its plan to shut down Collie, almost overnight, with no thought for the people or the human cost to those of us who live and work there.

Collie has a proud history of powering the state. Starting with underground coalmining in 1898, and moving to open-cut coalmining in 1994, the miners and power workers of Collie have made an immeasurable contribution to the development of the state of Western Australia. Sadly, the names of 64 men are commemorated on the memorial coal arch in Phoenix Park. These men gave their lives in the coalmines as the ultimate sacrifice to the people of Western Australia. Many of them died hundreds of metres underground, employed to mine the coal that has powered the state over the last 124 years. Tragically, the most recent of these deaths was in 2018.

Modern-day Collie has excellent schools, hospitals, sporting facilities and a thriving community. Its sense of community is nowhere more obvious than in my own street. It is a microcosm of Collie and represents the dependence almost everyone who lives there has on the coal industry. I am lucky enough to honestly say I live in the best street in Australia. We have a corporate bowls team and in summer we do Sunday sessions and take turns to host them. There are nibbles and a few drinks on a Friday night and invites to each other's kids' birthday parties, and Frank fires up the pizza oven so we can watch the Eagles in his shed! Jason and I and our kids live at number 14. As I said, Jason is a coal-fired power station operator—a highly technical and skilled role. His job will be one of the first affected as we transition to a life beyond coal. His skills are not easily transferred to other roles.

I have had the pleasure of teaching many of the kids who live in my street. Next door are Candice and Frank and their young children. Candice was born and raised in Collie and is a teacher at the local school. Schools are funded based on the number of student enrolments. If the number of enrolments drops, so does the number of teachers required. As we transition, if families choose to leave Collie, jobs for people like Candice will also be under threat. Next door to Candice and Frank are Trish and Stocka and their teenage kids. Trish is a nurse at the local medical clinic and Stocka works at Bluewaters power station. He is a boilermaker/welder, and their eldest child will graduate from high school at the end of this year.

Further up the road are Paul and Nerelee. Paul is an electrician who contracts work to Premier Coal, one of the two coalmines. As the coal industry changes, so too will his business. Across the street lives Chappy, an electrical instrumentation technical officer at Synergy's Muja power station. He is a legend; he will love me saying that! He is heavily involved in volunteering in the community. He has been a fixture at Mustangs Hockey Club for years, and is now incredibly involved in the emerging mountain biking scene.

Tenille and Daniel, next door to Chappy, have a young and growing family. They were both born and raised in Collie, and are looking forward to raising their own family there. Daniel works at Collie power station as an electrician and Tenille works for the local credit union. The credit union employs many women in banking and admin roles, but the number of people working there is dependent on the number of people banking with them. If people choose to move away from Collie, their money goes with them, which impacts on services and the local economy. It is also important to note that approximately 1 200 people are directly employed in the coal and power industries. There is a significant amount of indirect employment in the local area, too.

In fact, it is incredibly important to note that any closure of mines or power stations in Collie will reverberate across the entire south west, affecting people in the rest of my electorate who live in Eaton, Australind, Donnybrook and surrounds. It will also affect the electorates of Vasse, Murray–Wellington, Bunbury, Mandurah and Dawesville. Many people who live in these areas work in Collie or are employed in businesses that service the coal and power industries.

What is key to the future of the south west, and especially to the people of my electorate of Collie–Preston, is a just transition, not an ill-thought-out Liberal Party energy policy. We need a sensible plan for Collie, and I acknowledge here the work done so far by the McGowan Labor government, Hon Mick Murray, local workers, industry and unions. So, can the minister please explain to me what the government is doing to secure Collie's future?

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Energy) [9.26 am]: I thank the member very much for this grievance. I want to acknowledge her deep connection to the Collie community and congratulate her on her stunning

election victory, in which she gained a massive swing towards Labor. No-one thought the community of Collie could love anyone more than Mick Murray, but the member has proven them wrong and demonstrated that that community holds her in even higher regard than Mick! The next time Mick sees me, he is probably going to treat me badly for having said that, but the stats do not lie!

For more than 130 years the people of Collie have been powering our state through Collie's mines and power stations, and we have the people of Collie to thank for all our economic development over that 130 years. Whenever I have visited Collie in my roles as both shadow Minister for Energy before the change of government and as minister in the McGowan government, I have always made the point that the people of Collie have been good to the Labor Party, so the Labor Party is determined to be good to the people of Collie.

The Premier and I went with Mick Murray to meet the power station workers after making the decision to close Muja C. Firstly, we were brave enough to go there in person. I was very familiar with many of the guys there because I had been down to Collie frequently, both in opposition and as minister. I contrast that with our political opponents, who made their announcement a long way away from the workforce that would be impacted by it. We established, with the unions and workforce, the Just Transition Plan. As the guys always say, it cannot be just a transition plan; it has to be a Just Transition Plan. We are very pleased with the workforce's level of engagement with the Collie Just Transition Plan. Each worker is being provided with one-on-one support to work out what they are going to do as the transition takes place.

Synergy employees have been engaged to identify their preferred long-term transitional pathways, and the future post-closure operating models for units 5 and 6 have been co-created with Synergy employees and their union representatives. Synergy employees who have chosen to voluntarily leave Synergy have been identified and have had their redundancies confirmed, and services are being provided to Synergy workers who choose to stay beyond the unit closures in respect of their long-term transitional pathways. As I have emphasised to the workforce, we need them to help us in this transition.

Further, following close engagement with unions and members down there, Synergy now requires embedded contractors to participate in Just Transition planning and to give equal opportunity to embedded contractors to have that same support in their career transition. There are normally about 80 to 90 embedded contractors on site—that is not including during outages, but in the normal running of business—and those permanently embedded contractors now have options to develop their own personal transition plans. It is really now seen as a model nationally, and we are very pleased to engage with businesses in other coal communities on the way forward.

That is not the only thing that we are doing. We are also making unprecedented investment in the Collie community to diversify the economy. For example, we have put \$10 million into adventure bike trails around Collie. Before we made that investment, some people did not fully understand the benefit of that. However, I now know from talking to the member for Collie—Preston and others in Collie how that has really changed the nature of the Collie tourism offering and how there has been a huge incoming of tourists for those facilities.

There will be \$13.4 million for the Koolinup Emergency Services Centre, including for the incident control centre, emergency driver training school and regional fleet maintenance. There has been \$1.5 million for the Collie Mural Trail project, which has seen Wellington Dam's huge 360 metre by 34 metre wall become the canvas for a mural—of course, despite the rumours, it was not actually a giant nude of Mick Murray, which was the original thought—that has been installed on the wall.

Ms J.L. Hanns: That was the Premier's thought.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: That is right; a Michelangelo-style rendering of Mick Murray!

There will be \$4.5 million for tourism readiness projects in Collie; \$2.5 million for frontline fire and rescue equipment to establish an emergency vehicle manufacturing facility in Collie; and \$300 000—I like this one in particular—to move the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety regional licensing processing centre to Collie. I make two points about that. Firstly, we have insourced work that previously had been outsourced, creating permanent public service jobs to replace insecure working arrangements. Secondly, we saved money, because by doing it as direct employees, it has been done at low cost and, because it is a new function, we have been able to put it in Collie and create 10 full-time jobs down there. I have been to the centre twice—once on its opening and on my last visit—and it is really good. I think nine out of the 10 workers actually live in Collie, and one person comes from Busselton. The overwhelming majority of people who work there are women who would have had less opportunity for employment in the past.

We are also working on a range of other opportunities down there in the private sector, including for medical-grade collagen, medicinal cannabis, waste recycling and, of course, a graphite hub as part of our battery industry strategy.

This contrasts with our political opponents, who do not understand the electricity system. They made an announcement that would have devastated Western Australia and devastated Collie. They had no detail and no plan, and they even said that they would not have to worry about paying for the coalmines in Collie. They just had no understanding of anything to do with Collie. No wonder the community rejected them so strongly.

FLYNN DRIVE, NEERABUP*Grievance*

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [9.33 am]: I rise to grieve to the Minister for Transport this morning about a very critical piece of infrastructure required in my electorate of Wanneroo—that is, of course, the much-needed upgrades to Flynn Drive in Neerabup. I thank her for taking my grievance.

Before I begin, I also take this opportunity to thank the minister again for the full delivery of my key transport infrastructure election commitments of 2017, which, of course, relate to the interchanges at Ocean Reef Road–Wanneroo Road and Joondalup Drive–Wanneroo Road. These two completed projects have truly transformed the way residents in my electorate and other sections of the northern suburbs, more broadly, travel. These projects have busted congestion and have significantly improved safety for motorists in the suburbs that make up my electorate. I cannot highlight enough how I get feedback on a daily basis on how well these two interchanges are working and the significant time that is being saved day in, day out by motorists. It is quite incredible. Importantly, though, those two pieces of key infrastructure actually will futureproof those intersections for the long term as we see more development in east Wanneroo and mean that we will not have to get the shovels out again to modify that intersection. The Joondalup Drive intersection will serve us well for the next 30 years and beyond.

But, of course, my work and the minister's work is never done, and I now turn her attention to the key election commitment that I advocated for prior to 2021—that is, for urgent and important upgrades to Flynn Drive. I am very happy that the McGowan government committed \$20 million to upgrade Flynn Drive. Flynn Drive is the access road to the Neerabup industrial park in my electorate and connects the east with other urban areas. I know other members of Parliament, including the members for Burns Beach, Butler and Joondalup are very keen to get this upgrade happening so that this important industrial area and key employment hub can be further activated.

The minister well knows the importance of the Neerabup industrial park. She has visited it on many occasions. This government values and, importantly, is investing in, Neerabup industrial park as the key industrial employment hub for not only the people in the suburbs of my electorate in Wanneroo, but also, as I mentioned, residents who live all over the northern suburbs. In fact, when it is complete, the Neerabup industrial area is expected to be one of the biggest industrial estates in Perth and will ultimately generate up to 20 000 new jobs. We are already seeing a presence by various state agencies there. There is the brand new Main Roads metropolitan maintenance depot in the Neerabup industrial estate. It has been strategically located there to service the northern suburbs and key roads, including Mitchell Freeway and Tonkin Highway. Of course, the police department is also present there, with the north metropolitan regional operations group stationed in Neerabup industrial park to service the northern suburbs.

I am very delighted that we have shown our commitment to further developing the industrial park with my \$20 million election commitment for the Neerabup automation and robotics precinct. I was recently briefed by DevelopmentWA and plans are progressing well for this key piece of infrastructure at the Neerabup industrial park. It will offer common-user facilities to support research and training, and operations for a varieties of industries right there in Neerabup. It is an exciting project, as is the general uptake by businesses in the Neerabup industrial park. I have also spoken to DevelopmentWA about this and it is saying that a variety of businesses and industries are seeking to locate there. Things are looking very good for Neerabup.

The industrial park is growing, but pivotal to this, of course, is that Flynn Drive must be upgraded as fast as possible. It is currently much used to access Neerabup industrial park, particularly by my residents in Banksia Grove, Wanneroo, Ashby and Tapping. The road not only is used by residents and employees, but also is heavily used by trucks and it urgently needs upgrading so that it can do a much better job. It is unsafe at the moment. If we are to realise the full potential of the Neerabup industrial park, we must make sure that the Flynn Drive upgrades that we committed to are delivered as fast as possible.

I thank the minister again for the unprecedented transport investment in the northern suburbs, whether it has been the rail to Yanchep, the Mitchell Freeway extension to Romeo Road, or the Marmion Road upgrades. The amount of transport infrastructure that is happening in the northern suburbs is truly transformational. My residents, the businesses and the various agencies that have set up home in Neerabup industrial park are keen to get the work on Flynn Drive underway. As I outlined to the minister, it is also critically important for us to continue to draw new industries and businesses into Neerabup industrial park and that will come with the upgrades to the much-needed Flynn Drive access into that industrial park.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [9.39 am]: I thank the member for Wanneroo for that grievance and her continued advocacy for her constituents throughout Wanneroo. I would like to highlight some of the achievements we have been able to deliver together. In the first term of government, three significant commitments were delivered—the Wanneroo Road duplication project and the two overpasses at Ocean Reef and Joondalup. We worked very well together to ensure that with these projects, we not only built the new interchanges, but also fixed longstanding issues surrounding those intersections, made some improvements to local road access, and added new traffic lights and a new roundabout, as I recall, in the vicinity. Not only have we been able to deliver on our major commitments, but also we have worked with the local member and the council. I acknowledge

Tracey Roberts, too, for her advocacy and the proactive position she has taken on behalf of her community to secure funding for these projects. As I said, we worked very hard with the local member to deal with some of the local access issues and deliver the wider benefit of those projects. That has continued. For example, as part of our extension of the freeway to Romeo Road, the local member advocated for improvements along Wanneroo Road and in the vicinity, in particular how we can ensure that there is a dual carriageway all the way along and improve some very dangerous intersections on Wanneroo Road. Through her advocacy, we have been able to work with a contractor over the past year and have them, in a sense, as priced options, and we were able to include them in the final project. Again, that is strong work by the member for Wanneroo. I acknowledge all the members in the area, but particularly the member for Wanneroo, for highlighting some of the additional work required to deliver the maximum benefit of projects like the freeway extension. Not only are we continuing to extend the freeway, but also Wanneroo Road is now transformed and it will be transformed all the way to Flynn Drive and in the proximity of the area we are talking about. As I said, the member for Wanneroo is working very, very hard, and that is the most pleasing aspect. We are concentrating on not only the projects we are delivering, but also the other local benefits we can deliver.

I also mentioned more generally that we have worked with the City of Wanneroo, and I acknowledge the team there who work really well with our agency, to be honest, particularly on the engineering and construction side, to identify opportunities and to implement the best outcomes possible. Marmion Avenue is another example of us working very well together. It is a project managed by the City of Wanneroo to which we contributed nearly all the funding. As a result, we are working with local communities on some of the sensitive issues of where the roundabouts should be placed and some local access issues. Again, there has been quite a cooperative approach. Again, I thank everyone in the City of Wanneroo's engineering and delivery team, because they are quite good to deal with and work really well with our agencies in getting the best outcome.

We are undertaking a lot of work. I have talked about the freeway extension, but I want to talk about the railway to Yanchep, too, which is another project we are delivering. We are working with the member for Butler on some of the local issues and how we can generally deliver maximum benefits. Another big project is the Flynn Drive project. Before the election, the member for Wanneroo highlighted this project. There is increasing traffic in that area. I think the Bell Tower Times website always mentions these new suburbs with new names that no-one has ever heard of, but anyone who has been in those outer suburbs quite a lot will know exactly what is happening there, with things like the Ellenbrook corridor, what is happening in Baldivis and the Yanchep corridor—the activity generated by the new suburbs being created. The commitment to the Neerabup estate through DevelopmentWA will create jobs and local opportunities in that area.

The member for Wanneroo highlighted the increasing traffic along Flynn Drive in particular, and as a result we committed \$20 million in the election campaign to support the City of Wanneroo's aspirations to upgrade Flynn Drive through that area. In November 2020, the City of Wanneroo allocated \$250 000 to undertake design works with the ultimate aim of a dual carriageway between Wanneroo Road and Old Yanchep Road. Again, this was the city being proactive and getting the planning done should there be any funds available. There was a great commitment from us of \$20 million to support the City of Wanneroo with this project. The state government, and this side of politics in particular, has supported local governments in growth areas where rural roads are now really becoming major east–west or north–south connectors.

The member for Darling Range is here. We also made a commitment of \$18 million to the Shire of Serpentine–Jarrahdale for road improvements to local government roads, again acknowledging that the local roads through Byford and the surrounds are transforming over time to become major distributor roads. The state government has offered \$20 million and written to the council saying that it will be a 40–40–20 split—that is, 40 per cent when the commitment is made, 40 per cent when expenditure is incurred and 20 per cent on completion. We have offered the money. We understand that the city has met and accepted the fact that it will receive \$20 million. The upgrades will include improvements to the single carriageway and alignment between Travertine Vista and Tranquil Drive, upgrades to the dual carriageway from Tranquil Drive to Pinjar Road and upgrades to the rural grade section of Flynn Drive between Pinjar Road and Old Yanchep Road. I did not get enough time to talk about Flynn Drive, but it is an excellent commitment and I thank the member for Wanneroo very much.

MOGUMBER RESERVE 8588

Grievance

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [9.46 am]: I am grieving today to Minister Buti representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. In rising to grieve, I acknowledge the presence today in the Speaker's gallery of members of the Mogumber Outback Club and the community, president Pauline Bantock, and Bob Harridge.

Mogumber is a small community in the Shire of Victoria Plains, 120 kilometres north of Perth, about 45 kilometres north of Bindoon and 47 kilometres south of Moora. My grievance concerns Mogumber reserve 8588, bounded by Bindoon–Moora Road to the west and Mogumber–Yarawindah Road to the south within the Mogumber town site. Under the Land Administration Act 1997, the Mogumber reserve has been designated a reserve for use as

a recreation racecourse and hall site. It is home to multiple established facilities, including the Mogumber Hall, Mogumber Oval, library, post office, Mogumber refuse site, public barbecue, emergency water supply standpipe and 24-hour rest area, including public toilets. The reserve is Mogumber's only public open space. The 56-hectare Mogumber reserve is the only land designated for recreation in the Mogumber area, and since the 1890s it has been continuously used for sporting and horse-related events, the latter including horseracing, gymkhanas and rodeos. Newspaper articles dating back to 1901 and 1903 detail football and cricket matches at this oval and a further newspaper article in 1919 refers to the annual Mogumber horseraces. There is a long tradition associated with horse events. The Mogumber Sports Committee hosted an annual gymkhana and sports meeting during the 1950s and 1960s that included horse and athletic events.

This Mogumber reserve should not be confused with the Moore River mission—otherwise referred to as the Moore River Native Settlement—which is located 10.5 kilometres to the west and referred to in the book *Follow the Rabbit-Proof Fence* by Doris Pilkington Garimara and the subsequent movie, *Rabbit-Proof Fence*.

In recognition of the long history of sporting events in Mogumber, Mogumber Outback Club Inc was formed in 2011, with the organisation of local social and sporting activities being one of the club's objectives. Its New Year's Eve rodeo is well known and well supported. Held annually since 2013, the Mogumber New Year's Eve rodeo attracts 2 500 people every year, and in the past the club has hosted a monthly junior rodeo during the winter season. The 2013 rodeo went ahead with an arena on the oval, but it was clear that a dedicated arena adjacent to the oval was needed. After getting approval for a clearing permit and consulting with the local Yued group, in 2014 the Mogumber Outback Club upgraded the new arena surface with 50 truckloads of sand. Discussions with the local Yued group in 2014 saw the two groups reach an agreement regarding the alignment of a fence that would define the established recreational area, and both groups were involved with erecting the fence.

With each rodeo, the Mogumber Outback Club has had to hire and install an arena, a costly and time-consuming process that involves a team of 20 volunteers moving heavy panels to form the rodeo ring, chutes and pens. The arena is erected in the established part of the grounds, adjacent to the hall, oval, toilet and 24-hour rest facilities and other improvements that have been put in place for local ratepayers and the travelling public. The group's objective was to build a permanent arena. It realised its fundraising goal to this end and a permanent arena was purchased, though it has never been erected.

Mogumber reserve is now recognised as an Aboriginal site under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. With the desire to install a permanent arena rather than hire temporary panels, thus complementing the established community facilities at this site, the Mogumber Outback Club submitted a clearing permit and section 18(2) request on 17 June 2020, under the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972. With the knowledge that Main Roads was considering a road realignment that would reduce the area of the Mogumber reserve, it was felt that the fence would need to be realigned to preserve the recreation area. In hindsight, Mogumber Outback Club would have preferred to focus on the arena installation and disregard the clearing permit. Personally, I am not suggesting that any clearing be allowed at this reserve.

The section 18(2) request was considered by then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt, and consent was declined on 21 December 2020, with the following explanation —

... Traditional Owners do not agree with any further impacts to the Aboriginal site which is of importance, special and historical significance'.

The Mogumber Outback Club remains willing to engage in respectful discussions with the regional corporations to be established as part of the south west native title agreement. However, because the regional Noongar corporations are yet to be established, negotiation is not possible.

Further clarification was sought from the minister by the Mogumber Outback Club. Correspondence dated 26 May 2021 from the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Stephen Dawson, reads —

I recognise the importance of the rodeo to the local community, as the previous Minister for Aboriginal Affairs did, and encourage you to continue working towards an outcome that allows the project to go ahead with the support of the SWALSC and the Yued Traditional Owners.

The minister also stated —

The recognition of Mogumber Reserve under the Act does not impact on the ongoing use of the amenities currently existing within the reserve.

I seek the minister's concurrence that the Mogumber Outback Club can continue to use the temporary arena and host the Mogumber New Year's Eve rodeo this December as has been the case since 2013. This represents a continuing use of the facilities at the Mogumber reserve as a community sporting venue. Again I stress that there is no need at this point to clear native vegetation at the reserve.

Minister, it is imperative that the Mogumber Outback Club is given certainty now as to the use of the established arena for the planned 2021 rodeo. I think the minister will appreciate that logistically a rodeo like this takes a good deal of preparation and will take a degree of time. I thank the minister for taking my grievance today.

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Lands) [9.53 am]: I thank the member for Moore for his grievance to myself representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs. I have a prepared statement, but I will add some other comments. I also acknowledge the member's guests from the Mogumber Outback Club who are in the gallery. Welcome to Parliament. I hope that we can find some resolution to this issue in the short term and also going forward.

On behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, I make these comments. I will add a comment at the end from me as the Minister for Lands. The minister is aware of the heritage significance of the site to the Yued traditional owners as well as its social significance to the Mogumber community, including the Mogumber Outback Club. It is important to acknowledge up-front that this land has high cultural importance and significance to the Yued people. The importance to the local non-Aboriginal community should also be recognised, particularly in terms of its social amenity and especially the various rodeos that occur on the site, and, as the member mentioned, the New Year's Eve rodeo. The numbers of attendees at this rodeo attest to its popularity.

The member mentioned that we should not confuse this with the Mogumber mission, or the old Moore River Native Settlement, which is a good point to make. In a previous life as a solicitor of the Aboriginal Legal Service working on stolen generation matters, I had a very strong interest in the history of that mission and settlement.

The member also mentioned the Aboriginal cultural heritage significance of the reserve. I can advise that on 11 August 2020, the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee determined that Mogumber reserve 8588 is an Aboriginal site under section 5 of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 1972.

The Shire of Victoria Plains and the Mogumber Outback Club submitted a section 18 notice to the Aboriginal Cultural Material Committee in June last year to install a permanent rodeo arena and clear vegetation. As the member mentioned in his grievance, on 21 December 2020, the former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt, advised the shire and the outback club that he had decided to decline consent to the section 18 notice, given the opposition of the Yued traditional owners. The current Minister for Aboriginal Affairs acknowledged the importance of the rodeo to the local community and urged them to continue to engage with the Yued traditional owners. He wrote in similar terms to the traditional owners. In March 2021, the Registrar of Aboriginal Sites met with the secretary of the outback club, Pauline Bantock, about future possibilities of the rodeo and use of other amenities. I note that Ms Bantock is also the shire president.

The registrar took the opportunity to advise Ms Bantock that approval is required only for works that will create new or greater impacts to the Aboriginal site, and that existing infrastructure and use is not affected. The registrar encouraged the shire and outback club to re-engage with the Yued traditional owners about how they could together manage and minimise potential impacts from the proposed rodeo arena installation as well as other unmanaged uses of the reserve.

The Minister for Aboriginal Affairs has requested that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage liaise with the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council in relation to both the use of the temporary arena for the upcoming New Year's Eve rodeo as well as longer term use. The South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council represents the Yued people and is in the best position to liaise with the traditional owners to bring the parties together to discuss a way forward for the rodeo to continue. I am advised that SWALSC is meeting tomorrow, Friday, with the outback club. A meeting will then be arranged with the outback club and the Yued traditional owners. The registrar has recently had further conversations with Ms Bantock about the section 18 notice and how the footprint of the land covered by the notice can be reduced to minimise impact to the site. I note the member is not suggesting that any clearing be allowed on the reserve.

The minister reiterates that he is well aware of the importance of this site to the Yued traditional owners and he urges the Mogumber community to understand the values of the land to the traditional owners and to keep working with them. He continues to encourage both parties to engage in a meaningful conversation with a view to achieving an outcome that both respects the cultural significance of the site and allows the local community to hold the 2021 rodeo.

As Minister for Lands, I am happy to work with Yued traditional owners and the Mogumber Outback Club to get an agreement. However, if this cannot be achieved I will request that the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage work with the parties to try and find an alternative site so that we can see the rodeo go ahead on New Year's Eve this year.

FINANCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (EMERGENCY RELIEF) BILL 2021

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by **Dr A.D. Buti (Minister for Finance)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

Second Reading

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Finance) [9.59 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Finance Legislation Amendment (Emergency Relief) Bill 2021 seeks to amend the Taxation Administration Act 2003 and the First Home Owner Grant Act 2000 to allow the Treasurer to declare tax or grant relief measures considered necessary to relieve the financial or economic impacts of a declared emergency. When the government

announced the payroll tax relief measures for small businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the measures could not be administered until new legislation was passed. As a result of delivering that urgent legislation, it was identified that emergency tax relief powers, similar to those introduced in Victoria at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, would provide a flexible mechanism for the government to urgently respond to emergencies.

The amendments to the Taxation Administration Act will allow the Treasurer, in consultation with the Minister for Finance, to declare tax relief measures considered necessary to provide relief from the financial or economic impacts of a declared emergency. A tax relief measure means a waiver of tax, a reduction in a tax rate, an exemption from tax, or a deferral of the due date for lodging payroll tax returns. After a tax declaration is made, the Commissioner of State Revenue can administer the measures as part of the state's tax laws without passing legislation. This means the commissioner's administration and enforcement powers will apply, including information-gathering powers to investigate claims for tax relief, and statutory objection and review rights for taxpayers who disagree with how tax relief measures have been applied.

The amendments include safeguards to ensure declarations can be used only in limited circumstances. Tax relief measures will be declared only in connection with a state of emergency or an emergency situation declared under the Emergency Management Act 2005 or a public health state of emergency declared under the Public Health Act 2016. The Treasurer's declaration must specify which emergency the relief measures relate to, describe each tax relief measure and the period for which they will apply, and specify the persons to whom the measures will apply. The declaration can contain relief measures for a period that occurred before the emergency was declared or before the tax relief declaration came into effect. However, relief measures cannot be declared for an emergency more than 12 months after the emergency has ended. The measures also cannot be declared for a period longer than two years. This is on the basis that longer term relief measures should be supported by specific legislation.

A tax relief declaration is subsidiary legislation and must be published in the *Government Gazette*, and can be amended by publishing a further instrument in the *Government Gazette*. This may include changes required to a tax relief measure to facilitate its proper administration or to prevent it from being misused or improperly applied.

Corresponding amendments will be made to the First Home Owner Grant Act to allow the Treasurer to declare an increase to the grant or cap an amount to alleviate the financial or economic impacts of a declared emergency. Unlike a tax relief measure, a grant relief measure cannot apply to a retrospective period that has ended before the emergency was declared. Passing this bill quickly will ensure the government can provide further COVID-19 relief as it considers necessary, or tax or grant relief in response to any other emergencies in our state. The associated explanatory memorandum contains further details of the amendments.

I commend the bill to the house.

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

FAMILY COURT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 August.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [10.03 am]: I wish to continue the contribution that I began yesterday to this very important legislation, the Family Court Amendment Bill 2021. I would like to reiterate some of the comments that I made yesterday. I feel this is really crucial legislation because any measure that seeks to improve assistance for victims of family and domestic violence is absolutely of paramount importance in our society. Every single day, our newspapers are littered, terribly, with examples of violence and abuse that is directed towards mostly women. I would like to remind the chamber of the example that I drew upon yesterday, which was heard in the news only about seven days ago. It related to a number of private Catholic schools that were involved in an incident whereby multiple students from a private Catholic boys school sexually assaulted students from a private Catholic girls school at a combined school event. These teenage girls were subjected to sexual assault, which will no doubt leave a terrible and indelible imprint on their lives and will vastly impact their view of themselves and have a terrible consequence. It will no doubt be a major trauma for them to deal with. This incident really speaks to the need for us as a community, but certainly for us as a government, to continue to drive the conversation around consent. Sadly, in 2021 we have teenage boys who clearly do not understand that concept. It is incredibly important.

I noted this yesterday, and would like to note again, the really important work of Minister McGurk around respectful relationships, which is a program we have introduced in some of our state primary schools to teach schoolchildren about the importance of respectful relationships so that we can, hopefully, intervene and we do not see again the incident that occurred seven days ago to those teenage girls. The work the minister is doing in this space is fantastic, but I really hope that our government will continue to support such programs. There is clearly a dire need to include such programs at not only primary school level, but also high school level. I hope that the Catholic education system will look at this example and say, "Enough is enough; we need to be serious about teaching our boys, in particular, about consent and respect when it comes to how they deal with sexual relationships." That will clearly be an indication of future actions and activities. If it is not stopped and addressed at that age, where will that lead down the track? It is very, very troubling.

I would like to reiterate that there is also no indication that violence towards women in a family and domestic violence sense is abating in our community. In fact, there is daily evidence that this continues to be incredibly prevalent. One woman a week is killed at the hands of an intimate partner. Unfortunately, this was brought to our attention in a tragic example by way of Ruqia Haidari, who was brutally murdered by her husband of only two months, Mohammad Ali Halimi. He slit her throat twice with a kitchen knife before leaving her to bleed to death on the kitchen floor whilst he called her brother. I quote from a WA today article of 29 July this year. He said to this poor woman's brother "come get your sister's dead body". This absolutely speaks to the need for us, as a government, to use every single possible lever available to us. In the schoolboy example that I drew upon, we need to make sure that we are gearing up our children to be able to recognise what is appropriate behaviour and certainly try to combat that absolutely abhorrent behaviour—sexual assault. We need to address, attitudinally, how children, who are still in a high school situation, view consent so that we can try to address these behaviours before they snowball into more terrible behaviours as adults. It also points to the fact that much work needs to be done at the other extreme of this, which I have just talked about, which is that women are still dying at the hands of their partner. We need to make sure that every possible safety mechanism is put in place to protect women. That is why, although I was disappointed that we were not able to see the transition of this bill through the Legislative Council in the last Parliament, I am really pleased that we are now dealing with this bill and that I have the opportunity to talk on it.

As I said yesterday, this bill builds on the commonwealth legislation that was passed in December 2018. In essence, that legislation bans the use of direct cross-examination of victims by their abuser in a family and domestic violence situation. The practice of direct cross-examination of victims by the perpetrator is clearly unacceptable. It would no doubt be an incredibly confrontational experience for the victim. Given that one in six women is a victim of physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, we have to recognise that this is entirely a gender issue. I understand and appreciate that men can sometimes be the victims of domestic violence, but in the overwhelming majority of cases women are the victims. As victims, women go to court seeking protection and assistance. However, the fact that they can then face cross-examination and direct questioning by their abuser opens them up to the prospect of being re-traumatised by that experience. That would be incredibly upsetting for those victims.

There is also evidence that in addition to this distress and re-traumatising, victims who are cross-examined by their abuser may be more inclined to unnecessarily seek to expedite the proceedings in order to limit their exposure to their abuser. However, in their haste to do so, they may settle the carving up of property, and their parenting arrangements, in a way that is detrimental to not only their welfare and wellbeing, but also that of their children. That may also lead to, as the converse of that, preferential treatment of the perpetrator.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms C.M. ROWE: Allowing the perpetrator to cross-examine the victim also has the real potential to affect the victim's testimony and the result of the overall trial. The desire by victims to settle their matters prematurely, which may lead to unfavourable outcomes for the victim, has been witnessed by many experts in this field for a long time. It is one of the causal factors that has highlighted the need for this bill, which has been brought forward by the Attorney General, and also the commonwealth legislation. We need to remember that we are talking about a Family Court situation. The people who are impacted by those proceedings are not only the victims, who in most cases are female, but also the children. Children are obviously incredibly vulnerable and in a situation in which violence is involved their safety is potentially at risk. Therefore, removing the ability for the perpetrator to cross-examine the witness is really important, because it will give victims the capacity to respond to the cross-examination questions, which is an important part of any court proceedings, in a way that is not done in haste. Hopefully, that will lead to fairer and more just outcomes. It will also mean that in cases of family and domestic violence, fewer children will be exposed to risk. That will obviously be a better outcome, not only for the women victims, but also for their children. Ensuring that a fair outcome is reached in a court is clearly something that we should strive to achieve, no matter what. The cross-examination process is an integral part of testing the evidence in a court proceeding and allowing the court to make evidence-based findings. That is critically important. Putting an end to victims being cross-examined by perpetrators will improve this process and the ability of victims to give clear and cogent responses, which will enable the evidence to be assessed in a better way. Furthermore, the cross-examination of perpetrators by legal practitioners will ensure that evidence is appropriately tested, which will obviously mean that it will be more reliable. This in turn will enable judicial officers to make better-informed decisions and judgements.

I would like to take the opportunity to again read from an article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 2015 about a woman called Eleanor. Her name was altered for the purposes of the reporting. The article is about her experience in the Family Court system, and it speaks to the necessity of the changes that we are looking to make in this bill. The article states —

A week after Eleanor's former partner was ordered not to come within 200 metres of her by a Magistrates Court, she faced him in a Family Court dispute over the custody of their children. It was then she learnt that he had dismissed his lawyer, which meant he could question her directly about her parenting of their children in the witness stand.

The article quotes Eleanor directly —

“That day I wanted to end my life ... I just wanted the trauma to end. I couldn’t believe they’d allow him to do it. It was like they’d given him permission to have power over me again.”

The article continues —

Eleanor, who fled their home with her children, said he had raped her twice and beaten her in front of their daughter. She began to hyperventilate.

The article quotes Eleanor again —

“He could have asked me the colour of the sky ... There was a point where I could not understand the words coming out of his mouth,” she said.

The article continues —

Her partner had initially argued for sole custody, and was ultimately awarded weekly visits with their children. After the trial ended, he moved six hours away from them, and now rarely sees them in person. She believes the exercise was another form of abuse.

Years later, she testified against him in a criminal case from another room. This time, she said she was able to think clearly about her responses to his lawyer’s questions because she was not forced to look at his face or listen to his voice.

I have tried to imagine what it would have been like for Eleanor to go through that cross-examination by her former partner. I obviously cannot imagine what that trauma would have been like, because I have not experienced that, but without doubt it would have been nothing short of horrific. It is very clear—if it had not been before hearing about Eleanor’s personal experience—that this bill will be an important mechanism to protect victims in family and domestic violence court proceedings. I would like to note that victims such as Eleanor must have incredible strength to be able to go through that experience in the first instance. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Attorney General in bringing forward this legislation. It was in part the advocacy of Eleanor and other victims who came forward to express how difficult those experiences were that contributed and led to the federal government’s decision to enact its legislation in 2018. I was inspired to read Eleanor’s experience.

The article in the *Sydney Morning Herald* again quotes Eleanor directly —

“This is going to give hope to parents that they’re going to have a level playing field, not further victimised by being in a situation where the perpetrator has full and complete power over them”.

In October 2016, the Council of Australian Governments’ National Summit on Reducing Violence against Women and their Children recommended that a ban be put in place on the personal cross-examination of victims by perpetrators of family violence in a family law proceeding. As I mentioned, that was enacted by the federal Parliament in 2018 to ensure that that does not happen in federal courts.

Given time restrictions, I will just indicate that many of the speakers before me went through a number of other provisions of the bill. I think it is fair to say that by amending the legislation to ban only cross-examination of the perpetrator against a victim, that in and of itself is very powerful and will be very effective in achieving greater protection of victims and ensuring vastly improved outcomes for them because, as I mentioned earlier, there is a lot of evidence to speak to the fact that people are moving through these trial proceedings in haste simply to end the distress of having to be cross-examined by the perpetrator—being their abuser. I wanted to make the point that this legislation is very important. If we speak on that alone, it is clear that this legislation is of great importance and will be very beneficial. I am always incredibly proud of being part of the McGowan Labor government, because it is very clear that through the work of the Attorney General and the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Simone McGurk, we are taking real steps to protect women and wherever possible—wherever levers are available to us—making it easier for women who are victims of family and domestic violence to get the protection that they need. I would like to end my contribution by congratulating the Attorney General and thanking him for bringing this very important bill to the house. I commend the bill to the house.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [10.21 am]: I rise to commend the Family Court Amendment Bill 2021 to the house. Most Family Court disputes are due to domestic violence. I recently had a conversation with a senior sergeant from Cannington police station who covers my electorate. I was looking at the crime rates in my electorate. I was told, looking at the five-year average, the crime rate has come down by 25 per cent. But when we take a deep dive into the numbers and look very carefully, we see that domestic violence numbers have increased in the current year compared with other crimes. We need to take into consideration that there is a huge under-reporting of domestic violence.

I recently had a conversation with the Minister for Mental Health in support of the organisation Multicultural Futures. These people have been in the industry for 20 years. They go to breakfasts, particularly in the culturally and linguistically diverse community, to talk about domestic violence and offer people help by means of reporting. It is very horrible to see someone who is a victim of domestic violence, Madam Acting Speaker. I have seen patients in situations in which they do not even have their shoes on because they did not have the time to put them on; they have escaped to

save their lives in fear of being killed in grave situations. These people do not have clothes to change into for the next day or a single dollar in their hands when they leave. I take this opportunity to thank Zonta House, in my electorate, for doing a great job to support such victims—rehabilitating them and helping them to get back into their lives.

This amendment bill is mainly about preventing the perpetrator cross-examining the victim. Broadly, how does domestic violence happen? It is not a one-off incident; it is a repeated cycle. What happens in that cycle? There are four elements in the cycle. First, there is tension; second, there is the incident; third, there is a reconciliation and calm; and fourth, the cycle repeats. What happens at the tension stage? There is fear, frustration and anger. Tension keeps building and then the incident happens. The incident can be verbal abuse, emotional abuse or physical abuse, which can be quite dangerous. After the incident, there is a reconciliation process. The perpetrator tries to put the blame on the victim and find excuses for why the incident happened. The cycle moves on to the calm period—what we call the honeymoon period—when the victim believes everything is settled. But it is only a matter of time before the cycle starts again. With repeated cycles, eventually the victim realises that they cannot put up with this anymore. That is when various support organisations intervene and help these victims to leave.

How would a victim who has undergone this cycle various times and has been severely emotionally abused feel being cross-examined by the perpetrator himself or herself? This amendment bill clearly goes towards changing that particular issue. The perpetrator will not be allowed to cross-examine the victim. What is the purpose of cross-examination? The member for Cockburn very clearly explained cross-examination and its purpose for non-legal people in this house, like me. It is to reemphasise or strengthen the victim's statement or evidence given. Cross-examination is critical to the judgement and cannot be jeopardised by the perpetrator. The member for Dawesville in her contribution mentioned the narcissistic behaviour of a person standing and interrogating their victim to jeopardise the cross-examination effect.

Madam Acting Speaker, imagine a situation in which a victim is trying to give evidence and the perpetrator comes in. The scenario changes from the victim providing evidence to having to defend new allegations that the perpetrator puts on them. This amendment bill will prevent such a situation occurring.

Visitors — Alinjarra Primary School

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Member, before you go on, I want to acknowledge the students from Alinjarra Primary School in my electorate. Enjoy your visit.

Debate Resumed

Dr J. KRISHNAN: This amendment bill will also protect the rights of the perpetrator because he or she may not be an expert in cross-examination, have professional knowledge or a calm mind to really do the job. They might also benefit from having an expert doing that job for them.

A person involved in domestic violence is three times more likely to get a minority share when it comes to the division of property. After being abused and going through the trauma, the chance of getting a minority share is three times higher because they generally try to run away from the situation when it comes to evidence and cross-examination. They have had enough and do not want to go through it anymore. They are not in a frame of mind to think about money; they fear for their lives. They have post-traumatic stress rethinking the episodes that have traumatised them quite badly.

I will move on to the provisions. One or both parties need to be represented. This amendment bill will also provide protection. It will allow for evidence to be provided from a remote venue. It will allow for a support person to be present with the victim, which is very critical on many occasions because it is very sad and most stressful to be alone in a court; it is a devastating situation.

That the questions could be directed through the presiding judicial officer is also a protection mechanism being offered by this amendment. What are the implications of this amendment? The commonwealth government will spend \$7 million over three years to support the scheme. There is no means test to access the scheme. This amendment will also provide for late intervention dispute resolution, particularly for parenting rights and financial issues. Private practitioners with Legal Aid are also allowed to participate in this scheme. What is the feedback from the Family Court on the implementation of the scheme so far? It has said it is working well and it cannot wait for unmarried people to start accessing the scheme. It also mentioned that the commonwealth Attorney-General is undertaking a review of the whole scheme at the moment, and it hopes for ongoing funding and support for the scheme. The Family Court is saying that the scheme is working well.

I take this opportunity to thank our enthusiastic Attorney General, who has brought various bills to this house. This is an important bill that will protect families and young kids from violence in the future. I commend the bill to the house.

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [10.31 am] — in reply: It was yesterday morning when the second reading debate on the Family Court Amendment Bill 2021 began, in response to my second reading speech earlier this year. I shall not be long in my second reading response. I just feel part of a team. I do not want to traverse all the matters that have been raised. The speakers in this matter were the member for Central Wheatbelt, the Leader of the Opposition, and I thank her for indicating the opposition's support for the bill in this chamber; the

member for Nedlands; the member for Collie–Preston; the member for Mirrabooka; the member for Cockburn; the member for Mount Lawley; the member for Dawesville, who gave a very moving speech; the member for Belmont; and, lastly, of course, the member for Riverton. All, in my view, made very erudite and insightful comments on this bill. I do not want to stand here and repeat all those comments, but I thank them for their contributions. They made very important points. The central point was that it behoves this Parliament to offer its power to protect the vulnerable in our community. Amongst that cohort of the most vulnerable are victims of domestic abuse and domestic violence, with women making up 97 per cent of those cases.

When such a serious allegation is raised in our courts, in the interests of justice it is only fair that the allegation be tested for its veracity in a way that minimises the re-traumatisation of a true victim. From reading transcripts and press reports, we have heard some accounts of the manner in which perpetrators have used the occasion of a court hearing in which an allegation is to be tested to re-traumatise a victim. As has been noted, in 2018 the federal Parliament amended the Family Law Act to prevent husbands or married spouses from directly cross-examining their spouse or former spouse on an allegation. It is a matter of history, and happy history, that back in 1975, this Parliament decided to retain its own family law jurisdiction. It is the only Parliament in Australia to retain its own curial jurisdiction in Family Court matters. Although the Constitution gave power over marriage exclusively to the commonwealth, we, as a Parliament, leveraged retention of our own curial jurisdiction by refusing to refer matters relating to what is, I think, sometimes almost an insulting term of *de facto*. When looked at legally, *de facto*, as opposed to *de jure* marriage, refers to those people who cohabit without being within the purview of the exclusive power of the commonwealth by marriage.

We have happily kept that jurisdiction. I think that other states are now envious that Western Australia has retained that jurisdiction given the recent amendments in the commonwealth legislation hiving off so much of the family law disputes to the Federal Circuit Court where non-specialist Federal Circuit Court judges hear civil aviation matters one day, immigration matters the next day and child access matters the following day. Western Australia, proudly and wisely, is the only jurisdiction that has an exclusive specialist court for these matters. It was necessary and appropriate that in relation to litigation before the Western Australian Family Court, this Parliament mirrored the legislation brought in by the commonwealth and supported by every state to prohibit a victim of domestic abuse or domestic violence from being cross-examined by her perpetrator. I say “by her” because in 97 per cent of the cases it is “her” perpetrator. She should not be deterred from raising these matters before the Western Australian Family Court out of fear.

We have heard that some victims will yield to an unfair offer of settlement to avoid the re-traumatisation of cross-examination by the perpetrator. We are very pleased, of course, that there is already a facility in place at the Legal Aid Commission of Western Australia to fund the representation of alleged perpetrators for the purposes of cross-examining, so that the cross-examination is done properly. The commonwealth initially allocated \$7 million to fund the scheme across Australia for three years. The Australian government has worked extensively with National Legal Aid to cost the measures in this bill. The average estimated cost of providing legal assistance under the measures of the Family Court Amendment Bill were determined by National Legal Aid. The cost includes the preparation and appearance at final hearing as well as legally assisted dispute resolution where appropriate. The number of matters and parties likely to be affected by the measures are determined by research conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies. Legal Aid WA has worked with the Attorney General’s department regarding the funding necessary to meet the high demand of this service. Ongoing funding is in accordance with the amended funding agreement. Legal Aid has advised that it supports the funding arrangements and has had no issues with the funding of the scheme by the commonwealth. I hope those comments give some answer to the issue the member for Central Wheatbelt raised about funding. The member for Central Wheatbelt also drew the chamber’s attention to the fact that this bill replicates the bill that passed through the chamber but did not succeed in passing through the other place prior to prorogation.

The member for Central Wheatbelt also noted that it is the same bill except for amendments to section 243 and sought my confirmation in this regard. I can confirm that section 243 amendments address an error currently in the Family Court Act 1997 of Western Australia, as identified by the Parliamentary Counsel’s Office error reporting process. Section 243 is to be amended to improve the clarity of the section and better set out the respective higher and summary penalties for each crime. Proposed section 243(8)(aa) will be inserted to clarify that the restrictions in subsections (1) and (2) also do not apply to state agencies that oversee the welfare of children and that is prescribed in regulations for that purpose.

The member for Central Wheatbelt also raised the question of review and asked whether it is necessary that the commonwealth conduct the review. I can confirm that this is correct. Under section 102NC of the commonwealth act, the government is required to review the operation of the legislative provisions as soon as possible after the second anniversary of their commencement. The provisions commenced on 10 March 2019. Mr Robert Cornall, AO, and Ms Kerrie-Anne Luscombe have been appointed to conduct the review and will report to the government by August 2021. Mr Robert Cornall, AO, reviewer, and Ms Kerrie-Anne Luscombe, assistant reviewer, have been appointed to conduct the review into the operation of sections 102NA and 102NB of the commonwealth Family Law Act 1975, which implement the government’s commitment to ban direct cross-examination of victims of family

violence in family law matters. The review will consider improvements to the design and operation of the family violence and cross-examination of parties scheme and propose a future framework for managing demand and funding allocations under the scheme. The scheme provides representation to parties subject to the ban on direct cross-examination for the hearing in which the cross-examination is to occur, including the necessary preparatory work for the hearing. As to the terms of reference, the review will examine and, if necessary, make recommendations for reform in relation to the operation of legislative provisions section 102NA and 102NB of the act, the design and operation of the scheme, and a sustainable and efficient funding model for the scheme. I have already addressed the current funding model for the scheme and Legal Aid WA's satisfaction so far with that funding.

May I conclude where I started by, on behalf of the government, thanking all members for their erudite and insightful contributions to this debate.

I commend the bill to the chamber.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**, and transmitted to the Council.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 August.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): We might have a bit of a hiatus here. Member for Roe, are you speaking?

Mr P.J. Rundle: Yes.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The question is the bill be read a second time. Member for Roe?

The question is the bill be read a second time. All those in favour say aye, against, say no. I believe the ayes have it.

Mr P.J. Rundle: Are you talking about the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill?

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes; we have been for five minutes, member.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I thought we were still on the other one. Apologies, Madam Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Roe.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [10.47 am]: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker. I apologise.

The ACTING SPEAKER: We almost got away with it!

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I was very focused on what I was going to say.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Some might say you were not focused at all, but fire away.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: If I can, I would like to say that I am looking forward to speaking on the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I sensed you were a bit reluctant there for a minute.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: No. I am very much looking forward to it, minister, and to hearing the minister regale us later on with his knowledge of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill and the stories he would like to tell us about his farming background in Narrogin and many other places no doubt; yes, indeed.

Firstly, I would like to point out that we are once again looking at a scenario in which a bill was passed in this place in the previous Parliament. It was discussed many times but I am pleased to see it has now come through the Legislative Council.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, can I just clarify: are you the lead speaker on the bill?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes, I am the lead speaker. On behalf of the opposition, we will support it, but along the way I will point out some things that took place in the other place that I am a little bit disappointed with. The minister has not quite taken on board some of the industry consultation. A fair few concerns have been raised in the other place by the likes of Hon Colin de Grussa and Hon Steve Martin. They pointed out some of the issues that they were concerned with about levies and a variation around the broadacre industry. In the minister's second reading speech, he went through a few issues that relate to the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021 and some of the scenarios that are playing out with the Agricultural Produce Commission.

The first issue is about the compliance and enforcement provisions. As the minister pointed out, the bill contains powers to direct a person to provide information or records, powers to investigate and a penalty for providing false and misleading information. This is to ensure that producers will comply with the act and that all funds collected will be used as intended to support the industry. I do not think that anyone would be opposed to that.

The second point that the minister raised was about key amendments that will allow non-producers to be appointed to committees; this is concerning. On the good side, it will allow people to be brought into the committee for their outside expertise. That is always important when we are dealing with governance. Producer committees may not always contain that expertise and it is important to co-opt outside people onto committees. However, the minister said that this will be subject to producers also being in the majority. That is an important element. The other point he raised is that voting rights on committees will be restricted to producer members only. That is a very important element because, as we know, the producer members are the people with on-ground experience. Hon Colin de Grussa, member for Agricultural Region, has consulted comprehensively with the citrus, egg, strawberry, pomegranate, potato, veggie, wine and avocado industries. He has also spoken to the Kimberley Pilbara Cattlemen's Association, WAFarmers and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association. We know that the Minister for Agriculture and Food in the other place enjoys talking about the blue-on-green wars and she likes to pit the Western Australian Farmers Federation against the PGA.

Mr D.A. Templeman: This is an interesting history.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have noticed that from her responses in the other place. I do not know, minister, whether they are diversionary tactics, but this is an important bill. Its genesis was in 1988, I believe, with the Horticultural Produce Commission Act; it has been around for a long time. Last night when I was doing some preparation for today, it was interesting to read the exchanges made back in May 2000 between Hon Kim Chance and Hon Murray Criddle, who was, of course, a broadacre grain grower from the Geraldton region and very knowledgeable on many forms of agriculture. As we know, a review of the legislation was conducted in 2006 and the issue has taken quite a long time to come back into the mix. I am pleased to see that it has come through the ranks.

The third point that the minister raised in his second reading speech was about providing a mechanism for existing committees to be allocated responsibility for additional produce. My understanding is that we have around 11 of these committees at the moment. That is probably not a bad element. It may be a little over the top to have to keep coming up with new committees all the time. Potentially, we could add another produce element to a current committee.

The fourth element that the minister mentioned was the power of the commission to use weighted voting at a poll for the establishment of a committee. I always worry about weighted voting because it is determined by the proportion of produce a person might produce. A couple of years ago in Esperance, I was at a Co-operative Bulk Handling Group meeting. One of the producers there said to Simon Stead, the current chair of the board of CBH, "I think that to be on the board of the CBH, you should produce a minimum of 20 000 tonnes of grain." I still remember Simon Stead saying, "If Richard Goyder produces 300 tonnes of oats at his farm in Toodyay, he would still be a suitable board member of CBH." That comment has always stuck in my mind. I do not think that basing the number of votes a person has on the weight of what they might produce is necessarily a good element. The other issue I have is with leaving it to the commission to make the determination on when such an approach is in the best interests of the relevant agricultural industry. This leaves things a little bit up in the air around weighted voting and the produce amounts. What gives the commission the right to make that determination? That is one element that concerns me and I would like to address that as we move along.

One of the most contentious elements of this bill is the amendment proposed in the 2019 version of this bill to remove the exclusion of broadacre cropping and grazing industries. The second reading speech states —

This would have allowed those industries to be prescribed as agricultural industries under the act and to be able, should they have chosen, to take advantage of the opportunities it offers and create a producers' committee to service its industry.

It then states that no consensus was reached amongst pastoralists on whether their industry wanted access to the act. It states —

As such, the bill retains the act's exclusion, with an amendment to clarify that this excludes an industry that concerns livestock enterprises generally conducted on pastoral land.

I suppose we could call it the opt-out provision. The real concern expressed in the other chamber about putting an opt-out provision in regulation was to do with transparency. The minister will know that Hon Colin de Grussa moved an amendment in the other chamber in which he attempted to put that into the legislation. Unfortunately, his amendment was not passed. The Minister for Agriculture and Food said, "That's no problem. We'll put it into regulation." The Western Australian Farmers Federation supports the scenario in which there is capacity for regulations to provide for circumstances in which a charge for services provided by a committee can be waived, refunded or reduced—that is, an opt-out clause. The Western Australian Farmers Federation is supportive of an opt-out provision, but it is not supportive of it not being in the legislation. It is concerned about any regulation, or the proposed regulations, that will be drawn up. It is concerned about transparency. That is probably one of the most disappointing elements of this matter to me. The minister said that she will have regulations drawn up and that people will be able to see them in time and so forth, but we know that it is now very difficult for any regulations to be disallowed. My concern is that this opt-out provision for the agricultural industry is not in the legislation. I certainly applaud the efforts of Hon Colin de Grussa to try to bring in that amendment and to make that happen,

but, unfortunately, he was unsuccessful. Of course, as the minister knows, the Pastoralists and Graziers Association is not supportive of any attempt to bring either pastoralists or the currently excluded industries, such as wheat, barley, canola and others, under the provisions of the act. That is probably one of big items for me in this legislation.

I want to go through some matters that Hon Steve Martin brought up during his contribution. I think he made some very good points. As we know, Hon Steve Martin is a farmer from Wickepin. I am a farmer from Katanning. Of course, Hon Darren West likes to point out that he is the only working farmer in Parliament, but I have not heard him say that so much lately since Hon Steve Martin from Wickepin moved into the Legislative Council. Hon Steve Martin is very aware of some of the levies put on many growers. Growers already pay a vast expanse of levies. Hon Steve Martin pointed them out. They include the biosecurity levy, the wild dog levy, the Grains Research and Development Corporation levy and the skeleton weed levy. Every year after delivering our grain to CBH, we get our statement back always listing the skeleton weed levy and the GRDC levy. The list goes on. There is scepticism among the broadacre element of growers in WA. The minister would know that there are about 4 000 CBH growers. They feel as though they are always picking up the tab for these levies. They are worried that this will create another scenario in which they will be slugged with another levy. That is the element that many growers I have spoken to are worried about. They are worried about a lack of clarity in some ways. It is interesting that that is their response when I speak to people about this.

Hon Steve Martin referred to a long list of levies and it is important to repeat it. He said —

We already pay these levies: wheat, barley, canola and lupins pay 1.02 per cent of the sale value; wool, 1.5 per cent of the sale value; fodder, 50¢ per tonne; cattle export, 0.9523¢ per kilogram; lamb and sheep export, 0.6¢ per head; cattle processing, 60¢ per kilogram; lamb processing, 16¢ per head; sheep processing, 15¢ per head; cattle transaction, \$5 per head; and lamb and sheep transaction, 20¢ per head. For the state ones, cattle, 20¢ on all carcasses; sheep and goats, 15¢ on all carcasses; grains, seeds and hay, 25¢ per tonne on the first sale of grains, 12.5¢ per tonne on the first sale of hay produced in the south west.

The minister can see that there are a number of levies. I know that within Australian Wool Innovation there is always this contention. Every so many years, the CEO of Australian Wool Innovation puts out a poll asking whether growers should pay a two per cent levy on the wool that they send in. A lot of growers, of course, question what that levy would go into. Will it be the old story: Will it go into administration or marketing? Where will it go? We are given three options: one per cent, 1.5 per cent and two per cent. It really creates quite a bit of contention. I know that at the moment the AWI is looking at a two per cent levy. That is what it recommends, of course, and I suspect a lot of growers would vote for a one per cent levy. This element really creates quite a bit of angst among growers out there. We all understand the need to modernise the legislation. From my perspective, the APC does a good job, especially in small industries, such as wine, avocados, bananas and so forth, in which producers' committees explore certain items or elements that growers want to explore within that industry. There are great opportunities for levies to be raised from those particular growers. I can give an example in relation to the broadacre industry. Let us say that the South East Premium Wheat Growers Association wants to do a study on a variety of barley that might be suited to the Esperance region. Growers in the eastern or northern wheatbelt may not be as convinced about that barley's relativity to their area and that causes them angst. Broadacre growers from other parts of the state might not be sure that they want to pay another levy to pay for something that may not suit their particular part of the world. That was well and truly demonstrated through some of the consultation out there.

A lot of important work has gone into the forty-fifth report of the Standing Committee on Legislation about the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2019. The committee was chaired by Hon Dr Sally Talbot and featured Hon Pierre Yang; Hon Colin de Grussa; Hon Dr Steve Thomas, as a substitute member; Hon Nick Goiran; and Hon Simon O'Brien, MLC. I would like to mention a couple of recommendations in the committee report.

Recommendation 1 is that the Minister for Agriculture and Food explain why it is necessary for clause 4(2) of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill to insert the words "prescribed for the purposes of this definition" into the definition of "agricultural industry" in the Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988. I think this recommendation has been dealt with in the current bill, but it was important. The minister responded that it allows flexibility and for modern and future industries to be captured without having to amend the act. She pointed out that the likes of truffles would be produce that has not been defined as such, but it then could be included.

Another recommendation is that the minister explain why clause 15(1) of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill delegates the definition of a "prescribed person" to regulations, rather than prescribing its own definition of that term. The minister's response was that the use of "prescribed" in legislation always means it will be set, but regulations allow for flexibility. As these persons will differ depending on the relevant industry, they are more appropriately dealt with in the regulations. We are not quite as convinced with that explanation regarding the regulations. We believe that some of these elements should have been put into the legislation. Hon Colin de Grussa moved an amendment to have the opt-out clause be transparent and to make sure that it was in the legislation. The Western Australian Farmers Federation is disappointed that that amendment was not successful.

As the minister said in the second reading speech, regulations are tailor-made to suit the different requirements of each producers' committee and industry. For existing committees, this new head power for regulations will allow

waiver provisions to be included in the current regulations if producers wish to have this option included. For new committees, the need for a waiver provision will be part of discussions with the Agricultural Produce Commission when producers indicate an interest in establishing a committee.

The final paragraph of the second reading speech stated that the proposed amendments will improve the effectiveness of the APC mechanism for producers currently using it, and make the opportunities it provides available to producers and the broadacre cropping industries. I agree with that to a point, but there are reservations, certainly from the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, about the broadacre element.

Provisions have been made for the pastoral industry's livestock operations. A question was raised about what will happen if farmers have cattle in the rangelands or pastoral regions and they bring those cattle down to a feedlot in the south west of WA. The minister basically made provision that those cattle will be excluded if they originated from a pastoral area. The PGA was concerned that those farmers would be swept up along with broadacre producers from the general agricultural region when they had originally been given provision that they would be excluded from the situation. Therefore, my understanding is that the minister has made provision that if farmers bring cattle down from the rangelands or wherever, they will be excluded from this legislation, and that was an important element.

Calculations have been done that somewhere between nine and 12 per cent of a producer's income will come out in levies and that is where the real hesitation and nervousness comes through from our broadacre farmers right throughout the grain regions of WA. The crux of the bill is about the inclusion of the broadacre cropping and grazing industries, and it is the most contentious part of the bill, so I will be interested to hear the contributions of others here today.

The APC is very effective when it comes to dealing with smaller industries. We have heard about our different varieties of apple and about our avocado, beekeeping and citrus industries. They fit under the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021 without a problem. Other groups such as the PGA and the WA Grains Group are hesitant. WAFarmers was supportive on the condition of the opt-out clause. Given the loss of that amendment in the other place, I imagine it will now have some hesitancy about the regulations. Other supportive groups include the rangeland goat producers, the black barley industry and the South East Premium Wheat Growers Association. I was impressed with the consultation that Hon Colin de Grussa has had over the last year or two. We have certainly had plenty of briefings in our party room. I know the likes of Bill Ryan from the Agricultural Produce Commission do important work, so from that perspective, we are supportive about the smaller industries being included.

In conclusion, we are concerned, as the PGA certainly was, about the opt-out provision and whether other producers, grain growers especially, will be swept up by this and end up with levies that they were not quite expecting. In a general sense, we are supportive of the bill, but I want to reiterate one key point for the last time: we were hoping, as WAFarmers was, that the opt-out provision could be included as part of the bill. We are not convinced that putting it into regulations is quite the way forward. I will leave my contribution at that.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [11.19 am]: I will make a very brief contribution on the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021, particularly the inclusion of broadacre farmers within the ambit of the Agricultural Produce Commission, and the levy situation. I reiterate what Hon Colin de Grussa and the member for Roe have said about the need for an opt-out clause to be considered and for that to be conditional, I would suspect, on our support for the bill. When this was first mooted as an option to be included for the broadacre agricultural community, the reaction from farmers in my electorate, quite immediately, was to oppose it. In other areas of the state, some grower groups, for instance, have indicated a level of support for the inclusion of broadacre agriculture as a leviable industry under the bill, but that has not been the case in my area. Farmers are already subjected to many other levies. They would also question why this needs to be so broad in its ambit that they cannot simply opt out.

Over the years, the delivery of agricultural research and extension has changed. One way it has changed has been the emergence of self-help groups—grower groups—right across the state, such as West Midlands Group, Liebe Group, Mingenew Irwin Group et cetera in my own area, plus a lot of other smaller groups that are also in the agricultural area. They pride themselves on a degree of independence and relevance. That relevance comes from being relevant enough to have people participate voluntarily. Once that is taken away and the government starts to dole out money that comes from a levy, that drive to be relevant and that positioning at the cutting edge, so that people actually want to be involved, disappears. There is a bit of moral hazard involved. This is one of the reasons that I certainly do not support compulsory levies in this way. It is a little like what we are seeing now with the biosecurity situation; recognised biosecurity groups are proliferating around the state. That system worked well in the pastoral areas where there was a commonality of pest problems and, if you like, a rationale for them to all work together to challenge these issues.

Moving towards the south west, the closer one comes to populated areas, the more difficult it becomes to find common pest problems. It is more difficult to find agreement that everybody wants to contribute towards levies to combat those pests. The way that system operates at the moment shows me that compulsory levies are not necessarily a very good thing. It does not mean that growers should not be contributing to the common good, but it is a problem if they are not able to opt out of a system that is not relevant to their farm business.

That is the situation with the regional biosecurity groups. In my area, I am apparently combating wild pigs. I have never seen a wild pig anywhere near my farm, but I now pay a levy to combat wild pigs. Somewhere very remote from me there might be wild pigs running around! Apparently that is an issue that I am now levied against. I asked the department how many people had actually responded when that rate was first imposed in the area that I am in, the west Midlands. I was told a number—I cannot remember the number offhand—pretty well all of whom opposed it, yet the minister decided to impose that rate. Now that system is up and running. I am sure the people who are doing it are well meaning and doing a good job. I am not bagging anyone here; they are doing their thing. It is just not remotely connected to any pest I have on my property, yet I am paying several times this rate. I am not alone in feeling somewhat aggrieved about that situation.

As I say, as one travels further and further towards populated areas, the diversity of pest problems makes it almost impossible to handle it all under one of those management plans that the Biosecurity and Agriculture Management Act recommends. It is somewhat impractical. It shows that compulsory levies are problematic. In my view, this has effectively become a compulsory levy. Once a group is keen to have a levy, it convinces the minister and it gets done, and other farmers do not have an opt-out clause and are stuck paying yet another fee on top of all the other farm fees. That is the reason that I particularly do not support this bill. I never supported the inclusion of broadacre agriculture in this bill, even when it was discussed in our party room. I know that was not always the view of everybody in that room. Some members felt that it was a good idea. I just do not like the idea and I will not support it.

MS R.S. STEPHENS (Albany) [11.26 am]: I rise today to speak in support of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. The purpose of this bill, importantly, is to improve the effectiveness of the APC mechanism for the provision and funding of services by agricultural producers to agricultural producers. This is highly important as they are the voice of their industry. The Agricultural Produce Commission Act already operates effectively to empower producers to grow their industries. It has an established framework that has led to a cooperative relationship between the commission and producers. A review was undertaken to identify several amendments to improve the operation of the act. Currently, 11 producers' committees cover the following industries: avocados; beekeeping; Carnarvon bananas; eggs; pome, citrus and stone fruit; pork; potatoes; strawberries; table grapes; vegetables; and wine.

I would like to highlight some of the beneficial work that producers' committees have already undertaken. In my neighbouring electorate of Warren–Blackwood, research activities resulted in the commercialisation of the Bravo apple, which I first tasted at one of my annual foodie events, Truffle Kerfuffle. This apple variety tells a story just through the crunch and taste of every bite. There were other promotional activities, such as Crunch&Sip in schools. Crunch&Sip is a primary school nutrition program developed to increase the quantity of vegetables, fruits and water being consumed by Western Australian children. It is an easy way for kids to stay healthy and happy. Crunch&Sip is a set time during the school day for students to eat vegetables and fruit, and to drink water, in the classroom. Students bring fruit and veg to school each day for the Crunch&Sip break. This gives students the chance to refuel with fruit and vegetables, which helps to improve physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom, as well as promoting long-term health.

Government research shows that Australian kids are not eating enough fruit and vegetables. One in 16 eat the recommended daily serves of vegetables and more than seven out of 10 eat the recommended daily serves of fruit. Crunch&Sip helps children to develop regular healthy eating habits. Eating a healthy diet in childhood reduces the risk of becoming overweight or obese. The proportion of children carrying excess weight has more than doubled in the last 30 years, with one in four children now overweight or obese. Being overweight or obese increases our risk of developing chronic diseases later in life, such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes and some cancers. As a mum, this is a daily activity in my house to ensure that my kids go to school with a container of fresh fruit and veggies. The current star fruit of the month is pomegranate seeds from Rob and Deb's Pomegranate Hill farm down at Napier. It is certainly not the easiest fruit to tackle in the morning, but knowing the nutritional value, it is worth the mess. I look forward to the summer months when we frequent Nicklup Orchard for a fresh tray of stone fruit.

My electorate of Albany has an abundance of local produce and we love nothing more than foraging for and eating local seasonal produce as much as possible. Albany has some of the best wine and food producers in WA.

Last week, a Western Australian investment and trade commissioner delegation visited the great southern region. On Friday, I welcomed Simon Millman, MLA, parliamentary secretary to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Health; Medical Research; State Development, Jobs and Trade; Science to Albany. We attended a roundtable discussion with the great southern wine exporters. It was an opportunity to hear from many producers from my region. Rob Wignall from the multi-award-winning Wignalls Wines shared his business and family's story with the group. Wignalls Wines was established in 1982 on what was then the outskirts of Albany, only eight kilometres from the Albany CBD. Wignalls Wines is a gold medal winner for pinot and chardonnay. It is continuing to produce outstanding wines and is doing Albany proud.

Next door to Wignalls Winery is Handasyde Strawberries. Owners Neil and Lyn Handasyde grow conventional and organic strawberries and produce a wide range of value-added products. They received regional economic development grant funding for a freeze-dried fruit packing facility to expand their range of value-added products.

They continue to value add to their business through their vibrant cafe, which serves all things strawberries, my favourite being the Devonshire tea. The cafe has a great playground and facilities for people of all abilities in the Albany community.

Further down the road along the Kalgan River, under new custodians Michelle Gray and Phil Shilcock, is Monty's Leap vineyard and restaurant. They also received regional economic development grant funding to redevelop their cellar door and restaurant. This restaurant is now a popular quality dining attraction for locals and tourists. It is a culinary experience showcasing fresh local produce such as marron, cheese and vegetables.

GP Ayres and Sons has been growing potatoes in Bornholm for three generations and is now the leader in the specialist market of growing seed potatoes. Today, Colin and his son Chris grow more than 100 hectares of seed potatoes a year, with 65 different varieties for the fresh and crisping potato markets. They received a \$200 000 McGowan state government grant towards the purchase of their first Visar optical sorting machine, which uses high-speed cameras to capture photos of the potatoes and direct them to the correct conveyor belt for sorting.

Albany is also fortunate to have two local markets in town at which producers can sell fresh produce direct to customers—the long-running Albany Farmers Market on Saturday mornings and the Boat Shed Markets on Sundays. My kids love a Yard 86 choc milk from the Saturday markets. Members of the Hart family produce the wonderful high-quality Yard 86 milk at their dairy in Redmond. This gently pasteurised milk is bottled on the farm and sold to local cafes and independent retailers, and direct to customers at the Albany Farmers Market, at which they have a very loyal following. Along with their great-tasting full-cream milk, they also produce iced coffee and choc milk and are planning to expand into new milk products in the future. There is something special about food producers getting to know the customers and the customers dealing directly with the producers.

The electorate of Albany has many farmers who are recognising the benefits that regenerative farming has to offer. These benefits include increasing productivity, reducing cost inputs, increasing soil carbon and soil biology, and combating salinity, along with increasing resistance to pests and disease. Mike and Barb Shipley were early adopters of this farming practice for cattle, chicken and egg production in Albany. Their use of a regular short-term intensive grazing system to alleviate parasites and increase pasture quality has resulted in much lower input costs and increased pasture productivity. Although now retired, Mike is still a passionate advocate for regenerative farming.

Col Bowey and Ash Baldwin from Green Range Lamb have developed from scratch a paddock-to-plate production system for their UltraWhite grass-fed lamb. In order to maximise production, they are continuously lambing throughout the year, with their ewes lambing twice every 13 to 14 months. They have been operating for only 18 months and now run 4 000 predominantly UltraWhite breeding ewes on 1 250 hectares.

I was fortunate to meet the Gilmour family from Irongate Wagyu with the Minister for Agriculture and Food. It produces the highest quality Wagyu beef and has also received RED grant funding to create an ecommerce site in multiple languages to help sell its Wagyu beef, which is packed in the great southern, from a base in Singapore.

Regenerative wine producers Irene and Richard Bunn from Bunn Vineyard, and Pam Lincoln and Murray Gomm from Oranje Tractor Wine, are pioneers of the industry. I would like to share the Oranje Tractor story with the house. Across their entire property and lifestyle, they practise many key activities that underpin improving sustainability, such as recycling, composting, revegetation and the use of renewable energy. Murray is very proud of the fact that their typical weekly rubbish output is merely two supermarket bags full—that is from the house and the cellar door kitchen. Everything that can be recycled is; everything else that cannot be is composted or fed to the chickens. On the revegetation front, they have planted many thousands of trees on their 20 acres of land. Some act as a windbreak, others are for future timber and the rest are along the creek line amongst remnant bush. As a result of this planting, they enjoy a lovely display of endemic birds that now have a habitat in which to grow and prosper, and they also know that downstream the creek water quality is benefiting.

Their vineyard is grown organically. This is just one of the ways in which they are trying to minimise their footprint on this planet. Since 2002, they have been able to grow grapes according to organic standards. This means that they do not use superphosphate and other fertilisers that can leach into the waterways. They use only a combination of eco-oil, seaweed extracts, copper and wettable sulphur. Their flock of chickens and guinea fowl are kept happy gobbling pests, so no pesticides are used. In addition, they let the grass grow between the vine rows and underneath the vines, so no herbicides are required. In their goal of crafting unique, terroir-specific wine using practices that care for the earth, most of the work has been done. However, that is not to say that they do not value the excellent winemaking skills of Rob Diletti, who received the Winemaker of the Year Award in 2014 from James Halliday. Rob and his family own another great regional winery, Castle Rock Estate, at which he crafts beautiful wines for themselves and for other small producers such as Oranje Tractor who use his services. His diligent, dedicated and ethical practices help to create great wines that reflect the unique aspects of each location—the terroir—and maintain the region's reputation for wine excellence. A small proportion of Oranje Tractor's wine is made onsite, using as little intervention as possible, and this falls into the natural wine category.

In keeping with its buy-local philosophy, Oranje Tractor not only utilises local traders for everything possible, but also its grapes are usually hand-picked by local community groups. It is a win-win situation, as the groups get

much-needed funds to continue to do the great things they do, and the winery strengthens its connections with the community. A great example of this is the local mountain bike club, which comes out and assists at harvest time. The club receives not only a good donation, but also a small percentage of the sales of the wine. Next time members are at the bottle shop, I encourage them to look for a local bottle of wine, hopefully one that is made in the great southern, but certainly in Western Australia.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Member, not only is it local, but it is delicious.

Ms R.S. STEPHENS: It is delicious—not that I have tasted too many of them!

Bred Co is a micro bakery in Albany run by the passionate duo of Rhiannon Moon and Sam Dawson. Their passion is to create a product with flavour that reflects the quality of the water and the soil that the plant is grown in—bread of the region and for the region. The flour is stone milled onsite from whole grains sourced locally. Stone milling is an important part of making the bread, as it is a gentle process that produces less heat and friction. Sam likes to say that cold flour is good flour, because it preserves much more nutrition and fatty acids in the flour. Rhiannon and Sam are working with regenerative farmers Penny and Dale Goodwin from Goodies Farm in Kendenup in re-establishing a local grain for a local bread. Bred Co also supplies the Northbridge Brewing Company with bread that it uses to brew its beer. It also supplied bread for the Friday night gala dinner at this year's Truffle Kerfuffle, which I proudly delivered for it.

I commend the bill to the house and encourage all members to buy local, buy fresh and support our local growers of Western Australia.

MS L. DALTON (Geraldton) [11.38 am]: I rise to speak in support of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. Any opportunities to strengthen and support our agricultural industries should draw support from the government of the day. The inclusion of the broadacre farming sector in the remit of the Agricultural Produce Commission is something that the peak WA representative body, WAFarmers, has been calling for for well over a decade.

It seems strange to me that broadacre farmers are excluded from accessing the services of the Agricultural Produce Commission. My electorate of Geraldton is surrounded by broadacre farming. The crops of wheat and canola are looking absolutely spectacular this year after the best winter rainfall seen in many, many years. If the farmers who planted those crops want to access services via the Agricultural Produce Commission, they currently find themselves excluded.

Why is that important? It is time for a dive into the work of the Agricultural Produce Commission. The Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988 provides Western Australian agricultural producers with a legal framework to collect funds to provide for the development and security of growers and producers in the industry sectors. In part, this bill seeks to amend that act of 1988 to include broadacre farming. This will allow broadacre farmers in my electorate and across WA to access the Agricultural Produce Commission to establish a committee if they wish to do so. Services provided by an APC committee include establishing compensation schemes; assisting in developing systems for quality control or pest and disease control; establishing inspection systems for grading, packaging and storage of agricultural produce; formulating schemes to help producers gain accreditation; establishing voluntary crop insurance schemes; developing and providing educational programs; undertaking research; and developing and expanding new markets as well as undertaking market forecasting.

The first of those services, establishing compensation schemes, seems to be particularly relevant for farmers in the midwest in 2021. Imagine if there had been a longstanding broadacre farming committee in place in the wake of cyclone Seroja. Establishing a compensation scheme driven and overseen by producers would have been immensely helpful for an industry hit by a natural disaster the likes of which most districts impacted had never seen before. That is just one on a long list of services available.

The work of the APC has seen the development of new cultivars of fruit like the Bravo apple, a sensation around Australia and the world and a testament to the hard work and innovation of Western Australian primary producers and related industry research and development groups. Could a future APC broadacre farming committee help develop high-yielding wheat varieties that thrive in low-rainfall areas and can tolerate high-saline soils or dry finishes to a season?

Broadacre farmers in the Geraldton port zone have experienced some amazing highs and lows in 2021. As I mentioned earlier, cyclone Seroja completely changed our lives as it smashed into the midwest area in April, with many farmers and families still recovering from its destructive force. But 2021 has also seen the best start to a growing season in many, many years. The outlook for this year's crops is very favourable. Rainfall records have been broken in many places across the agricultural region of WA and some farmers are expecting their best return on investment for decades. The importance of broadacre farming to my electorate is fairly clear to most people. The iconic grain silos at Geraldton port spell it out to the world: we are a city with deep connections to broadacre farming. According to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences, the area planted to winter crops in Western Australia is forecast to increase by five per cent, to a record high 8.7 million hectares, in 2021–22. That is 87 000 square kilometres of wheat, barley, canola, oats, lupins, peas and other cereal grains, legumes and pulses. To put that into context for members, our growing area in 2021 is larger than the surface area of Austria.

The most recent update on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website, last Thursday, 5 August, states —

With an excellent season to date there is potential for a record grain harvest.

As members can imagine, we are all thrilled to hear this!

The Grain Industry Association of Western Australia's July report online suggests that the Geraldton port zone could see broadacre farmers produce well over three million tonnes of grain this year. It is an amazing result, but we have some of the most innovative and resilient broadacre farmers in the world. So why should they be left out of the APC? Producers are the only people who can form a committee within the framework provided by the APC legislation; these amendments do not seek to force anything upon unwilling participants. Members from the midwest may remember it was not that long ago that summertime meant grain trucks backed up from the port to the old roundabout at the start of North West Coastal Highway. The southern transport corridor was opened on 10 September 2005 by WA Labor Premier Dr Geoff Gallop. We literally redesigned roads and intersections in part to cater for the amount of grain delivered to Geraldton port.

If we, as a state, want to continue to produce some of the very best cereal grains and legumes in the world, we need to enable our broadacre farmers to develop their farming practices, utilise the latest technologies and take advantage of research and development. If this means broadacre farmers want to create an APC committee, why should ageing legislation that is out of step with their industry prevent them? I read the comments of WAFarmers chief executive officer, Trevor Whittington, in a *Farm Weekly* article of 25 June 2021. He was quoted as saying —

... it was good to see that a bill first proposed 14 years ago had finally made it into parliament.

And that —

“Opening up the APC to the broadacre sector is what WAFarmers have called for with the exclusion in the legislation.”

The WAFarmers website states that it represents a membership of over 1 100 farming businesses. If its membership wants to be part of the Agricultural Produce Commission, why should government stand in their way?

WA Labor has invested in key infrastructure to support broadacre farming, like the work done to provide internet services into regional areas. The Digital Farm Grants program—a McGowan Labor government policy—has helped to provide fast broadband services to broadacre farming enterprises in Chapman Valley, the north midlands and across the wheatbelt and agricultural regions of WA. The ability to access fast reliable broadband has enabled farmers to integrate the latest technology and smart farming techniques into their businesses. Just being able to check commodity prices or weather forecasts is crucial to broadacre farming, and the McGowan Labor government continues to invest in solutions for communications in regional areas. The latest round of digital farm grants announced in January this year will help farmers in the shires of Esperance, Kukerin, Koorda, Mt Marshall, Wyalkatchem, Tammin, Quairading, Beverley, Yilgarn, Kulin, Kent, Lake Grace, Dumbleyung, Goomalling and Cunderdin access enterprise-grade broadband. If those same farmers decide as a producer group that they want to create a committee through the Agricultural Produce Commission to develop new markets for their grain or get into research and development to improve efficiencies in their farming businesses, out-of-date government legislation should not be what stops them.

Returning to the Geraldton port zone and the crops in the ground, I wish to express my hopes for good finishing conditions for the growing season. I hope all the broadacre farmers in my area of the northern wheatbelt and north midlands have a great year, because after the trauma of Seroja, they deserve it.

And as we prepare for the field day season—the Mingenew Midwest Expo started this week—I hope people have the chance to spend some time catching up with colleagues and friends before the pressure of harvest time arrives. The expo is important to the local community to build and create relationships, to learn about new agricultural technologies and to showcase their bountiful wares. But most importantly the expo is a lot of fun!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Do they still have races?

Ms L. DALTON: What races—Mullewa?

Mr D.A. Templeman: No. They used to have a race; it was a long time ago. When the Mingenew expo was on, they used to also have a race meet there. They obviously don't. It was some years ago; I was a jockey at the time!

Ms L. DALTON: I will find out about that. The honourable member for the Agricultural Region is attending. I will send her a message and ask whether she attended the races as well.

Mr D.A. Templeman: See if there's a horse that needs a jockey. Could always get into the sauna. Sorry! Sorry, member, I apologise.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms K.E. Giddens): The member for Geraldton has the call.

Ms L. DALTON: Thank you for that. I also hope that they will have the choice to access the —

Mr D.A. Templeman: It was the visuals of me in the sauna.

Ms L. DALTON: I am visualising the member in the sauna after a heated race meeting at Mingenew!

I also hope that they will have the choice to access the Agricultural Produce Commission—the APC. As the member for Albany has already stated, there are 11 producers' committees for the following industries: avocado; beekeepers; Carnarvon banana; egg; pome, citrus and stone fruit; pork; potato; strawberry; table grape; vegetable; and wine. In supporting the legislation, I hope that broadacre farmers will access those same services, if they so choose, to gain advantages in their business models to continue to be the best dryland farmers in the world. This amendment bill seeks to do more than include broadacre farming, but for my electorate of Geraldton, this is perhaps the most relevant part of the legislation.

As raised by the member for Roe, the APC runs under a fee-for-service model. Members of APC committees pay fees, and I can understand that farming businesses could be concerned that they will be paying for services they may not want or access. But for farmers who have that concern, I look to the facts. For a committee to be established, the act requires a poll of producers in an industry to determine whether producers are in favour of the proposal. Before the poll can be conducted, the commission must advertise the intention to conduct the poll and invite submissions from affected producers. The Agricultural Produce Commission, with 30 years of experience in forming and supporting producers' committees, has learnt that the vital component of successful producers' committees is the involvement of and support from the producers who will be the beneficiaries of the services the committee provides.

The commission does not move to conduct a poll until there has been extensive consultation with members of the industry concerned. For example, the discussion between the wine industry and the commission covered a span of nearly 10 years. Any prospective broadacre farming committee would take years of negotiation and consultation before it could be established, if producers decided they want to form one. The Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021 will include a method for committees to waive, refund or reduce fees payable by producers. This will be achieved via regulations instead of legislation so that APC committees will be able to craft specific regulations for their producer members, instead of one-size-fits-all legislation being forced onto all committees.

In conclusion, I wish to thank Madam Acting Speaker and the house for the opportunity to speak in favour of this legislation. I hope all members will support this legislation and support a real choice for WA's broadacre farmers, instead of the current legislation, which denies them that choice.

MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood) [11.53 am]: My electorate of Warren–Blackwood within the South West Region is a major food bowl in Western Australia, proudly boasting innovation in agriculture, a robust export market, world-class producers and a diverse and abundant range of produce that keeps us fed, watered and many people employed. I rise today to speak in support of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021.

This amendment bill has been a long time coming and has had its fair shares of ups and downs to get to this point, with discussion, consultation, and plenty of toing and froing between the different representative bodies as changes, inclusions and omissions were contemplated for the possibilities of updating the act. Thirty-one years ago, the Horticulture Produce Commission Act 1988 established the commission as a statutory authority with the primary function of establishing producers' committees for different industries. These committees are run by producers for producers. The act provides a mechanism for producers to combine their efforts and resources and work together, through their producers' committee, to achieve the agreed goals of their industry.

In 2000, the act was amended to become the Agricultural Produce Commission Act. In 2006, an extensive review of the act was undertaken. The review identified amendments that could improve the operation of the act. The bill proposes to modernise the act; strengthen governance and responsiveness to, and on behalf of, producers' committees; and also remove the exclusion of certain industries from use of the act. It delivers on many of the 2006 recommendations to improve the act.

In the time that I have had the privilege of being the first female member for Warren–Blackwood and the first Labor member for Warren–Blackwood for 32 years, I have met producers, growers and industry bodies, and attended events that celebrate our outstanding produce and producers, such as the Truffle Kerfuffle at Fonty's Pool at Manjimup, where the market hall is a treat for the senses. I have now promised my team I will get better at bringing treats home for us all to share! With all the people I have met and all the farms, shops, markets and events that I visited, there are a few things that stand out. Producers in my patch are passionate people and they are incredibly hospitable. They are passionate about their industries, passionate about their families and family businesses, and passionate about making sure they have a strong workforce. They are passionate about potential growth in their industries. They are also passionate about their produce and about where they live. They are hospitable and keen to share knowledge and, occasionally, scones!

I recently stopped near Northcliffe, having been waved down by a farmer, Mat Daubney, to allow his cows to pass. We talked about the election, politics, the farm, the family business, family, the workforce and the industry. Of course, we talked about Northcliffe and the fabulous Northcliffe Hotel and Motel's Cow and Calf Bistro. The cows got to their paddock and I went on my merry way, but not before Mat invited me back for a tour of the Bannister Downs Dairy to find out more about the industry and the business. I look forward to taking up Mat's offer and having dinner at the Cow and Calf Bistro next time I am in Northcliffe.

The producers' committees established within the framework of the commission under the act enable producers and industry to come together to focus on growth in industry, reduce threats to productivity, deal strategically with

potential issues, and mitigate risks. As my esteemed colleagues have already mentioned, there are 11 producers' committees from a range of industries; the first was established in 1991 and the most recent was established in 2015. In order of date, the producers' committees are: table grape, which was established in 1991; pome, citrus and stone fruit, established in 1994; avocado, established in 1995; strawberry, also established in 1995; Carnarvon banana, established in 1999; pork, established in 2001; potato, also established in 2001; egg, established in 2002; beekeepers, established in 2003; vegetable, established in 2005; and wine, established in 2015.

Since the establishment of the act, through to the review and now, industries have been using the act to form committees to support and grow their industries. It is worth noting that the option to form a committee remains the choice of industry. This bill does not change that. Creating industry-specific producers' committees enables producers to collaborate and combine their efforts to look strategically at common goals across their industries and to pool resources and achieve agreed outcomes, whether that be developing new markets, increasing production standards, or addressing common threats, such as pests and biosecurity matters. Many agricultural industries have chosen at this stage not to establish a committee under the act and this is demonstrative of their choice. If an industry does, however, want to establish a producers' committee, it is to be noted that it can be a lengthy process. The wine producers' committee was 10 years in the making.

For a committee to be established, producers in the relevant industry are polled to determine whether they are in favour of the proposal. Before a poll is conducted, extensive industry consultation is undertaken to gauge interest and support—or not. Unless 60 per cent of producers vote in favour of a committee being formed, the producers' committee will not be formed. The act is flexible enough to allow a producers' committee to be established for a specific industry in a specific area—it does not have to be across the whole state. There could be a mushroom producers' committee for the great southern and not necessarily the whole state, if that was the need and want of those producers. Producers have many ways to get to market, including at local farmers' markets. In my electorate, farmers' markets are great community events, with direct-to-consumer fresh produce and tasty treats. They are an opportunity to meet the people who grow, make and shape our agriculture industry. In Denmark, the Kwoorabup Community Markets, hosted at the Golden Hill Steiner School, are a drawcard for locals and tourists visiting town, as are the Boyanup Farmers Market, the Manjimup Farmers Market, the Margaret River Farmers' Market and the Bridgetown River Markets. These are often places where people are able to not just get locally grown fresh produce, but also catch up at a community event, stock up and keep up with new, small and large businesses in their own local communities.

The work of producers' committees is broad. Services can include, among other things, research activities, paying compensation, promotional activities, education programs relating to production of produce, developing and expanding markets, accreditation schemes, biosecurity activities and supporting specific needs of industry. When a committee is identified, in consultation with its industry producers, of course, and services to be provided are agreed upon, the committee can propose a fee for service to be collected from producers. As someone who comes from a communications background, I am also excited about the opportunities that will be available for non-producers to be appointed to committees as part of the key amendments to the act. This means that committees will be able to have a blend of producer and non-producer members. Producers will always have the majority on the committee and non-producers will not have voting rights, but it means that committees will be empowered, if they so choose, to have specialist non-producer knowledge and skillsets on their team.

I would like to offer a huge thanks to the producers and farmers across my electorate. Of the food that makes its way to our plates, lunchboxes and picnics, and the wine, juice, beer, cider that we sup over dinner with our friends, much of it will come from Warren–Blackwood. I am telling you! It is likely the avocado in our smashed avo —

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Ms E.J. KELSIE: — Minister Templeman, came from my electorate, possibly from West Manjimup Premium Avocados, a paddock-to-plate producer that supplies directly and delivers across Warren–Blackwood via its active Facebook page. The fruit in our kids' lunch boxes probably comes from my electorate too. As we have heard today, Warren–Blackwood is home to the WA apple breeding program; it is where the world-famous Pink Lady and Bravo apples come from, which I know is a favourite of yours, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms R.S. Stephens). The wine we share with friends over dinner is also probably from my electorate—from sustainable wines organically farmed at Voyager Estate in Margaret River, to the beautifully hand-crafted wines at family winery Moombaki Wines in Kentdale. We also have traditional European cider from the Denmark Heritage Cider Company, and boutique beverages from The Cidery in Bridgetown. Our wine list in the dining room is also flush with beverages from my electorate, and the parliamentary wines are also from the region.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Do you know what I got given recently from your electorate?

Ms E.J. KELSIE: Go on, then.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It was a bottle of blackberry nip from somewhere in Denmark. I've been talking about the historic nature of blackberry nip.

Ms M.M. Quirk: A berry farm perhaps?

Mr D.A. Templeman: It could well have been the Denmark Berry Farm.

Ms E.J. KELSBIE: The minister might have to bring some in so we can share it.

Mr D.A. Templeman: I like a bit of blackberry nip.

Ms E.J. KELSBIE: I would not mind trying it.

To all the producers in my electorate, I offer a thank you for doing what you do and for doing it passionately and, of course, for being hospitable and willing to share your knowledge and passion for the industry with me as the member for Warren–Blackwood.

I commend this bill to the house and remind all members and their guests to enjoy the Manjimup chips served in the dining room. I invite them to visit my electorate and to try, taste and buy local agricultural produce—it truly is second to none in our state. Thank you

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.05 pm]: I rise to speak to the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021, although I did not intend to. I attended a very interesting briefing where I am sure I was extremely annoying for the policy advisers because I was incessantly asking questions. The more I got into this bill, the more fascinating I found it and the more relevant I discovered it was to my electorate. It turns out that almost half the committees have my constituents on them from all sorts of industries. I engage with these folk as part of the ordinary course of business as a member and, obviously, the industry organisations that they are part of and the local organisations. But I was not aware that many of my constituents sit on the committees. I was certainly not aware of the capacity the Agricultural Produce Commission has to do its role currently and the enhanced capacity it will have if these changes are successfully shepherded through the house. I will speak briefly to the legislation itself and discuss why it is very important to the community of Swan Hills.

At this point in time, the act provides a mechanism by which producers can choose to establish industry committees. The act empowers producers to direct the growth of their own industries by combining efforts and resources. That is really great. I think it is quite an interesting aspect of the agricultural sector in that producers are able to come together, even when, notionally, they are in competition, to form these organisations and committees when they perceive a mutual interest and can work together and direct their resources. It is absolutely fabulous and lessons can probably be learnt from these types of models right across the economy. There is a real focus in the current act on collaboration, consultation and majority-supported outcomes. The committees can work together to develop new markets, increase production standards and address common threats. It is a very useful act. It obviously creates the Agricultural Produce Commission secretariat, if you like, to support the committees and enable them to provide services. The commission establishes the committees, appoints members to the committees, has advertising requirements, and conducts polls of the industries to see whether they want to form a committee. It can dissolve them—hopefully, that does not happen too often—and provides a heap of services, and directs, coordinates and supervises the funding and expenditure of committees. If members look through the website, as I did, they can see the annual reports there, and there are reporting mechanisms about the activities of each of the committees. It is quite an interesting read.

Other members have noted the committees that exist for avocados, Carnarvon bananas—you would not want to say that too quickly!—beekeepers, eggs, pome, citrus and stone fruit, pork, potatoes, strawberries, table grapes, vegetables and wine. These groups come together to be the voice of their industry, and to identify opportunities and develop strategic plans. Very often, they work with other industry bodies and peak industry organisations to sponsor research projects or marketing activities. These committees are great and do some fabulous work. As I say, they have funded industry bodies to do certain things. They undertake biosecurity activities and basically support the very specific needs of the industry. As industry participants themselves—the committees are constituted by producers in the sector—they are well positioned to understand and identify exactly what those needs are. So they are very, very good things.

The Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill will improve the effectiveness of the Agricultural Produce Commission's mechanism for providing funding for services by agricultural producers for agricultural producers. That is a really important point to appreciate. It will do this by strengthening and clarifying governance and compliance frameworks, modernising the language of the act, introducing flexibility in committee numbers and permitting non-producer committee memberships so that specific expertise can be used where advantageous. That is a really interesting part of this bill. In the briefing we spent a bit of time talking about how committee membership needs to be made up of producers, but it is very helpful if people with specific expertise can be co-opted onto the committees—be it with expertise in animal nutrition to improve pork production standards or how to most effectively address biosecurity mechanisms and bugs such as mealy bugs; yes, they exist! It is going to be a really fantastic improvement to be able to draft that expertise onto the committees. Producers can choose to access these mechanisms if they wish. By creating a producers' committee for their industry, producers can combine their efforts and resources and work together for their industry, whether through identifying new industries or new markets, improving production standards or addressing common threats. The bill is very good in that regard.

I want to move on to why it is directly relevant to my electorate. It turns out that my constituents have a real interest in it. I am a metropolitan region member of Parliament. A lot of people think that I represent Ellenbrook, which

is a very suburban area—100-square-metre blocks and incredibly dense urban development. I do represent that community and I am very fond of it. About two-thirds of my electors live in Ellenbrook, but what is often unappreciated is that the other 1 380 square kilometres of my electorate encompasses rural and agricultural communities. I have the Swan Valley in my electorate. It extends up through Bullsbrook to Lower Chittering, and then out through Gidgegannup to Morangup and then through the hills. It includes Sawyers Valley, Chidlow, Mt Helena, Brigadoon and Malmalling. Sorry if I have forgotten any of the little townships that I represent, but these townships have, for many years now, often revolved around the agricultural industries that surround them.

It is therefore no surprise to find that many of my constituents are current members in the APC committee structure. For example, Jamie Michael is a member of the Strawberry Producers Committee. He has a strawberry farm in Bullsbrook that has had to pivot its model to a pick-your-own strawberries model; they invite families to pick their own strawberries. There is a lupin factory in the middle of the strawberry farms in Bullsbrook. In fact, I visited that lupin factory with the member for Bicton to talk about exporting and to identify markets for exported agricultural products. Who would have thought that key export industries or agricultural exports would be a very material issue in my electorate? The member for Wanneroo might be interested to know that that committee is actually chaired by a Wanneroo strawberry farm operator. The member has constituents with a real interest in this bill as well. I know that she also has a very agriculturally based electorate in Wanneroo. The strawberry committee comprises members from the seat of the Swan Hills. It has been very focused on marketing the fruit and improving fruit quality; it is doing some great work.

I will move on to the Pork Producers Committee and Peter Spackman from Craig Mostyn Group. Linley Valley Pork has its abattoir facility in Wooroloo in my electorate. I quite frequently visit Linley Valley Pork. Once I was taken through the whole process, which was a real eye-opening experience. I accompanied the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, to the facility. It is very important that we understand where our food comes from. As much as it was a confronting experience to go right the way through the process, it gave me a far deeper appreciation and understanding of the pork production process. Linley Valley Pork goes to great lengths to ensure that its process is as humane as possible, imposing as little stress as possible on the animals. It was a very educational process. Linley Valley Pork and the pork committee are very material to the people of Swan Hills. It has been interesting speaking to Linley Valley Pork about the challenges it has faced during the COVID-19 pandemic. I am aware that, indeed, the strawberry farmers have had to face some real challenges due to COVID. Looking into these responses is potentially a function that these committees could perform as part of their research program. At the beginning of the COVID pandemic, food supply continuity and ensuring that we had access to food was a real issue. In the abattoir industry in particular, at one point there were concerns about whether the abattoirs could be staffed to keep producing food. Similarly, the strawberry farmers are struggling to get backpackers. In the harvesting season, over 90 per cent of their labour comes from backpackers. With the closing of the borders, they are experiencing some real staffing issues. There are some real challenges there for the pork producers and the strawberry growers.

One of the most significant committees is the Wine Producers' Committee. Garth Cliff is a member of that committee. He has been quite a fierce advocate for the Swan Valley winemakers. The winemakers' committee undertakes two functions that are very relevant to the seat of Swan Hills. Firstly, it sponsors the Perth Hills Vignerons Association's awards. I am representing the Minister for Tourism at that event in the very near future, which I am very —

Mr D.A. Templeman: Which one is that one?

Ms J.J. SHAW: The minister asked me to represent him and I willingly accepted.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Which one is it?

Ms J.J. SHAW: The Perth Hills Vignerons Association's wine awards. The minister is very welcome to be my plus one if he likes. It is a great night and the winemakers' committee provides funding for that event. It has also helped the Perth hills winemakers to expand their social media presence and update their websites—some really good work there.

For the Swan Valley wine region, the committee has funded marketing activities in order to promote the Swan Valley as the fabulous wine region that it is. It is in fact Western Australia's oldest wine region, and the only wine region in Australia located in a metropolitan area. I understand that it is one of the only wine regions in a metropolitan area in the world that can be reached along a river. This generates beautiful tourism opportunities into the Swan Valley. I meet with the Swan Valley Winemakers Association frequently and I am always happy to assist it in its big ambitions for creating a premier tourism attraction in the Swan Valley.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: Probably the most significant committee in terms of representation for the seat of Swan Hills is the Table Grape Producers' Committee. It was the first committee established under the APC act in 1991. It is chaired by a Swan Valley table grape grower and three quarters of its membership is drawn from the Swan Valley. In the Swan Valley, 50 per cent of the grapes grown are table grapes and 50 per cent are wine grapes. We really do have a significant stake in table grape growing. In fact, Western Australia produces five per cent of the nation's table grapes. We really do have a stake in the work of this committee with the committee undertaking marketing, promotion

and inspection activities. I want to emphasise one thing that I have been advocating for that is of concern to the grapegrowers, and it could perhaps be a research initiative that the APC might consider; it is the management of rainbow lorikeets. They are a pest that is increasingly threatening the viability of not only the table grape industry, but also the wine industry in my electorate. I thank Kevin Peterson, the president of the Swan Valley grape growers association, for raising this issue. I thank Ray Zannino for hosting me on his property and showing me the extent of the problem. I also thank Councillor David Lucas, who is the Deputy Mayor of the City of Swan. His advocacy on this has been fabulous. We went out to look at the impact that rainbow lorikeets are having in the Swan Valley. The Swan Valley grape growers association has told me that this year there has been a 50 per cent loss of crops when compared with the same time last year on account of the rainbow lorikeet problem. This is despite attempts by grape growers to net vines, use gas guns to scare off birds, employ professional shooters to cull the birds, and to experiment with falconry and drone technology to try to move the birds on from the Swan Valley. They are facing a very significant issue in the Swan Valley.

I am aware of the existence of Operation Rainbow Roost, which is aimed at identifying where these birds are roosting. That is great because it will give us a far more complete picture, but I want to give members an understanding of the extent of the problem. It was probably in the 1960s when the first 10 rainbow lorikeets were released into the wild by, I would say, negligent lorikeet owners. There are now 40 000 of these things in WA. They are very beautiful—there is no two ways about it—but they are destroying our grape industry. They are affecting not only the grape growers in the Swan Valley but the orchardists in the Perth hills, who are seeing their crops being damaged, and I am sure that that is the case across the agricultural regions contained within the metropolitan area. They also threaten a whole range of birds and endemic native Western Australian bird species.

Ms M.M. Quirk: They are not native, are they?

Ms J.J. SHAW: That is right; they are not native, member. They are affecting the red-capped parrot, the western corella, the Australian ringneck and the Carnaby's black-cockatoo, which is an iconic bird in the Perth hills in particular. Rainbow lorikeets spread disease and are aggressive little things. They turf other birds out of their nests and are spreading further and further afield. They will, in a day, roam up to 50 kilometres from home. Their primary nesting sites are on the coast but they go out for the day to the Swan Valley for lunch, which we all love to do. Part of me really does not want to blame them for this—I would normally encourage more of that, but just not from the rainbow lorikeet! It is a significant problem in my electorate.

I have continued to advocate on this issue to the Minister for Agriculture and Food's office. I am aware that there is a real appetite to initiate a pest parrot strategy for Western Australia. I understand that part of that strategy would involve some form of stakeholder consultation process. The objectives of the strategy would be to develop a collaborative framework for managing pest parrots in Western Australia and then identify the roles and responsibilities so stakeholders could address this issue. I have asked the minister's office to keep me updated as that strategy is developed; indeed, I will engage with my constituents who have an interest in this and keep them updated as it progresses, particularly if and when those consultation processes begin.

Probably, in fact I would say ubiquitously among all agricultural industry stakeholders with whom I engage—they are all addressing this significant threat—is the issue of climate change. It is important that we address the issue. The grape growers and winemakers in my area are concerned about access to water in the Swan Valley in the face of a drying climate. Recently, there has been an absolute deluge of rain in the Swan Valley. I was at Upper Reach Winery the other day and I have been watching Laura's Facebook posts—it is a great winery with beautiful wines—but parts of that vineyard have been completely taken out by flooding in the Swan Valley. They are now trying to repair the trestles and get rid of all the detritus littered throughout the vineyard. Luckily, the vines are dormant at the moment so it has happened at a good time—if there is ever a good time for this stuff to happen—but the rain has significantly affected wine growers. I have no doubt that other grape growers and winemakers in the area have been affected.

Another issue for producers in the Swan Valley is smoke taint. When there are bushfires, as we have had horrifically in Wooroloo, smoke taint in grapes can be an issue. Even hazard-reduction burns can have smoke taint implications on winemakers. I know that issue is front of mind for my constituents. Indeed, how to address smoke taint could be addressed by one of these committees.

Our farmers are on the front line. They are living with the impacts of climate change and it is directly affecting their livelihoods. It goes without saying that it is affecting all of us, but these guys are on the front line. They understand the impacts of climate change in a way that many of us do not. An ever-growing proportion of farmers are embracing the responsibility that they have and the custodianship of the land that they operate on, and want to see serious action on climate change. In fact, driving up Toodyay Road, through my electorate, just before reaching Gidgegannup, on the left-hand side is a big sign at the front of a farm that says, "Farmers for Climate Action". It absolutely makes my heart sing when I drive past that property and see that sign from a farmer demanding action on climate change.

Indeed, the Farmers for Climate Action webpage shows that it has over 5 000 members and is running a campaign at the moment called "Tell Barnaby Joyce that farmers care about meaningful climate action". It is running an

active social media campaign because Australia's second biggest climate change sceptical cheerleader, behind Scott Morrison, is out there spreading all sorts of fear and misinformation about the causes and impacts of climate change and, in particular, misinformation about the impacts of climate mitigation. He is scaring communities purely to shore up his own electoral position, and that is shameful. So I am pleased to see leadership in the farming community that is saying, "No. We demand action on climate change."

Climate change is the issue for which I basically chose to leave my career in the energy sector. I decided, after having had a decade-long career in the energy industry, that we needed to take more direct action on climate change, and the best way of doing that was to get involved in politics. I changed my career for this issue. A couple of years ago, I went to Harvard Kennedy School—in fact, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum was there at the same time; he was in the classroom next door. I took the program on energy and climate change policy there. The first half of the course was on the science of climate change and the second was on policy responses at national, sub-national and local government levels, right around the world. There were all sorts of fascinating people on that course. They included the climate change chief adviser for Number 10 Downing Street, the head of global relations for BP, a representative from the World Wildlife Fund, the Ghanaian environment minister, people from the Californian state government, and health industry advocates. There was even a water supply specialist from the Middle East. Her country was grappling with a lack of water and saying, "Where do we get our water from? We are running out of water."

I had the great privilege to learn from this amazing group of people, but all of them were saying to me, "What's wrong with you in Australia?" Everybody who was looking from afar could see that we were disproportionately suffering the effects of climate change and that we were the best positioned to develop responses but that we were being stymied completely from any sort of meaningful debate and leadership at the national level on climate change. I had to keep apologising and say, "Mate, it's the federal government." At a state level we are taking this seriously and we understand the challenges.

The awareness in the community of the need to do that has been brought home very clearly with the publication of the most recent Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report, which specifically discussed Australia and found that we are experiencing widespread rapid climate change not seen for thousands of years and we may warm by four degrees Centigrade or more this century. The report warned of unprecedented increases in climate extremes, such as bushfires, floods and drought. This is the sixth report produced by the IPCC since it was founded in 1988, and it gives a very clear picture of how climate change will play out for us—and the picture is not pretty. Even under a moderate emissions scenario, the global effects of climate change will worsen significantly over the coming years, as identified in this report. Australia, without doubt, is identified in this report as warming. We have warmed, the IPCC has found, by about 1.4 degrees since 1910, and it is driving a significant increase in the intensity and frequency of extremely hot temperatures in Australia as well as a decrease in almost all cold extremes.

The IPCC had high confidence that recent extreme heat events in Australia were made more likely or severe due to human influence. It identified a range of events, including the summer of 2012–13, known as the "angry summer", when more than 70 per cent of Australia experienced extreme temperatures. It noted the Brisbane heatwave in 2014, the extreme heat preceding the 2018 Queensland fires and the heat leading into the Black Summer bushfires of 2019–20. My electorate, more than any other in the last year, has experienced the impacts of a drying climate horrifically through the Wooroloo bushfires. It is a material, pressing and ever-present risk to the people in my electorate. We are on the front line of the impacts of climate change. This is no longer an abstract issue; this is affecting our lived experience every summer. This issue confronts my farmers all year round, and we must do something to address it.

The IPCC says that as the planet warms, future heatwaves in Australia will be hotter and last longer, and cold extremes will be less frequent and less intense. The south west of Western Australia, our part of the world, is identified as a globally notable hotspot for drying. This drying is projected to continue as emissions rise and the climate warms. Australia is disproportionately exposed, we in Western Australia are disproportionately exposed, and the most disproportionately exposed part of Western Australia is our home, the south west of Western Australia, and we have to do something about it.

We have to take climate action, and I want to acknowledge the work of the McGowan government, particularly the Minister for Energy and the energy transformation strategy. Moving our energy economy toward a far more sustainable energy model is a wonderful step forward. It makes all sorts of sense not only financially, but also from a carbon mitigation perspective. I want to say what a great initiative that is.

I also want to acknowledge the work of the Minister for Water. The Minister for Water over the last four years brought climate change into pretty much every communication put out by the Water Corporation. This issue stops being something abstract and irrelevant and starts being part of our everyday narrative. This starts to be something we consciously think about every time we turn our tap on. The Minister for Water led that narrative. He was very proactive on climate change, and I would really like to acknowledge him. I also acknowledge Minister Dawson. In the last term of Parliament, Minister Dawson led the development of our climate change policy. There is real leadership at the state government level.

I was very heartened by the recent comments from the Premier as reported in *The West Australian* a couple of days ago. Although the Premier does not want to pre-empt any decisions that the cabinet might take around climate change, he is open to a conversation about legislated targets at a state level and noted that everyone else seems to be able to wrap their heads around the issue and he regrets the lack of leadership at the federal government level. At the end of the day, we need a nationally coordinated approach and we need national leadership. I hope that the IPCC report prompts action on climate change. I want to acknowledge the great work being done by the McGowan Labor government in this space. I look forward to hearing more about it, because it is so important to the electors of Swan Hills, the people of Western Australia and more broadly to the Australian nation.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.34 pm]: I, too, rise to make a contribution to the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. As many members who have spoken so far know, having done research, this bill has been a long time coming, and I commend the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, for bringing it to this place.

The Horticultural Produce Commission Act 1988 established the Agricultural Produce Commission as a statutory authority, with the primary function of establishing producers' committees. This act's long title was amended to become the Agricultural Produce Commission Act in 2000. The amendments now proposed will modernise the act, improving services and responsiveness to agricultural industries that already use, or might in future use, the act. The amendments emerged from a comprehensive review of the act in 2006. That review took place some 15 years ago. The 11 existing Agricultural Produce Commission committees, covering 13 horticultural industries, use the act to provide various services. Over the years, producers' committees for agricultural produce have allowed and encouraged producers to undertake assessments of their industries, and to work together for individual and creative industry good. There is no doubt that more people and players in the industry want to get involved.

Essentially, we have waited 16 years for this review from back in 2006 to be enacted. A number of ministers have had a go at doing this, and it is not surprising to us on the Labor side that Hon Alannah MacTiernan got it done. In preparation for the speech, I read through the *Hansard* of this bill's passage through the Legislative Council. I have to say: if we thought the bunch opposite in this chamber were uninspiring, or sometimes I call them incompetent, there is a whole different level going on up there, and I suggest that members read the *Hansard* of the bill's passage in the other place.

I want to take up something the member for Roe harboured in his speech in expressing his disappointment about the rejection of an amendment in the other place that resulted in not having an opt-out clause for the broadacre cropping industry. I do not propose to be an expert, but it seems to me that we have a bunch of committees at the moment that are doing very, very well under the existing act, and the opposition's proposed amendment in the other place to put the opt-out clause into the bill would have impacted on all those committees successfully operating right now. It was the minister's view that it would best be served that that be done by way of regulation. I cannot explain it as well as Hon Alannah MacTiernan does, so I will read from *Hansard* how she explained why she and the government chose to deal by regulations with the issue the opposition keeps raising. She stated —

We are very keen, when possible, to accommodate legitimate concerns that are raised by members, but I simply cannot, as a matter of principle, accept this amendment. In a way, this is a case of the tail wagging the dog.

It is very clear that a number of the most active and successful existing committees —

Various members highlighted those committees, and the member for Swan Hills explained the successful workings of some of those committees. The minister continues —

are very strongly opposed to the introduction of an opt-out clause into their existing provisions. That comes from the producers of vegetables, pome and wine, who between them collect approximately 50 per cent of the total fee-for-service funds. There is no way we are going to introduce an opt-out provision just to accommodate people —

That is the broadacre cropping people —

who are not actually already in the thing.

Therefore, the better way, in the minister's and the government's view, is that those concerns can be dealt with through regulations. That is the bit the member for Roe did not explain properly.

I turn to the opposition's uninspiring approach to this. It has been really inspiring to be in this place to hear so many Labor members representing the regions, particularly the contributions made by the members for Geraldton, Albany and Warren–Blackwood. The lack of interest in this place by the Liberal and National Parties to debate a very important bill has been really disappointing. I would have thought it was an important bill for their constituents, yet, sadly, they are absent.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms R.S. Stephens): The member for Wanneroo has the call. Please continue.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker.

The Liberal and National Parties have to do the work. All we hear in this place is constant excuses about their performance. If it is not COVID, it will be electoral reform. Just turn up, do your homework and do the work. Notwithstanding the member for Roe had a red-hot crack once he realised the bill was on, in the other place it was really quite comical. If I can, I will read from the Minister for Agriculture and Food's contribution in the other place. I think it is at the heart of the problem with the National and Liberal opposition at the moment. The minister said —

I thank members for their input to the debate on the ... Bill ... This is a most interesting debate because it almost distils all the issues and problems that we have in agriculture in Western Australia, not the least of which is the blue on green war, which actually impedes any reasonable progress. I was astounded that members opposite were saying, "This review came down in 2006 and, golly gosh, why are we only now dealing with the recommendations of that review?" We should look to the other side of the house. During the eight and a half years that the now opposition was in government, from 2008 to early 2017, the people who purport to represent the farmers were not able to bring a piece of legislation forward on pastoral reform because its members could not agree. Right out there in the bush, this big fight goes on between the Pastoralists and Graziers Association and the Western Australian Farmers Federation. That big fight between the PGA and WAFF plays out time and again, as it has done here again today.

We came into government after eight and a half years of inaction. Actually, no progress was made during the period of the Liberal–National Party coalition. We saw zero progress.

I think I mentioned last night how many housing ministers there had been. It is also really interesting to look at, as a comparison, how many agriculture ministers the previous Liberal–National government had. From 2008 to 2013, it was Hon Terry Redman, the previous member for Warren–Blackwood. I think he did a reasonable job. From 2013 until 2017, the wheels fell off, and we had Hon Ken Baston for a couple of years. Then the Liberal opposition decided to give the agriculture portfolio to Hon Dean Nalder, albeit for about eight months. After that, the agriculture portfolio went to Hon Mark Lewis, who had it up until the 2017 state election. It shows that the previous Liberal–National government really did not care about agriculture. It did not put any priority on it, but instead it actually decimated it. We need to remember what the former government did so that we can actually understand what we inherited back in 2017 and certainly what our current agriculture minister, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, inherited.

Between 2008 and 2017, nearly 600 jobs were lost in the agriculture department—a 35 per cent cut in staff. In the same period, the department's funding from the state fell 26 per cent. The previous government also built a further 37 per cent cut into its forward estimates. It was a reckless slash-and-burn approach that put the future prosperity of our agricultural industry at risk. We have moved to fix it. All of us in this place recognise that the current agriculture minister has been on a mission to fix it. In the 2019–20 budget, the government delivered a \$131.5 million funding boost for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to deal with the fiscal cliff left by the previous government. It put DPIRD back on a sustainable footing. The minister and this government have worked hard on rebuilding our state's agricultural research and development capability. There has been a big focus on this in this government since 2017, compared with the previous one.

The ministers that I referred to in the previous Liberal–National government were okay, but let us see what the Liberal–National opposition think about agriculture and who it put in charge. Post the 2017 election, when the Liberals and Nationals sat in opposition after having done such an uninspiring job in eight and a half years in government, the shadow portfolio was given to the member for Geraldton, Ian Blayney. That did not go too well and we are all the better for it! The shadow agriculture portfolio was then given to Hon Jim Chown. I have some wonderful news articles that I could read about him and what some of the industry players thought about his performance in the portfolio! Then we had Hon Dr Steve Thomas—he lasted about nine months—and now, since the re-election of the McGowan government and the second term of the Liberals and Nationals in opposition, Hon Colin de Grussa has taken on the portfolio. It has been a few months but he is still there. So far, the very capable Minister for Agriculture and Food has already seen off three shadow ministers. We will see how that goes!

It is great that I have flushed out all those members, from wherever they were hiding, to come back into the chamber. It would be great if they took some notes and made —

Mr S.A. Millman: They came back in to make their own members' statements. They are staying for members' statements. They're not even interested in the debate.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Oh, I see!

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Wanneroo.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I am sorry; I thought they were coming back to listen to me!

Mr S.A. Millman: They're not interested. They couldn't care less.

Ms S.E. WINTON: I should have known better; they are actually not interested in agriculture or representing the regions. Of course they are not interested. They are just coming in here to make their quick 90-second statements and then get out in time for lunch. I get it!

Several members interjected.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Gee, members!

Wanneroo has a long and proud history of agriculture. In terms of European settlement, Wanneroo's earliest beginnings were in 1852, when the Cockmans made the first permanent settlement in Wanneroo, growing crops close to the lake systems that run along Wanneroo. That is really at the heart of why market gardening was established in Wanneroo. I am very proud of the history of Wanneroo. Members know that I have previously spoken about the Wanneroo Agricultural Society, which has been going since 1909. That society has, very importantly, been supporting growers for 112 years. One of the main things that we all know and love the Wanneroo ag society for is organising and running the Wanneroo Show each year. This will be the 112th Wanneroo Show. The Wanneroo Show showcases the produce of Wanneroo. It is important to note for those regional members who have spoken about the contribution of their wonderful regions to agriculture that outside of the Perth Royal Show, the Wanneroo Show is the second-biggest show in our state. I am very proud of that.

Mr W.J. Johnston: After the Canning Show.

Ms S.E. WINTON: No. I disagree with the minister,

Mr W.J. Johnston: They had 15 000 people last year. The first one was held in 1892.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Minister, I am going to have to take that little challenge on notice!

Mr D.A. Templeman: I'm leaving! There's a blue coming!

Ms S.E. WINTON: The minister does not have an agricultural show down in Mandurah. He only has a crab festival. This year, again, we are looking forward to a successful show. Everyone knows that last year, the planning was very difficult due to COVID.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Last year was the biggest show ever in Canning.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Minister, I was about to say that despite the planning uncertainty, last year Wanneroo had its most successful show in a very, very long time, and we are looking forward to having a huge crowd again this year, not only of Wanneroo locals but also people from throughout the northern suburbs and the metropolitan area, and from regional areas. I encourage all members, whether metropolitan members or regional members, to come and say "Hi" at the biggest tent at the Wanneroo Show, which will be the Labor tent.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 2807.]

RESILIENT AUSTRALIA AWARDS

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.51 pm]: On Monday, I had the pleasure of attending the 2021 Resilient Australia Awards, alongside the Minister for Emergency Services. The Resilient Australia Awards celebrate and promote initiatives that build whole-of-community resilience to disasters and emergencies around Australia, as well as images that capture resilience in action. The awards recognise collaboration and innovative thinking across all sectors.

Five exceptional individuals and groups were recognised for delivering projects that build community resilience against emergencies in Western Australia. I was very pleased to note that Bridgetown High School's Emergency Services Cadet Corps won the Resilient Australia Schools Award. This was for a training program that equips our youth to be the next generation of emergency services volunteers. Cadets develop skills used by emergency services volunteers, and apply what they learn by preparing bushfire plans and assessing their preparedness for severe weather.

The Western Australian Commissioner for Children and Young People, Colin Pettit, received the Resilient Australia Government Award for research into the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people's wellbeing.

The Resilient Australia Local Government Award went to the City of Fremantle for its neighbour-to-neighbour project.

Nikki Woods, an outstanding photographer and volunteer firefighter, won people's choice in the Resilient Australia Photography Award for the second year running. It is interesting to note that Nikki was also highly commended for another of her photos.

Lastly, but certainly not least important, Emergency Animal Support Evacuation Western Australia won the Resilient Australia Community Award for ensuring the safety of animals during emergencies.

CITY OF GOSNELLS — SIXTIETH ANNIVERSARY*Statement by Member for Thornlie*

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [12.53 pm]: I would like to congratulate the City of Gosnells, in Perth's south-east, which last month celebrated 60 years of being a local government. On Saturday, 1 July 1961, the Gosnells Road Board became the Shire of Gosnells, following the introduction of the Local Government Act 1960. The 1960s also marked the start of significant change and population growth in the district, with market gardens, poultry farms and orchards transforming into suburbs of residential housing.

As a result of rapid growth, the Shire of Gosnells soon became the Town of Gosnells, and then, in 1977, the City of Gosnells. Today, the City of Gosnells is the sixth-largest local government by population in Western Australia, with more than 133 000 residents and 11 suburbs. It encompasses a mix of housing, parks, commercial and industrial areas, rural areas, and beautiful natural spaces like Ellis Brook Valley and Mary Carroll Park. Today, the city is home to one of the state's most culturally diverse communities, with over 43 per cent of residents born overseas. The second largest Indigenous population in Perth also calls the City of Gosnells home.

I offer my congratulations to the City of Gosnells and its proud community on reaching this significant milestone. I acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery the Mayor of the City of Gosnells, David Goode, and his wife, Jenny; Freeman of the City, former mayor Pat Morris; and CEO Ian Cowie and his wife, Sarah.

CERVANTES HISTORICAL SOCIETY*Statement by Member for Moore*

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.54 pm]: Today I would like to acknowledge the outstanding work of the Cervantes Historical Society for not only preserving the heritage of Cervantes and its surrounds, but also its involvement with the midwest chapter of the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Western Australia. The association would ultimately like to develop a museum trail visiting towns such as Cervantes, Dongara, Carnamah, Coorow and Moora. For almost 20 years, members of the Cervantes Historical Society have been working to build a museum collection that details how this fishing town came to be. As the only official historical society in the Shire of Dandaragan, the museum collection will broaden its scope to also take in the other towns in the shire.

The town of Cervantes was gazetted in 1963. The town was named in honour of the American whaler the *Cervantes*, which was named after Spanish author Miguel de Cervantes. The vessel was wrecked just offshore of Cervantes in 1844. I applaud the historical society's latest project that will see it construct a monument to the whaling brig the *Cervantes*. As the original plans for the brig are not available, the Cervantes Historical Society has settled for a creative depiction of the *Cervantes*. I recently attended the launch of the project in the town at Ronsard Reserve. A concrete base has been poured to represent the vessel's 90-foot hull and the *Cervantes*' three masts are marked by three flagpoles flying the flags of Australia, the United States and Spain. The Cervantes Men's Shed will craft further items associated with the whaling brig and information signs will tell the story of this ill-fated whaler. I thank and congratulate those working on this terrific project.

CARSON STREET SCHOOL*Statement by Member for Victoria Park*

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park) [12.56 pm]: I am delighted to inform members about a recent McGowan government decision to invest in new infrastructure at Carson Street School in my electorate of Victoria Park. Carson Street School provides quality education programs for children living with disability aged zero to 11 years. It is an extraordinary school, with a proud tradition of innovation, excellence and care.

Many Carson Street students require significant mobility assistance and many use large, powered mobility aids. As such, the otherwise simple act of getting in and out of vehicles at school drop-off and pick-up can take considerable time and effort. A few months ago, I met with members of the school community who expressed to me a need for covers over existing parking bays and the adjacent walkway to protect users from the elements. As the member for Victoria Park, supporting our local schools is my priority. As such, I was happy to pursue this issue on behalf of the school community. It is with great pleasure that I inform members that the McGowan government will invest \$100 000 in Carson Street School for new purpose-built covers over the school's six existing accessible parking bays and the adjacent walkway. Construction is scheduled for the upcoming December school holidays to minimise disruption to the school community. I sincerely thank and congratulate the Minister for Education and Training for delivering this important funding.

TOKYO OLYMPIC GAMES TEAM — GINA RINEHART SUPPORT*Statement by Member for Roe*

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [12.57 pm]: As shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, I would like to acknowledge the excellent performance of the Australian Olympic team at the Tokyo Olympics. Athletes not only exceeded all

expectations, but also gave the Australian sport-loving public a great morale boost during these difficult times. As the Olympics come to a close and on the cusp of the Paralympics, I would like to thank Gina Rinehart and the Hancock Prospecting Group for their ongoing support of our Olympic team and of sport in general. At the conclusion of the Tokyo Olympics, I will list some of Mrs Rinehart's contributions to sport. Mrs Rinehart is a financial supporter of swimming, rowing, volleyball and artistic swimming, and a patron of all four sports. She has been supporting swimming in Western Australia for 29 years and has been patron of Swimming Australia since 2012. She has also been the patron of rowing, volleyball and artistic swimming since 2016, and involved in WA artistic swimming for longer, leading to most of the artistic swim team training in WA. I note that many of Australia's medals came from swimming and rowing.

The Hancock Group advertising during the Tokyo Olympics was inspirational and I am sure motivated many athletes to set their sights on the next Olympics or even Brisbane 2032! As shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, I appreciate Mrs Rinehart's efforts to promote and encourage our Olympic athletes. After such a successful Tokyo Olympics, I am sure the people of Australia do as well.

HILLARYS PRIMARY SCHOOL — UPGRADE

Statement by Member for Hillarys

MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys) [12.59 pm]: I wish to highlight the incredible investment the McGowan government has made to Hillarys Primary School. Members of the community have been campaigning for over 15 years to get funding to redevelop their local school, which was built back in 1973. Like many schools built in this era, the buildings are drastically ageing. I want to thank the community for being so proactive in reaching out to me as a candidate back in July last year. I met with members of the board, the P&C and parents to listen to their concerns about the conditions of the school. The principal, Trevor Mitchell, invited me to the school to inspect the facilities and I strongly agreed that there was a need for a serious upgrade. Trevor is a remarkable spokesperson for the school and is someone who truly wants the best for his students. I strongly advocated for funding to the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, and Premier Mark McGowan. The McGowan government listened and committed \$16.7 million to rebuild Hillarys Primary School. This will include a new administration building, library, staff facilities, two kindies, four general learning areas with new classrooms and more parking for staff and parents. The project is expected to be completed for the start of the 2023 school year. I am so proud to be part of the McGowan team that is committed to our children's future putting our schools first. Thank you.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

VISITORS — BAYNTON WEST PRIMARY SCHOOL

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: On behalf of the member for Pilbara, I acknowledge the students from Baynton West Primary School. It is lovely to have them in the gallery here today.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

HEDLAND HEALTH CAMPUS — STAFF

396. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Health:

I refer to reports of staff walking off site in protest of chronic staff shortages and unsafe working conditions at Hedland Health Campus. Can the minister explain what has led to the staff leaving due to these chronic shortages and unsafe conditions?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I am advised that a range of issues were raised by healthcare workers, primarily members of the United Workers Union, regarding support services staff at Hedland Health Campus. We have since proactively reached out to the United Workers Union to discuss the situation. I want to assure the community that we take all staff feedback very seriously and we will listen to any concerns carefully and compassionately. I think there are concerns right throughout regional health services, as they struggle to attract the staff that they need. I understand that it puts them under pressure, at a time when they have been doing a magnificent job keeping Western Australians safe during our COVID-19 experience. This is an issue for the WA Country Health Service to sort out and I understand it is on top of it.

HEDLAND HEALTH CAMPUS — STAFF

397. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Is this not another example of the minister's inability to properly manage his portfolio, leading to the first walkout at Hedland Health Campus since 2004?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

No.

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

398. Dr K. STRATTON to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan government's commitment to putting patients first through significant investment in hospitals and health infrastructure throughout Western Australia.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house what the McGowan Labor government's investment in the new women's and babies' hospital will mean for Western Australian mothers and their newborns?
- (2) Can the Premier advise how it is only through this government's strong financial management that this important investment can be made?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I also welcome the students from Baynton West Primary School who are here today, on behalf of the member for Pilbara.

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Nedlands for the question. It is true that this government has done more for Nedlands than any government in history, with Bob Hawke College, the expansion of Bob Hawke College and the new women's and babies' hospital that we are building in Nedlands.

King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women has been there for more than 100 years. Obviously, it has done a wonderful job over that time, but it is rapidly ageing, so we want to, and will, provide a new women's and babies' hospital for the people of both the city and the country in this state. We committed \$3.3 million in the 2019–20 budget towards preliminary planning for the project. We worked out that the preferred site is at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, north of G Block, just near the QEII site. The new hospital will be Western Australia's only maternity and gynaecological hospital, and will include obstetric and birthing suites as well as a full range of specialist services. It will be a centre of excellence for Western Australian mothers and newborns, and I expect it to be the best women's and babies' hospital in not only Australia, but also the world. It will be very impressive.

We are working on the designs and scope of work. Following the detailed business case and project definition plan that are being worked through now, we expect work to get underway in 2023. We will be declaring the hospital a strategic project under the Western Australian Jobs Act to maximise local content and we expect it will create 1 400 local jobs during construction. We are able to do this because of good financial management over the last four and a half years. As we will see in the budget, \$1.8 billion will be invested in the project. It is a fully funded project that will provide support for families all over the state. What is great about the women's and babies' hospital is that it will serve women and children not only in the metropolitan area, but also from all over Western Australia. It will be in proximity to the other health services on that site in Nedlands in the heart of the city. It will be near public transport and accessible to people from all over the state.

The great thing is that we have managed the finances well, which means we have been able to do this. I note that on the final Thursday of the election campaign, when the Liberal Party released its costings, which we all remember—the former member for Churchlands and the member for Cottesloe were yelling at journalists on that occasion—it allocated \$3 million towards this project. We have allocated \$1.8 billion. That is because we have managed the finances well and we have been able to set the state up for the future, which is what this project is about.

CORONAVIRUS — TOURISM

399. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the latest report by Tourism Western Australia, *Visitation to Western Australia: Overview: Year ending March 2021*, which shows that WA tourism has lost \$3.3 million and declined by 39 per cent since the onset of COVID-19. The recent business survey conducted by Tourism Council WA reveals that almost one in three tourism businesses has reported they will run out of cash reserves in six months and face closure due to COVID-19-related restrictions both here in WA and interstate.

Will the government provide further relief this financial year from fees collected from tourism-related businesses that are significantly impacted by these restrictions; and, if not, why not?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Sorry; I have not given you the call yet, Minister for Tourism. I was just waiting for the other people who wanted to answer the question to be quiet.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I thank the member for the question. Our government has great sympathy for any businesses that are affected by COVID-19, but where else would you rather be in Australia than in Western Australia? The simple fact is this:

the sad failures that we see over on the eastern seaboard, particularly in New South Wales, are a stark example of what happens when we do not act swiftly and respond quickly, as this government has consistently done since the COVID-19 situation faced the nation.

It is interesting to see that we now have the most robust economy in Australia. Consumer confidence is at some of its highest levels ever and unemployment rates in this state are again low, unlike other parts of the nation. Because of the strong border policy of this government and this Premier, Western Australians are able to move throughout the state and experience the magnificent tourism opportunities and tourism offers of the state. They have done that in their thousands. Western Australians are travelling more and more since the Wander Out Yonder campaign was launched last year. Western Australians are exploring places that many of them have never been to. A number of businesses, be they accommodation providers or tourism experiences, have seen numbers unlike any other in the past. We know that when borders have to be closed, of course that impacts on inbound visitors from the eastern states. We recognise that. One of the places particularly impacted by that, as the member may be aware, is indeed Perth city itself. Hotels in Perth, particularly midweek, have been impacted.

This government has responded consistently—talking to the industry, talking to the sector and responding when necessary. This government has put in place a range of initiatives and responded to assist and support when there are troughs in some parts of the market. But goodness gracious me—look across the border. Look at New South Wales. Tourism operators in New South Wales cannot do anything. They cannot do anything at all—nothing—yet we know that in Western Australia there are businesses that are doing well and those that are not have been supported by campaigns. There are campaigns in the north west supporting air ticket subsidies and campaigns for experience subsidies in the Kimberley. The Relook and Book campaign was launched specifically to backfill accommodation cancellations from the eastern seaboard. The government is responding consistently to these things and we will keep on doing that. The government launched a campaign to ensure that people are reminded that Kalbarri is now open for business. There is also a campaign to support people and allow subsidies for experiences there.

The government is responding consistently to the market. But remember this: we are in the best position of any other state and territory in Australia. It gives us an opportunity to sell the state to our own population as we are doing, and they are responding in their hundreds of thousands and getting out into areas. It also allows us to ensure that when we are able to open the borders safely to interstate, and then international, visitation, we will be a destination for many of those people because they know we have a whole suite of experiences—landscapes and cultural and arts experiences—to share with the rest of the world when we are able to open.

The problem with the member for North West Central is that he keeps talking down the state. The member keeps talking down the state and that is what he and his dwindled members on the other side consistently do. This state is the safest in the nation and one of the safest places in the world. We will keep not only honing our story for when we can welcome visitors from the eastern states and overseas, but also encouraging Western Australians to travel within their own state. They are doing that. I want them to purchase experiences while they are in those places so that they support the tourism industry going forward. You keep talking down the state. I tell you what: it does you a great disservice and it certainly does not instil confidence in people who need confidence in how well Western Australia is doing.

CORONAVIRUS — TOURISM

400. Mr V.A. CATANIA to the Minister for Tourism:

I have a supplementary question. If the government will not agree to provide further relief to these businesses, does it mean that the minister is happy for them to go out of business, costing jobs and causing experienced operators to exit the industry?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I tell you what we will not do: unlike you, we will not stand with Clive Palmer and start attacking the state as you and your people have done over time! We will not stand with Clive Palmer. We stand against him, mate! We stand against him. I will tell you why. It is because you and your side of politics consistently will not condemn Clive Palmer.

Mr V.A. Catania interjected.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have not heard you condemn Clive Palmer ever because you are in his pocket! You are a puppet of Clive Palmer and you will continue to be. I tell you what: I will keep talking up the tourism industry. It is a brilliant industry.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! Minister for Tourism, I ask you to come back to the question please and perhaps address your comments to the chair. I ask the member for North West Central to not continuously interject. I think you have made your point by way of interjection and perhaps we can just hear the remainder of the rather brief answer that the minister is about to give.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Madam Speaker, I assure you of this: we will make sure that our border policy is the strongest in the nation, that it protects Western Australians and that it protects businesses in Western Australia so

that they can continue to do business. Many of them are doing very, very well in business because of our strong border policy. But we will not be a puppet to Clive Palmer like the member for North West Central. We will not be a puppet to Palmer like he is, nor him and the National Party. We will keep the state safe. I tell you what: I would rather be here in Western Australia, son, than over in New South Wales at the moment because we have seen what happens when you do not act swiftly and do not do things in support to ensure the safety and wellbeing of your own state's population.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

401. Mr Y. MUBARAKAI to the Minister for Health:

I have a very important question for the Minister for Health. I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to meeting the unprecedented levels of demand facing Western Australia's emergency departments. Can the minister update the house on how the McGowan Labor government's \$1.9 billion investment—I repeat: \$1.9 billion investment—in our health system will ease the pressure on Western Australian emergency departments and ensure that world-class care can continue to be delivered?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. Before I answer the member's important question, I hope you will indulge me briefly, Madam Speaker. This morning as the member for Kwinana and representing the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, I attended the funeral of Mrs Theresa Walley, who would be known to many in the Parliament. Mrs Walley was one of the great elders of the south west of Western Australia. She was a member of the stolen generation who not only went on to grow a huge, thriving family, but also was a stalwart and a great advocate for the Noongar community.

The SPEAKER: Hear, hear!

Mr R.H. COOK: I want to put on the record my condolences to her family and thanks to her.

It is a very important question. We know that our emergency departments are under unprecedented pressure at the moment. A lot of our frontline healthcare workers are doing it tough. We are seeing a post-COVID spike in hospital demand. Although those opposite are in denial about these things, I want to quote briefly Dr Sean Stevens, chair of the WA faculty of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners. According to my notes, yesterday on Channel Nine he said —

They (Premier and Health Minister) are actually quite true. We did see a period during the pandemic ... where for a range of reasons, people didn't see their GP for their regular preventative health. And it just shows the importance of having regular preventative health checks because now we are seeing some of the effects of this delayed diagnosis and treatment.

That is the reason we have such peaks in triage 1s and triage 2s and, to a lesser extent, triage 3s in the EDs and why our hospitals are under particular pressure.

I am particularly proud of the McGowan government's \$1.9 billion commitment to health care, which is dedicated to putting patients first. Part of that plan is to assist emergency departments and the staff who work in them. Perth's EDs will receive a massive \$100 million funding injection as part of the upcoming state budget, which will see an additional 50 full-time equivalent staff employed, including medical, nursing, allied health and support services staff. It is designed to improve patient flow, reduce bedlock, relieve ambulance congestion and, of course, improve health outcomes for WA patients.

I was also pleased to announce, while touring the virtual emergency medicine system at Fiona Stanley Hospital on Monday, that during its first month this pilot successfully reduced ramping or diverted 25 per cent of ambulances away from EDs. This system works by having a teleconference call with the paramedics and patient in the ambulance before they get to the ED so that they may be diverted, if possible, to ambulatory care or go straight to a medical imaging department for diagnostic attention. That, in itself, obviously provides a very innovative and clever way of reducing congestion in our EDs. A \$2.3 million boost to this cutting-edge system will be expanded to Rockingham General Hospital and Peel Health Campus, and we look forward to seeing it flow through to other EDs.

We have also committed \$4.8 billion to boost the Perth Children's Hospital emergency department to employ an additional 16 nurses, which will allow for an additional nurse on every shift to be based in the ED waiting area to monitor patients. This \$100 million package will provide \$61.6 million for mental health, including \$7.9 million for child and adolescent mental health services; the construction of two mental health emergency centres at the Rockingham and Armadale hospitals; new multidisciplinary team pilots, called active recovery teams, based at a range of hospitals across Perth and the regions; and an expansion of the adult community treatment services that support people with mental health issues as they come out of a hospital environment.

The reasons for the increased pressure on our hospitals are multifactorial, and that is why we have brought a multifactorial response, sponsored by a \$1.9 billion boost to healthcare services in Western Australia. That is another example of how the McGowan government is putting patients first.

HORIZON POWER — DISCONNECTIONS

402. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the minister's response on Tuesday in question time regarding the hardship provisions offered by Synergy to customers in the south west interconnected system. Why did Horizon Power disconnect 606 regional electricity customers in July, which is 20 times the rate, on a per-customer basis, of Synergy's 587 disconnections in the same month—the coldest and wettest month of the year?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

Horizon Power manages its disconnections very carefully. Because it has advanced metering infrastructure, it can disconnect and reconnect a customer instantaneously. Although it does disconnect a high proportion of customers, it is able to reconnect them much faster. Because there is no advanced metering infrastructure in the south west interconnected system, there has to be physical disconnection, with an electrician going from Western Power to site. In addition to that, Horizon Power also has prepaid meters. There is a specific arrangement that was entered into under the former government that allows it to use prepaid meters. That is not available to Synergy. Those prepaid meters are in Indigenous communities. When a person does not top up their prepaid meter, it still means disconnection. The reason there is a higher rate is that they are completely different systems.

In the south west interconnected system, Synergy is making a deliberate effort to work with customers to manage debts in a new and innovative way that I reported the other day. Unlike the member, I welcome Synergy's work. I do not think it is—what was the word the member used on radio?—appalling. I cannot remember the exact word.

Dr D.J. Honey: I said that you should care for people in need.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: No; you said that it was appalling that the government was not sending debt collectors in to collect this money. You cannot have this both ways. There was an 82.6 per cent increase in the number of disconnections during the period of the previous government, so you cannot have it both ways in attacking us for being reasonable in the way in which Synergy behaves with its disconnection procedures. You have to choose one side of the street to walk on. You cannot continue to behave in this irresponsible manner.

HORIZON POWER — DISCONNECTIONS

403. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Energy:

I have a supplementary question. Given that historically and in previous months, the disconnection disparity between Synergy and Horizon is around four times, how does the minister account for the disparity in the rate of disconnection being 20 times for the month of July? It cannot be for the reasons the minister has given.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:

If the member knows the answer to the question, why does he not provide it to me?

Dr D.J. Honey: Why don't you?

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: I have provided the answer to the question.

Dr D.J. Honey: The historic average is four times since 2019. In July it was 20 times.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: As the member knows, there was a moratorium on disconnections that expired on 30 June. The companies have at my direction engaged with their local communities to make sure that when disconnection practices recommenced, they would not come as a surprise to any of the communities. I understand 563 residential customers were disconnected in the first month of disconnections by Horizon, and it is true that that is more than Synergy did. That was 563 by 26 July, member. But as I say, there is a range of reasons for that. One is that prepaid meters were not being disconnected. Does the member understand what I am saying here? That is a system that his government introduced, and I supported it when it was introduced. Prepaid meters were put into Aboriginal communities so they did not have to pay and they kept their electricity, but once 30 June —

Dr D.J. Honey: But they had been disconnecting for three months before, minister.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: You really need to listen and not talk. This is one of your problems. You are very happy to talk and not listen; now it is your turn to listen and not talk.

Dr D.J. Honey: You asked me whether I understood.

Mr W.J. JOHNSTON: No, I was not asking a question. I am making a point to you, and you need to listen and not talk.

I said that those prepaid meters continued to provide electricity during the period of the disconnection moratorium, but after 30 June those meters could not get electricity because they did not have payments made, so they were disconnected. Exactly what I said to the member is true: Horizon has a different set of procedures. The average disconnection period for Horizon is less than one hour; a Synergy customer cannot be reconnected in less than one day, so they are completely different practices.

PLANNING REFORM

404. Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Minister for Planning:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's efforts to drive greater investment in our economy that will support local jobs and local businesses. Can the minister outline to the house what this government's efforts to cut red tape and support our economic recovery through the state development assessment unit has meant for local workers and businesses; and can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who opposes these efforts to support local jobs?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Mirrabooka for that question. Last year we introduced a number of reforms to help deliver economic recovery to this state. A number of reforms were implemented, including the new streamlined pathway. That was aimed at creating more investment certainty to ensure that we have better designed buildings and, of course, to ensure that we have a pipeline of work to allow us to get out of any potential economic turmoil the state might face. So far, 12 developments have been approved, representing \$375 million in total investment and 2 000 construction and ongoing jobs.

I was there with the member for South Perth at the sod turning for the first project delivered under the new pathway, at 8 Parker Street in the good Labor stronghold of South Perth! It was great to see the local landowners involved in getting that project up, and I am so glad that we are delivering it. Since July, more than 70 applicants have expressed interest in accessing the pathway, and another 12 developments are now under consideration, worth more than \$1 billion and thousands of new jobs.

Projects that have been approved include the State Football Centre in Queens Park, Minister for Sport and Recreation; residential aged-care facilities; the wharf extension at Henderson; student accommodation; multistorey apartment buildings; and, of course, regional projects such as the liquefied natural gas plant in Mt Magnet and a shopping centre in Dawesville.

This is all about making sure our economic recovery continues, because it does not stop today; it continues, and we need a pipeline of work, whether it be civil, construction or business investment across the state. The Liberal Party argued that this new pathway should finish today. The Liberal Party believes that the economic recovery needs to finish now—that we can all wipe our hands and go home. The economic recovery has to continue. We need to continue a pipeline of projects throughout the state to ensure we continue to provide job opportunities and create economic opportunities.

Yesterday, the member for Cottesloe argued for public housing. This is the member who opposes every development across the state. He opposes multimillion-dollar apartments because they have a street frontage of 21.2 metres and not 21 metres. This is what the member for Cottesloe does—he opposes every development. To deliver social and other housing, we need construction and development approvals, and that is what we will continue to do. Yesterday, the member argued that he wanted more public housing in Cottesloe. Does the member still subscribe to that?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Whereabouts, member?

Dr D.J. Honey: The southern part of Mosman Park is perfect for redevelopment.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The member said the southern part of Mosman Park. Does the member want additional public housing?

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I am glad to hear that, because we are implementing new housing opportunities across the state, across the suburbs, and we will continue our economic recovery and creating jobs. We are not listening to Liberal Party members—economic vandals who believe economic recovery has finished. That is what they believe—“Scrap the pathway. Let's all go home; economic recovery is finished.” We know it has not. We need to continue to create jobs and opportunities for the entirety of Western Australia.

CORONAVIRUS — POLICE — G2G PASS

405. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Police:

I refer to media reports regarding Hannah John, a registered midwife currently living in South Australia who has accepted a contract with the Kalgoorlie health service and has reportedly had her G2G PASS application rejected three times. Does the minister accept that it would be more effective to have a transparent G2G PASS assessment process that would allow essential workers like this to fill critical gaps?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

Speaker —

Mr W.J. Johnston: An outrageous attack on the police commissioner!

Mr P. PAPALIA: Extraordinary!

I thank the member for his question. Only this morning I met with the police commissioner and his team about a range of issues, including Operation Tide, which is the operation protecting our borders and defending Western Australians against COVID and ensuring that WA is the strongest and best place in the world for people to live and businesses to flourish. During that conversation I asked the commissioner about matters that had been raised in the media. The member probably would have heard that beyond Hannah's story, there have been a few calls to talkback radio in which people claimed to have been ringing from the eastern states and said they were having difficulties with the G2G PASS. It was made very clear to me that this is a police operational matter. I have to say that the police are doing an extraordinary job. What a job our Western Australia Police Force has done over the last 18 months or so; it has been world class. It is undeniably the best performing police force in the nation, possibly in the world, in protecting us all against COVID.

I note that there have been more than a million applications for a G2G PASS, the vast majority of which are approved. There is a very big workload. When police get them, they interrogate every single one of them. It is very important—it is vital—for the safety of Western Australians that the police interrogate every application. What has happened is that regularly people make an application for a G2G PASS and the police request backing information; they request evidence. It is one thing for someone to make a claim that they are mentally unwell, they have a job or they are a returning Western Australian resident who has been trapped on the east coast in recent times, but they must provide evidence. If an individual makes an application—no matter how many times they make it; it will be assessed every time—and does not provide the necessary backing documentation, it will be rejected. Honestly, I make no apologies for that, and I do not think the police should apologise for that. They are defending our state. They are keeping us safe. They are complying with the Chief Health Officer's advice. If someone is asked to provide substantiation in the form of documentation, they must do it. There are exemptions all the time for any number of reasons around people confronting difficult circumstances or, as in this case, if they have work and have a reason to come to Western Australia, but they must provide appropriate documentation.

CORONAVIRUS — POLICE — G2G PASS

406. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for his response. Will the government consider updating the G2G PASS process to allow Western Australians who are fully vaccinated and have jobs lined up in critical sectors like health to be processed and approved in a quicker and clearer away?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

As I said, the vast majority of G2G PASS applications are approved. They are processed completely in accordance with the Chief Health Officer's advice, so we are not going to compromise that. That will never happen. I ask that people who make applications comply with the request for documentation at every opportunity; they should attach all the information required. I am informed by the commissioner that very frequently people will do nothing other than show a driver's licence—they will take a photo of their driver's licence and attach it to the application. Because they have a Western Australian driver's licence, they feel it meets the obligations. It does not. They must provide necessary documentation. They should talk to police officers and seek out a conversation with the people who are assessing the application. There are exemptions regularly. The vast majority of G2G PASS applications are approved. It is just that very frequently, apparently, people do not comply with some of the most basic requirements set out by the Chief Health Officer—not by police. The police have done a wonderful job. I commend them. I congratulate the commissioner and his team—every police officer. There are some 408 dedicated to this task. They are out there on a daily basis defending the state for all of us.

LOT 350 — KALGOORLIE

407. Ms A.E. KENT to the Minister for Lands:

My question is to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment — Several members interjected.

Ms A.E. KENT: Sorry, my question is to the Minister for Lands!

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment —

Several members interjected.

Ms A.E. KENT: It is the same thing! We are doing fantastic work in that area!

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to creating regional jobs and supporting regional businesses by helping facilitate the development of industrial land.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on how this government is supporting the planning and development of lot 350 in Kalgoorlie?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house of anyone making misleading comments about the development of this industrial land?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

I thought the member for Kalgoorlie had the disease of the opposition members when they ask questions of the wrong minister, but I am glad the member got back on track!

The SPEAKER: Kalgoorlie is obviously a mining town!

Dr A.D. BUTI: It is obviously a mining town, I can understand!

Mr W.J. Johnston: And I am her favourite minister!

Dr A.D. BUTI: That is right!

(1)–(2) I thank the member for her question. I am very happy to report and advise the house that there have been some crucial steps made in the development of lot 350 in Kalgoorlie, and I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for the role she has played since she was elected in March. She is an outstanding member for Kalgoorlie. The progress has been excellent. I was very, very surprised at some of the comments by a trio of embattled individuals, the first being the embattled member for Mining and Pastoral Region, Hon Neil Thomson; the second being the embattled City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder CEO, John Walker; and the third being the so-called missing Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Cottesloe.

For the benefit of the rest of the chamber, I will give members a quick history lesson, which I know the member for Kalgoorlie is aware of, about what we have done to create job opportunities in the member's region. It started with the state leasing lot 500 in 2017. I can understand why members might be confused about the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, because he has had a role to play, as did the then Minister for Lands, who is right in front of me. There has been a collective responsibility. As members know, lot 500 is across the road from lot 350 and was to be for a rare earth cracking and leaching plant that is currently awaiting environmental approval for development that will bring 500 regional jobs in construction and 100 ongoing local jobs. As the member for Kalgoorlie knows, the City of Kalgoorlie–Boulder failed to get traction for this project for a number of years and the proposed development of lot 350 played out over 2020 and early 2021 until the March election with the member's elevation as the new member for Kalgoorlie and the work that she put in on lot 350. As we know, EnergyOz has now moved on that project. I visited EnergyOz at that site when I visited lot 350 a couple of months ago. Following the recent election, we have approved freehold transfer, undertaken a business case that is soon to be considered by the board, granted early access to EnergyOz to do a site investigation, and we are currently preparing the stage 1 subdivision application. I am really surprised that on the Leader of the Opposition of the Liberal Party's Facebook, he posted a number of photographs of himself and the member for Mining and Pastoral Region Hon Neil Thomson around the goldfields outside our projects that he is canning. I have a photograph of the member for Cottesloe at lot 350.

Dr D.J. Honey: You don't know your lots. That's lot 500.

Dr A.D. BUTI: No, this one is lot 500. The Leader of the Opposition was there with Hon Neil Thomson and the embattled CEO of Kalgoorlie–Boulder, John Walker.

Dr D.J. Honey: Are you committing to the rail bypass?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Member for Cottesloe —

The SPEAKER: Minister, can I be clear that the photos you are holding up are actually of the Leader of the Liberal Party, not the Leader of the Opposition?

Dr A.D. BUTI: Yes. I keep forgetting that the Liberal Party is not the opposition party, with only two members in the house. It is really hard to get used to the fact that we have a sectarian, agrarian socialist party as the opposition of Western Australia. Sorry, I meant the Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Cottesloe.

As the member for Cottesloe knows, we live in a COVID-19 pandemic situation. He also knows that we are the safest jurisdiction in Australia. Why are we the safest jurisdiction in Australia? It is because we have a Premier, a Deputy Premier, a cabinet and a community that complies with the health advice of the Chief Health Officer. We are a very compliant state. We comply with the requirement to wear masks and we comply with social distancing.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: I question the relevance of this whole line of answer that we are receiving from the minister. It does not seem to have any relevance whatsoever to the question that was asked. I ask that you rule on the matter of relevance, Madam Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I decide on points of order. It is my understanding that the minister is making a rather lengthy analogy, which I ask him to draw to a conclusion and maybe wind up his answer so that we have the opportunity for a couple more questions to be asked before I close question time.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Dr A.D. BUTI: The member for Kalgoorlie's question referred to misleading statements. Misleading the public and treating the whole issue of COVID-19 compliance as a joke, Hon Neil Thomson has a photo on Facebook of himself downplaying it and joking about not putting a mask on properly. Will the Leader of the Liberal Party be like his leader in New South Wales, who the Premier referred to as having no backbone and who has caused a crisis for the rest of Australia? Is the member going to censor Hon Neil Thomson? That is a disgraceful post. How can you stand there and defend a situation like that? You are a joke, you lack a backbone and you are only currently the Leader of the Liberal Party. Do you agree with that post?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Do you agree with that post?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Do you agree with that post?

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Dr A.D. BUTI: Do you agree with that post?

The SPEAKER: Thank you, minister, I think you have made your point. I ask the Leader of the Liberal Party for the next question.

CORONAVIRUS — POLICE — G2G PASS

408. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Police:

I know that this minister will give a proper answer.

Several members interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I am extremely confident after the clown act we just heard.

I refer to the lack of transparency in the G2G PASS process, leaving Western Australians stranded on the east coast who have been repeatedly denied a G2G PASS even if they are vaccinated, live and work in this state and, in some cases, need to return home for medical reasons. This is a key part of the question if members care to listen.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! I am not sure whether you want question time to run for the rest of the afternoon or whether you want me to cut it short, but we will not be able to progress if we get incessant interjections throughout the opposition's questions.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Will the minister introduce a transparent review process for rejected applications for G2G passes; and, if not, will the minister provide the house with the rationale behind his unwillingness to make this change and be up-front with the WA public?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for his question. The G2G PASS criteria are set by the Chief Health Officer. The police apply the rules as directed, indicated and confirmed by the Chief Health Officer. The criteria go via a directive and the police apply them. When we shut down a border, it is all done legally and in accordance with the process that has been established since COVID first confronted us all last year.

Nothing has changed other than the threat of the Delta strain has meant that some jurisdictions have had increased threat levels placed upon them and, as a consequence, our border has been hardened. I do not think that is a bad thing. I think it is a good thing that our border is hardened. I think it is good that our police are rigorous in pursuing the requirements of the Chief Health Officer in protecting the state, and I refuse to even contemplate contradicting that process that has served us so well to date. I will repeat what I have said previously.

I ask the member to convey this to anyone who contacts him mistakenly thinking that is worth doing: ask them to comply with the request by the police for documentation, whatever it is the police ask for as justification for the pass. I was informed by the Commissioner of Police only a couple of hours ago that it is a regular occurrence. It is not incredibly regular; most people comply. The vast majority of G2G applications are approved. Occasionally, some people are rejected but, instead of changing their application to comply with the request for information, they reapply without any change to their application. Contact the police. Talk to the police about what is required. Read the emails or messages received from the police and comply with the request for documentation that confirms whatever claim the person is making. It will then be very likely that the person will be given an exemption and will be able to travel.

CORONAVIRUS — POLICE — G2G PASS

409. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. The question was about the transparency of the process. What was the rationale behind the recent decision to allow a multimillionaire hedge fund founder who entered WA from the UK being, and I quote from news.com.au —

... allowed to skip out on mandatory hotel quarantine after three days to attend his father's funeral.

Why are ordinary Western Australians on the east coast, with the same cause, being barred from returning home at all?

The SPEAKER: I am not sure how many warnings I need to give you, but my patience is really wearing thin. You have introduced new material into your supplementary question, which you are not supposed to do. I will ask the minister to respond.

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

As the member knows, the international border is the responsibility of the federal government. The federal government allowed that individual to return to Australia. That aside, it is very disappointing that the member appears to be determined to undermine our capacity to defend Western Australia against COVID-19. He appears determined to undermine confidence in our system, which has served us so well. I point out, with respect to that individual, it is an operational matter and it is controlled by the police. I would not have a clue why that individual was managed in the way that he was. I can confirm that he went straight back into hotel quarantine. There is no such thing as an individual being allowed to "skip out". I am aware in this case, because it has been in the media, that when he attended the funeral, he was 40 metres away from his family and others who attended the funeral. It is pretty low that the member would choose this matter of an individual attending a funeral; that aside —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: I thank the Minister for Police for his excellent answer. It is very clear to me.

I ask the member for Swan Hills to move on to the next question.

Mr P.C. Tinley: Yeah!

BUSHFIRE MITIGATION

410. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Emergency Services:

I thank the member for Willagee for the vote of confidence!

This is a serious question. I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to reducing the risk of bushfire in local communities across Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's significant investment in bushfire mitigation measures?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what this record investment means for bushfire-prone communities across WA?

Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:

- (1)–(2) I can do that, member for Swan Hills. I thank and congratulate the member for her excellent advocacy and the hard work she has done for her constituents, especially after a very tough year. With the Wooroloo bushfire largely impacting her electorate, what she has done over the past few months has been extraordinary. It has been very tough. I thank her for what she has done. This question gives me an opportunity to explain what the government is doing about bushfire mitigation, which the member obviously has a special interest in.

More than 90 per cent of our state is bushfire prone. Over the past five years, we have invested a record \$50 million in mitigation, which includes \$35 million for mitigation on crown land. It is the first time the Department of Fire and Emergency Services has performed this important work. We also secured \$15 million for the bushfire risk management planning program to support local governments identify and then treat bushfire risk. Our state is entering a new era of enhanced bushfire management, the likes of which we have not seen before. This funding is making a real difference.

We are seeing more planned burning and other mitigation activities. Since 2017, the McGowan government has invested \$31 million, which has been provided to 48 local governments across the state. That has meant 4 306 potentially life-and-property-saving bushfire mitigation treatments across more than 9 000 hectares and more than 4 700 kilometres of upgraded firebreaks and fire access roads to reduce the threat of disastrous bushfires. Just weeks ago, 26 additional local governments shared a record \$7.5 million in mitigation activity funding for more than 1 100 mitigation activities in high bushfire risk areas. This includes mechanical treatments to reduce fuel levels, the creation of firebreaks and planned burns.

We know that we are the true party of the regions. I have a long list of local governments that have benefited from this mitigation funding. I will go through the list. As I look through the list, they seem to be all Labor seats, but we share the responsibility across some of the few remaining non-Labor seats across the state. I can see Pilbara, Warren–Blackwood, Collie–Preston and Vasse on the list. The member for Moore will be glad to know that the seat of Moore is included, and the McGowan government is looking after the constituents of Moore, even if the local member is not. It is true to say that we have done more for Moore than ever before! As I look through the list, the member for Roe is not forgotten about. We have not said no to Roe either. They are all there.

It has been a very difficult year. We have had the Wooroloo and Red Gully bushfires, and we have had to attend to a lot of issues with firefighters and first responders. Our emergency services continue to work harder than ever before. They cannot do it by themselves. We cannot stop every bushfire, but we can reduce the impact of those bushfires when they occur. As the member for Swan Hills well knows, a prepared community is a safer community.

The SPEAKER: Before I give the call to a member to ask the last question, I think I saw the former member for Kimberley Carol Martin walk in. Yes, she is here.

Members: Hear, hear!

The SPEAKER: I give the last question to the member for Roe.

AFL GRAND FINAL — OPTUS STADIUM

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

I refer to the current discussions with the AFL regarding hosting the AFL grand final at Optus Stadium.

- (1) Can the minister provide an update on how these discussions are progressing?
- (2) Is he taking proactive steps to ensure that WA footy fans do not miss out on this opportunity?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Roe for his question. As the member of course would have read in the papers, discussions have been held. The AFL is obviously keen for Western Australia to be a possible destination for the finals. As the Premier and the Deputy Premier said and as I would say, we very much hope that the situation in Victoria gets under control and that the grand final, which is traditionally held at the MCG, continues to be held there. We will have to wait to see what happens. If it is held in WA, it would be great to see the Dockers play in the grand final at Optus Stadium.

The SPEAKER: I thought that was also a good answer—until the last line.

AFL GRAND FINAL — OPTUS STADIUM

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

I have a supplementary question. I cannot agree with the last part of that answer. Given that WA successfully hosted the recent Dreamtime match very well, is the minister advocating for Perth to host the entire AFL finals series, potentially?

Dr A.D. BUTI replied:

As the member said, we successfully managed the Dreamtime game here. The fact that we can have major games here and we can be in the picture for AFL finals is because of the leadership of this government in controlling COVID-19. One place where the finals will not be held is New South Wales. Rather than talking to Clive Palmer, it is about time you got on the phone to the Premier of New South Wales and told her to come here and look at what we do in WA!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Leader of the House.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Madam Speaker —

The SPEAKER: I am not giving you the call; I am calling you to order.

BILLS

Returned

1. Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2021.
2. Railway (BBI Rail Aus Pty Ltd) Agreement Amendment Bill 2021.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE COMMISSION AMENDMENT BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.00 pm]: Deputy Speaker, before I start my contribution, may I be granted a short extension, please.

[Member's time extended.]

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just hold on two seconds, member, while the chamber settles down.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Before the Minister for Mines and Petroleum leaves the chamber, I want to say that I have been doing a little research on the suggestion he made prior to members' statements that last year the Canning Show was the biggest show outside the Perth Royal Show, and he also claimed it was the oldest show.

Mr W.J. Johnston: Started in 1892!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Perhaps the minister needs to verify his information, because based on my research, last year's Canning Show was its 110th—I do not know what year that equates to—whereas, last year's Wanneroo Agricultural Show was its 111th.

Mr W.J. Johnston: At the start, in the 1880s, it was not run every year and it was not run every year during wars. So it started in 1892 as a flower show, and that is when it dates from. And the Canning agricultural society owns the showgrounds, and you use council facilities.

Ms S.E. WINTON: On that basis, I might accept that Canning has the oldest show.

Ms R. Saffioti: Do not give up yet!

Ms S.E. WINTON: But in terms of the number of people who came along to the show, the minister mentioned that 15 000 people came along to the Canning Show last year. I have it on very good authority that over 22 000 people attended the Wanneroo Show, including the Premier and many ministers. I believe the Minister for Agriculture and Food has attended every year since she became agriculture minister. Again, I remind members that this year's show will be bigger and better than ever. It will be held on 19 and 20 November. Come along and have some fun! The fireworks are spectacular, particularly on Friday night.

Before I move on from the agricultural show, I want to give a particular shout-out to current president Michael Aspinall, treasurer Bev Errington, secretary Jan Hacon, and all the committee members and volunteers in the Wanneroo community who do an incredible job in organising the most important and biggest event in Wanneroo. I know that last year, Michael Aspinall, the president, found it a particularly challenging time to keep the hope of hosting the show alive, given COVID. But he kept the show alive and, as a result, we had 22 000 people attend the Wanneroo Show. It is bigger than the Canning Show and the biggest show outside of the Perth Royal Show.

I want to touch briefly on agriculture in Wanneroo. Wanneroo has a proud agricultural history. Members have heard me mention many times that Wanneroo plays a big part in our state's agricultural output. It was interesting to hear from the member for Warren–Blackwood about some of the fantastic produce coming out of her electorate and the quantities involved and the value-adding that is happening in that area. I recall the blackberry nip, in particular. I will tell members what is coming out of Wanneroo. Wanneroo is known for its strawberries, in particular, and produces over 35 per cent of the state's strawberries. Thanks to the Trandos family and their extraordinary operation in Wanneroo, 68 per cent of the state's sweetcorn comes from there. Wanneroo produces 20 per cent of Western Australia's capsicums, 20 per cent of its beans, 22 per cent of its cabbages and, of course, it produces a fair whack of the state's tomatoes. Wanneroo has over 100 growers, varying in size from huge operations like that of the Trandos family, who run farms in not only Wanneroo but also Gingin and Broome to provide produce year-round, to small market gardens, perhaps on five acres, that produce niche products such as herbs and micro herbs. Over 100 growers situated in Wanneroo employ over 1 000 people. It is incredible to think that the gross value of production in Wanneroo accounts for about \$120 million or about 30 per cent of the total produced in the Perth region. Wanneroo does very well.

I want to give a brief update on what is happening in Wanneroo. Members would know that when we came to government in 2017, growers were faced with a fair bit of uncertainty. The former government had four or five different agriculture ministers, but I think it was Dean Nalder who made the announcement, without any consultation, that there would be a 25 per cent cut to the water allocation in Wanneroo. This caused great concern amongst growers in Wanneroo, did nothing to help provide certainty of tenure of the water resource, and created more problems with planning issues, given urban encroachment in that area. In 2017, the new Labor government committed to convene a task force to look at these issues to provide long-term planning for water certainty for those growers. One of the outcomes of that task force was that Dave Kelly, Minister for Water, and Hon Alannah MacTiernan, Minister for Agriculture and Food, announced that a 10 per cent cut in growers' water allocations would come into force in 2028. As members could imagine, that did not go down too well with growers, but it was a necessary decision.

I noticed that the member for Swan Hills talked a lot about climate change in her contribution to the debate on this bill. We all know that climate change is having an impact. We have a drying climate and water is a key issue in Wanneroo. Water licences are oversubscribed and we had to make the tough decision to decrease water licences by 10 per cent in 2028. The whole purpose of making that announcement a couple of years ago was to allow growers time to transition and for the government to support growers so they could accommodate that 10 per cent cut by encouraging them in further efficiency measures.

In that regard, as part of my 2021 election commitments, the government is investing \$750 000 in Wanneroo, with \$600 000 in particular to assist growers in managing the drying climate. Growers will be able to apply for grants of up to \$30 000 to install technology to improve their water systems and increase their water efficiency. Not all growers are able to access that grant straightaway because they do not know what they do not know, so part of this \$600 000 investment will include \$5 000 grants so that growers can engage professionals to come out to their farms to assist them to make some decisions about what kind of efficiency technology might serve their farms. I look forward to that grant process being rolled out, and I urge farmers to work with the government in supporting them to make sure they are efficient in their water use.

I also want to mention the ongoing work the government is doing with the City of Wanneroo to resolve some planning issues there. Lots of members—I am sure the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, who talked about his electorate of Cannington, and the member for Balcatta—would know that quite often, over time, traditional market garden areas have urbanisation pressures and that market gardeners might want to pack up, cash in their properties as superannuation, and move away. We have dual problems of growers who need more certainty and need to drive efficiencies, but there is no doubt that some growers, depending on their family circumstances et cetera, actually just want to pack up and have a good planning outcome so that they can capitalise their assets. We are working through that with the City of Wanneroo and the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage. Of course, when I mention the City of Wanneroo, members, we have a great mayor up there. Tracey Roberts is a fantastic mayor.

Ms M.M. Quirk: Even federal member for Pearce!

Ms S.E. WINTON: Absolutely. I cannot tell members how excited I was at the announcement in the paper today that the Mayor of Wanneroo, Tracey Roberts, has been preselected by the Labor Party—isn't Labor good at picking well-connected local candidates to run for state and federal seats! Labor is good at doing that, and we will not find someone much better than Tracey Roberts in terms of being connected to her community, having served at the local council level since, I think, 2009 and having been mayor since 2011. I have had a lot to do with the Mayor of Wanneroo and I can tell members that there are not many people who work harder than she does out in the community or who better know their community's needs. I think she would be a fantastic voice for Pearce in the federal sphere, and I look forward to the opportunity to work with her, because, let me tell members, she also knows the issues of water certainty that plague north Wanneroo. So far, with all the advocacy that the state government has tried to pursue, it has not been able to get any significant funding out of the federal government to support growers and agriculture in Wanneroo. I am hoping that through Tracey's advocacy, we might actually get a little bit more attention than we have been getting from the coalition government.

I want to conclude by saying as part of this debate that it has been fantastic to hear people such as the members for Geraldton, Albany and Warren–Blackwood talk with such great passion about their electorates and, in particular, the agricultural pursuits that are happening in those electorates. In my first four years in Parliament, I never heard those kinds of industries being spoken about with such passion, and I think it is a great reflection of how fantastic the Labor government is in representing regional Western Australia, where, of course, a lot of our agricultural production happens.

I want to finally say that a lot of that is partly due to our fantastic Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who has worked the regions. She has been there, doing the business, working with these wonderful regional advocates, and I look forward to what is in store for the next three years.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.13 pm]: I rise to make a brief contribution to this debate on the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. I would like to start where the member for Wanneroo left off. We talk about previous agricultural ministers for Western Australia, and I do not think anyone has ever been quite as accomplished, famous or forceful as the current Minister for Agriculture and Food. It is through her strength, willpower and advocacy that she is making sure that agriculture is well represented in the Parliament of Western Australia. She is a great woman advocating passionately for something that she believes in.

As I rise to speak, I am conscious of the fact that I am the first male member on the Labor benches to speak in support of this bill.

Mr D.A. Templeman: A dying breed!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: A dying breed! Our opponents may be pale, male and stale, but our successors are all coming after us! I think about the areas that they represent: regional areas, like the member for Warren–Blackwood; important country towns, like Albany and Geraldton, and the members for both have spoken; and we have had members on

the peri-urban fringe like the member for Wanneroo, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, and the member for Swan Hills, parliamentary secretary to the minister who has carriage of the bill in this place. I do not think it can ever be alleged that the Labor Party will not stick up for the regions.

Mr P.J. Rundle: Except when it comes to electoral reform!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I am the member for Mount Lawley, and I speak in support of this legislation. I join my voice to all those other voices who have spoken so articulately and passionately, as the member for Wanneroo has said, who really genuinely want to stand up and represent their communities. The reason I am relaxed about any proposals for electoral reform, member for Roe, is that I know that if we continue to elect Labor members to this chamber, those areas will be more than adequately represented. The only risk for regional people is if they go back to electing hopeless members who faced the judgement of the community at the last election who are all out on their ear, replaced by the women who have stood up and made passionate arguments in support of this legislation—thoughtful contributions that form part of the debate in this place. This debate is centred around another landmark McGowan government initiative. This McGowan government, elected in 2017 and re-elected in 2021, has always had jobs as its number one focus. In order to encourage and promote jobs growth and new opportunities, we need to make sure that we support our agricultural industries, we need to make sure that we support all our industries, but in particular we have an obligation as a responsible Parliament to make sure that our legislative framework, the regulatory framework that governs these industries, is modern and up-to-date.

When we look at the neglect that this particular area has suffered under years of blue versus green infighting during the period of the last government as the National Party and the Liberal Party could not figure out what reforms they were going to put in place, I say thank goodness we have active representatives from the country towns and regions, and thank goodness we have a minister like Hon Alannah MacTiernan taking up this necessary legislative reform, because this will provide certainty and opportunity for people in our agricultural industry.

One thing that we have all been confronted with over the past 18 months is the COVID pandemic, and the way in which we rebuild our economy after the COVID pandemic has abated is going to be very important. We have known and always articulated that there is a heavy reliance in Western Australia on the mining sector. The mining sector will always play an incredibly significant part in the economy and prosperity of Western Australia, but we also know that it is incumbent on us to diversify our economy. By putting an emphasis on supporting our agricultural producers, we can achieve just that. One of the real difficulties that has arisen as a result of the COVID pandemic is that our reliance on the mining sector has in fact increased in recent times, so the urgency of the task that we are now confronted with in reforming and diversifying our economy is even more acute. One way that we can promote our agricultural industries, our primary producers and our world-leading products is by encouraging export markets. We should encourage those world-class, gold-standard producers to take their products and get them into those lucrative export markets. The McGowan Labor government is doing that through its new plans for the Invest and Trade WA office, which will consist of four dedicated trade commissioners located in key export markets—north-east Asia, the Association of South-East Asian Nations, greater China, and India and the gulf—to promote Western Australian products to these markets. These new commissioners are all in place and ready to go, and they cannot wait to get out into those export markets so that they can start promoting Western Australian products and goods and services to those markets. They are ready to go, but before they leave to go offshore to their postings, these four trade commissioners, together with representatives from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, last week undertook a familiarisation tour of the south west and the great southern, just to do a deep dive into what is going on in those regions to gain a proper understanding so that when they get out into those markets in Tokyo, Singapore, Mumbai and Shanghai, they will be well-versed in the work that is being done by some of our world-class producers in Western Australia.

Firstly, can I just thank the four trade commissioners whom I was able to join last week on the familiarisation tour: Ms Juan Lu, who will be our investment and trade commissioner in China; Ms Krista Dunstan, who will be our investment and trade commissioner for the Association of South-East Asian Nations; Ms Nicole Fasana, who will be our investment and trade commissioner in north-east Asia—Japan and Korea; and Mr Chris Bandy, who will be our investment and trade commissioner in India and the gulf. Together with Fiona Goss, who is the principal trade consultant for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and representatives from Invest and Trade WA—acting deputy director general, Simone Spencer, and Kristian Dawson—we were able to undertake a familiarisation tour last week. As part of that tour, we visited some of the incredible Western Australian producers such as avocado producer Jasper Farms. Western Australia produces 39 per cent of the national avocado crop. Jasper Farms contributes significantly to that figure, with 360 hectares of land under cultivation. Jasper Farms not only does a terrific job in growing this product for the Western Australian, Australian and international markets, but also provides jobs for Pacific Islanders whose remittances help to keep the economies of those islands afloat as they struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic and the undermining of their tourism sectors.

We visited Truffle Hill in Manjimup, an incredible world-leading producer of truffles, and spoke with its managing director, Michael Lowe. We also visited Tall Timbers in Manjimup. In fact, one of the great visits that we undertook was in Katanning, the member for Roe's electorate, where we spoke to people at an organisation called Moojepin Foods.

One of the real problems that we face as an agricultural community in Western Australia is increasing salinity. The guys at Moojepin are so energetic and enthusiastic and they know exactly what is required to tackle the issue of salinity. We spoke to a farmer there who is so enthusiastic, energetic and passionate about tackling salinity in the wheatbelt. His name is David Thompson. He had set aside his farm as a test site for saltbush and other saline-intensive crops to reduce the salinity in the soil. It is inspiring to speak to these people with such passion, commitment and dedication. One can see just how committed they are to improve the productivity of their farms and the wellbeing of the land they work on.

When we undertook this tour, I thought to myself that this is an incredible testament, because it brings me back to the first point that I made; that is, the McGowan government is committed to jobs. Western Australian jobs has always been the government's number one priority. We have steered the community through the COVID-19 pandemic, and that work is ongoing, but as we get beyond COVID, hopefully, in the not-too-distant future, as vaccination rates pick up, we can start to look at how to rebuild the economy. Initiatives such as this familiarisation tour serve to do two things. The first is that it demonstrates quite clearly to the people in those communities that the McGowan Labor government has their back. We are interested in what they are doing, we are here to help and we want to make sure that their products can make it to international markets. The second is that by encouraging those producers to grow, expand, innovate and seize those entrepreneurial opportunities, we create more jobs in the regions. What underpins both those initiatives and really worthwhile objectives is a proper regulatory regime.

I commend the member for Roe for being the only member of the opposition to have sat through this debate. He is the one member out of all the opposition members to have participated by listening to the contribution —

Ms S.E. Winton: It's unbelievable!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I was astounded when the member for Wanneroo was on her feet and a whole bunch of opposition members returned to the chamber at about 12.45 pm. The member for Wanneroo said, "Welcome back. You've come to hear my contribution." The member for Cottesloe said, "No we haven't. We've come in to make our private members' statements." They were not even interested in listening to the contributions that passionate Labor members were making in support of the regions and in support of this legislation.

Ms S.E. Winton: They were just trying to throw the member for Roe under the bus.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: The member for Roe is the only member who stayed. Thankfully, he finally got the call when he did to stand up and contribute to this debate, because if he had not, the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021 would have passed without a second reading debate. All the contributions made, with the exception of that of the member for Roe, were made by Labor Party members who are passionate about making sure that the regulatory regime is in place to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the marketplace, passionate about growing Western Australian jobs and passionate about diversifying our economy. This is another piece of the puzzle for which the minister and the government must be commended. I support the passage of this bill.

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [3.25 pm]: I am pleased to speak to the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. It will really put in place producers' committees for all kinds of agricultural produce. The member for Roe touched on how it is a system that enables levies to be put in place in certain industries to fund activities that can be extremely positive and enhancing for an industry. For example, it could be about the marketing of a particular produce or about the biosecurity measures necessary for various areas of produce. More than anything, what I find particularly exciting with this legislation is that it sets us on the right trajectory for what is known as geographical indication. This is something that is really exciting. It is the way forward for agricultural production if we want it to move beyond being about commodity production. We do not want agricultural producers to be price takers—whereby they put produce onto the global market and take whatever the global market price is. We want our agricultural produce to be dominated by sectors that are into price setting in which the produce can be promoted as unique, which enables the price to be set. The best way to do that is through this system of geographical indication. I say all this, but, and the member for Roe might be able to correct me on this, to the best of my knowledge our peak agricultural lobby groups—Western Australian Farmers Federation and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association—are, at best, sceptical about geographical indication. It is an issue that comes up every time we talk about the emerging Australia–European Union Free Trade Agreement as being potentially a barrier to geographical indication taking place. A whole free trade agreement encompassing so many sectors could be held up because a few people in the agricultural sector are scared about what geographical indication might mean, even though geographical indication can actually be an amazing opportunity for agricultural producers, especially Australian agricultural producers.

I really urge those in the agricultural sector to see this as a brilliant opportunity. We have produce that is unique to this part of the world and it should be marketed as such. One of the things that these producers' committees enables us to do is to set production standards. The average consumer can then go into a Coles, a Woolworths or an IGA and see on the shelf a particular product that comes from one region or another. They might not be able to do the research on the production standards that have gone into the making of that product, but they know that if they really like truffles that come from Manjimup, they can later find out what the production standard is: Was it a dog

or a pig that was used to sniff out the truffle? What colour truffle was produced? When is the best time of year for that truffle to be dug up? They can then feel some sort of affinity with the particular property. They might have even visited the property on a holiday and know something about where the produce has come from. This is one of the beauties of these producers' committees that I see as potentially evolving into a system of geographical indication.

It gives us a fantastic opportunity to create a real bond between producer and consumer. That is a great strength. We get the price setting capability when there is that bond between producer and consumer. This is very much the experience in Europe, where there is a great food culture. Whenever one watches the great food programs that come from Europe with Rick Stein or Maeve O'Meara, or one of the other SBS programs, as they do their tours around Europe they always talk about the wonderful connection people have with the food of their country, their culture, and where that food comes from. This is one of the ways we can really instil that into our culture and make sure that it is highly profitable for the producers and that they become more respected than ever as the producers of quality products.

I am seeing uniquely Australian interpretations on this. I had the pleasure of riding in the City of Armadale's gran fondo. Congratulations to the organisers of that event. This gran fondo bike ride is new and Hills Emporio in Karragullen, run by Simon and Nat, made a feature of that event by highlighting local produce. Wines, honey and all sorts of other produce from the region was there for participants to buy at the beginning or end of the cycling event. I thought that was a very good way of promoting to people who often ride their bikes in the Armadale-Kelmscott part of the Perth hills. They appreciate the beauty and aesthetics, the lovely climbs, the orchards and everything going on there, and can also appreciate the food produce that comes from the region and get to know a little more about the story of that region. To be there along with the Mayor of the City of Armadale, Ruth Butterfield, and to present the awards to the riders and enjoy the day was a positive occasion and something I very much enjoyed.

One thing that concerns me a little in the legislation is that, as I understand it, pastoral leaseholders are exempt. No doubt they have lobbied and said that they have so many price constraints that they are exempt from the need to form the agricultural produce committees. I think that might be a missed opportunity and some changes might be afoot there. I worry when I hear that the pastoral lease sector is again crying poor. I was amazed when I looked at the latest figures on how much a pastoral lease costs in annual rental. The figures are astounding. I often make the comparison between what it costs to rent 250 000 hectares, a typical size of a pastoral lease, and the cost of renting a house in Thornlie. It is much cheaper to rent 250 000 hectares in the Pilbara or the Kimberley. It is much, much cheaper to do that than it is to rent a three-by-one house in Thornlie. When people cry poor and say that they could not possibly be involved in producer committees because it would be another financial impost on them and it would send them broke, it just does not add up; it does not make sense. I know there are many in the pastoral sector who have control—they do not own it; they are tenants—over I think about 35 or 37 per cent of the state. They are becoming increasingly progressive in their outlook about how they manage their land and the opportunities that this government has made available to them. The opportunities around carbon farming are exciting diversification opportunities that will help enhance their financial viability in the future.

This legislation is a very exciting opportunity. It is something that we should all embrace. I heard from the member for Roe. I understand that much in Western Australian agriculture is dominated by broadacre producers. I did my tertiary studies at Muresk Institute of Agriculture, which was dominated by broadacre farming. It is true that it is a bit hard to see how a premium product will be made. I think it can be done but I know some people argue that making a premium product from Western Australian wheat cannot be done. We like to say that it is high quality, but in the end we become price takers; it is a commodity product. We must highlight the unique features and benefits of it and, as well, talk about the various production standards that we are meeting and use that as an opportunity to improve those production standards to ensure that we are making more and more efficient use of things such as fertilisers and that we are not wasting nitrogen and phosphorus that is then washed into river systems, causing algal blooms and what have you later. We must ensure that there is good, efficient use of those inputs.

We are set for a very large grain harvest. It will be somewhere between 13 million and 15 million tonnes this year if things keep going as well as they have been. However, we must bear in mind that on a global scale, in terms of agricultural production per hectare, we are not very efficient. Our hectares do not produce much in the way of produce because of the nature of the soil, but to make up for that just by putting on large amounts of fertiliser and then some of that fertiliser being wasted is not the way to go. We must find a way of making our agriculture highly efficient and by diversifying—enabling producers to be diverse and not just reliant on one or two enterprises on the property. If someone is running a wheat and sheep farm, they are taking a big financial risk because although prices might be good for grain at the moment, they cannot rely on that into the future. They must be able to diversify into these areas where we are marketing the uniqueness of our product, eventually through geographic indication. That will be a great opportunity for us. I look forward to hearing how this system of producers' committees evolves and gives the primary industry sector in Western Australia more opportunities and more financial returns.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.37 pm]: I wish to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. Although my electorate of Belmont does not necessarily have a plethora of agricultural primary producers, I am pleased to speak on this bill because agriculture and all industries within this

sector make a critical contribution to our economic strength and the provision of employment across Western Australia. Western Australian primary industries are significant contributors to the economy and they support around 58 400 jobs, which is huge, with 39 300 people directly employed in agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and forestry and 19 100 people directly employed in food, beverage and forest manufacturing. Primary industries also contribute to employment with 162 000 jobs in the WA supply chain from paddock to plate.

In 2018–19, primary industries had a gross value of production of \$11.7 billion and exports were valued at \$8.4 billion. The importance of our agricultural industries in WA is undeniable from these figures alone. I acknowledge the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, for her continued and tireless promotion and support of these industries through her portfolio.

This bill before us today sets out to modernise the Agricultural Produce Commission Act 1988. The amendments put forward were largely born out of a comprehensive review of the act in 2006 and provide a mechanism for the provision and funding of services by agricultural producers to agricultural producers. The current act provides producers with mechanisms to ensure they can operate effectively, and empowers them to grow their industries through the establishment of producers' committees. These committees are run by producers for producers, as they very well should be; they are therefore the voice for their industry.

The act provides a mechanism that producers can choose to access if they wish. By creating a producers' committee for their industry, producers can combine their efforts and resources and work together to achieve the identified goals of their industry. These may include developing new markets, increasing production standards, and addressing common threats, such as pests and biosecurity matters. There are currently 11 producers' committees, for the following industries: avocados, beekeeping, Carnarvon bananas, eggs, pome fruit, citrus and stone fruit, pork, potatoes, strawberries, table grapes, vegetables and wine.

These producers' committees do really important work, from undertaking research activities—which other members have noted, including the commercialisation of Bravo apples, a personal favourite of my children!—to paying compensation to banana growers in Carnarvon in the aftermath of cyclone Olwyn. The committees also deliver important promotional activities, one of which other members have acknowledged, the Crunch&Sip program in schools. As a parent of two young primary school-aged children, I am acutely aware of this program, and even though it can be a point of frustration in the morning when I am frantically trying to scrounge for fresh fruit and vegetables in the fridge, I think it sends a really great and powerful message to our children, instilling healthy eating habits from a young age, which they will hopefully carry through to adulthood.

Importantly, the committees also undertake biosecurity activities, such as support for eradication of the Queensland fruit fly when there was an outbreak in Alfred Cove in 2016. The member for Swan Hills spoke about the importance of this mechanism when she talked about the damage that is caused by rainbow lorikeets to not only native flora and fauna but also primary producers.

The committees also provide support for the unique needs of specific industries. For example, the Beekeeping Producers' Committee supports beekeeper training, produces *Beeinformed* magazine, monitors biosecurity policies and advocates to state and federal Parliaments for enhanced pest and disease surveillance in order to better protect the industry here in WA. Another function of the Beekeeping Producers' Committee is to ensure that the industry remains supported by leading, cutting-edge research about bee health and disease prevention and other matters as well.

The reason I am dwelling on this particular committee is the extensive media coverage over recent years that has highlighted the plight of bees, not only here in WA, but also across the country and the globe. According to an article posted on ABC News on 25 June 2018, bee populations had fallen by one-third in some parts of the world. That is really quite dramatic. According to the article, experts pointed to a particular disease that causes bees' wings to deform, and identified climate change as the leading cause of this radical decline in bee numbers. We need to ensure adequate protection of bees because of the critical role they play in our ecosystems and our agricultural industries. Bee pollination is integral to supporting and assisting around 35 per cent of our total food production, and it is suggested in the same article—titled “Bees are dying. What can we do about it?”—that around 75 per cent of all crops receive some benefit from pollination by bees. According to experts, the impact or consequence of poor pollination could be lower yields of crops, or fruit that is misshapen and therefore unable to be sold.

Ultimately, the role of the APC producers' committees is to provide the services required by producers of agricultural produce. This bill will improve the effectiveness of the APC mechanism for the provision and funding of services by agricultural producers to agricultural producers, and will allow current APC groups to continue the very important work they do here in our state. The minister listened to the concerns of the industry through a comprehensive consultation process that was undertaken over a number of years, and has responded appropriately through this legislation.

Primary industries are vital to our state. Agriculture is a crucial component of our economy and is also a key aspect of our state's identity. It is critical to protect, support, and grow these industries that provide so much for Western Australia. Our government is providing producers with the resources and support they require to grow their industries so that they can thrive into the future. I commend this bill to the house.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Tourism) [3.46 pm] — in reply: I thank the members for Belmont, Roe, Moore, Albany, Geraldton, Warren–Blackwood, Swan Hills, Wanneroo, Mount Lawley and Gosnells for their contributions to debate on the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. The bill was delivered from the other place through the great efforts of the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan. A number of members raised issues, and I thank them for their concerns and contributions. I thank the opposition for what I have noted as its general, but hesitant and concerned, support. That would probably describe the member for Roe’s contribution. I also want to highlight and respond to a couple of those concerns. I do not wish to keep the house late today. We will obviously go into consideration in detail and complete this bill this afternoon. That is the intention.

A couple of key issues were highlighted, and I will go through them because I think I may be able to allay some of the concerns raised by the members for Roe and Moore, and possibly other members. The first is the issue of broadacre cropping. A number of members have raised concerns about the removal of the exemption for broadacre cropping and have asked whether this will mean that broadacre producers will have a committee forced upon them. I want to stress that that is not the case under this legislation. There has been a lot of debate on the broadacre issue in the other place over a number of years in respect of the drafting and shaping of this amending legislation. I want to stress that it is not a case of a committee being forced upon anyone.

The removal of the exemption will give broadacre crop producers an opportunity to participate, should they vote to do so. The commission cannot force a committee onto an industry. Committees are initiated, established and operated at the request of producers, and the fees they charge are determined in consultation with those producers, based on the services that the producers have said that they want the committee to provide. There are many agricultural industries that have chosen to not establish a committee under this legislation. Although a number of committees currently exist under this legislation, there are many that do not, and that is demonstrative of their choice in the matter. A number of members highlighted that the focus of choice is a key component of consideration. Ultimately, if the broadacre industry does not want to take advantage of the APC mechanism, it does not have to do so. All this legislation does is remove the exclusion that prevented them from establishing a committee if they wanted to do so. I hope that clarifies the matter.

The member for Roe and some other members highlighted issues around the opt-out clause. There has been much discussion in this place and the other place about the opt-out clause. Here we are providing a head of power for an opt-out clause to be made in regulations. There has been concern about what that might look like. As the regulations under this legislation will be designed to support each committee and the operations of their industry, the way that an opt-out functions will differ for each industry. As of yet, existing committees have not approached the Agricultural Produce Commission or the department asking for consideration of such provisions in the regulations once this bill is passed and the head power is available. It is more likely that the new committee will wish to design regulations to include this component, and this will be an issue raised by the commission when it commences discussions with producers about their proposal to form a committee for their industry. It is important to emphasise that the reason for including a head of power for regulations to be made on this issue is that we want to give committees the flexibility to determine whether a waiver, refund or reduction in power will work for their industry; and, if so, how they want it to work. This is consistent with the spirit of the act and the way that producers’ committees operate. It is not appropriate to have a one-size-fits-all option, as that ignores the wishes of the producers and their committees. I draw the member for Roe’s attention to the submission from WAFarmers dated July 2020, which specifically makes mention of the opt-out issue. I quote the submission —

We note the advice provided by the State Solicitor’s Office of the legal merits of placing the opt out provisions in the regulations and accept that it is the most workable approach and that the risk of legislators moving to impose new fees on growers is not born out by past experience.

It goes on to ask the government to fast-track the drafting or preparation of those regulations, but I think that is a clear indication from the WA Farmers Federation of an understanding of why those opt-out provisions will be delivered through regulation rather than in the legislation. The federation describes it as being the most workable approach. That is not my quote; that is from the WA Farmers Federation.

The member for Roe and the member for Moore highlighted issues around levies. Members talked about producers being locked into a framework that they do not want for fear of having to pay levies that duplicate what they already pay. I want to explain how committees can address any potential duplication. For industries that pay other charges or levies, the relevant producers’ committee will generally work with the peak state and national bodies responsible for the expenditure of the other charge or levy to provide desired or complementary services. There have been many situations in which a committee has worked with the commission, the department and other national bodies to combine funding in order to achieve a specific outcome. There are a couple of examples of this, one being the current project being undertaken with the berries industry, with funding for an industry development officer being provided to the national berries industry body, Berries Australia, the Strawberry Producers Committee and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. The collaborative funding provides targeted industry-driven service provision and helps to invest national levies paid by growers back in WA and, in this case, enables co-investment with state government. Another example is the pome industry seeking the ability to export Bravo

apples to Japan, Taiwan and China. In this case DPIRD, the Pome, Citrus and Stonefruit Producers' Committee and Fruit West combined their funding to conduct research and provided the results and findings to the federal agency for that to be progressed. Committees work to identify opportunities to improve value for dollar paid by producers in levies and charges, and any duplication of fees and services can be addressed by the committee in consultation with producers. Ultimately, the role of the APC producers' committee is to provide services required by producers of the relevant agricultural produce.

Some members had issues around setting of charges and concern that a committee may be established and charges then imposed on producers that do not want to pay them. A fee-for-service charge is determined by the relevant committee in consultation with its producers, and as the charge is a fee for service, it is linked to a service that the industry wants the committee to provide. Producers are able to advise the committee where they want or do not want a service to be provided. On two occasions, producers' committees have voted for a fee-for-service charge and then in subsequent years decided that they are no longer necessary. An example of that is that there are currently no levies on either avocados or eggs, because the industries decided they did not want to receive a service from their committee, so there was no need to impose a fee or service charge.

I turn to weighted voting. I think that was one of the key concerns of the member for Roe. He highlighted his concerns about weighted voting. The amendments in the bill will allow the commission to use weighted voting in an establishment poll, but only when the commission has sufficient industry data available for it to determine what the appropriate weighting should be. Ultimately, the commission must be satisfied that the use of weighted voting is in the best interests of the agricultural industry. I think that is an important consideration about the weighted voting issue.

Issues were raised about who sits on the committee. I think the member for Roe raised some issues about appointment. When a committee is first established, the commission is required under section 11 of the act to invite nominations from the producers for appointment to a committee, and after receiving nominations, the committee shall decide how many members there should be and whether a poll of producers should be held to elect the members. The members are appointed to committees by the commission, and if a poll is held to elect members, the commission must appoint the members elected in that poll. A person can be appointed to a committee only if they are a producer of the relevant agricultural produce. Most members are aware of how a committee is established. It is important to note that the establishment of those committees does not happen overnight. Indeed, it took some 10 years before the committee for the wine industry was established and started operating. That is because the commission spends an extensive amount of time establishing the extent of the support and discussing what services the industry is interested in obtaining and how the industry works. All of this occurs before an establishment poll is even held. The commission undertakes a lot of time, effort and consultation before anything leads to a potential establishment poll. The commission is aware ahead of time whether there is any division within industry on the proposal to establish a committee. In order for the establishment process to commence, a producer or a group of producers would need to approach the commission and request that such a poll be conducted. The commission is required to advertise the proposal to establish a producers' committee for the type of agricultural produce and is required to invite submissions from producers who may be affected, and the commission is required to have regard to those submissions. A poll is then held to identify producers for the establishment of the committee. Essentially, a majority of the producers need to vote in favour of the establishment of the committee for the commission to establish that committee, and the commission has a policy on polling whereby it requires 60 per cent of producers to vote in favour of the establishment of such a committee.

I have mentioned the duplication of fees. There was an issue around the setting of charges. I highlighted that the fee for service is determined by the relevant committee in consultation with the stakeholders, or producers in this case. I highlighted that the egg and avocado industries are examples of an industry sector deciding to not seek to impose a service fee. I have highlighted vote weighting. Some members highlighted issues around a prescribed agricultural industry. I note that members asked why clause 4—this might have been a matter that either the member for Roe or the member for Moore raised with me—provides for regulations to prescribe what is an agricultural industry. This is how the act currently works. It is not being amended. The definition of “agricultural industry” in the Agricultural Produce Commission Act states —

agricultural industry means a horticultural industry and such other agricultural industry as may be prescribed ...

The reason for this is that new industries will emerge over time and we do not want them to be prevented from establishing a committee to represent them because an act amendment is required to broaden the definition. That would allow for the establishment of a committee by future sector interests in the agricultural and horticultural industries; for example, hemp, insects and lupins. Another example referred to by the member for Warren-Blackwood, I think, was truffles.

Members asked which aspects of this bill reflect recommendations made by the review that was carried out in 2006. Several of the issues that we have been discussing stem from the recommendations made in 2006; namely, the inclusion of an opt-out provision and weighted voting. Other changes include the broadening of committee services

to include educational or instructional programs, strengthening the power of the commission to audit documents, and clarifying that charges collected by a person is held by that person in trust for the committee until it is paid to the commission. I am glancing at my advisers, who are sitting patiently. There is a document that explains what provisions of this bill, if any, implement the recommendations of that committee. I have that and can table it during the consideration in detail stage if required.

This bill has a long history. The Minister for Agriculture and Food explained to me the intricacies of the politics of the broadacre issues and the long-held views of various parties. The gestation period for the amendments to this act go back some years. I take note of the member for Wanneroo's comments that it is a Labor government that is continuing to reform the provisions around the Agricultural Produce Commission and its endeavours. The Labor government is, of course, responding to the changing pressures, challenges and nature of the agricultural and horticultural industries of Western Australia. I congratulate the Minister for Agriculture and Food in the other place once again for her tenacity in finally bringing to this Parliament sensible, appropriate and consultative amendments and dealing with some of the issues that clearly would have frustrated the previous government because it did not do anything in this space.

With that, I urge members to support the legislation before us, because it essentially empowers growers to come together to establish schemes for the mutual benefit of their industries. As we know, it already has resulted in beneficial outcomes for many groups. Let us not further delay this important reform. Let us get it in place and ensure that the commission can continue to do its important work. If and when the committees are formed, they can be informed by industry and continue to do the important work they are established to do under this legislative framework.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3 put and passed.

Clause 4: Section 3 amended —

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I will be relatively brief, but I have a few questions that I would like answers to on a few of the clauses. Further to the minister's comments in his second reading reply, the definition of "agricultural industry" in clause 4(2) is that which "concerns livestock enterprises conducted on land under a pastoral lease". It is ironic that when we look back to Wednesday, 24 May 2000, Hon Murray Criddle moved an amendment to delete all words after "industry" and substitute —

means horticultural industry and such other agricultural industry as may be prescribed but excluding broadacre cropping and grazing industries.

Hon Kim Chance said —

I am happy to indicate that I and my colleagues will support the proposed amendment.

Fifteen years later, the wheel has turned again.

Aside from that little history lesson, I would like some clarity. I am worried when I look at this wording—"generally conducted on land under a pastoral lease". In the other place, we heard references to pastoralists bringing down their cattle, for argument's sake, to a property in the agricultural region. Someone asked what would happen if a pastoralist had two separate properties. Firstly, if someone who owns a pastoral station brings the cattle down and fattens them up, for argument's sake, are they excluded under these arrangements? Secondly, what if they own two separate properties—one property in the pastoral region and one property in the agricultural region? I would like that clarified.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I thank the member for his question. I want to draw the member's attention to the minister's response to this particular issue in the other place. There was a concern about whether an animal moved from a pastoral property to a freehold property would be captured under the scope of the agricultural industry that the committee was responsible for. In response to those concerns, the Minister for Agriculture and Food moved an amendment in the other place to insert "generally". This was accepted by the Legislative Council. The revised definition provides that an agricultural industry can be prescribed for the purposes of that definition, other than an industry that concerns livestock enterprises generally conducted on land under a pastoral lease. Essentially, the member is concerned about the implications of the word "generally". The revised definition that was provided gives that some clarity. In the other place, Hon Alannah MacTiernan said —

I think we are getting down to some very fine points here. I am not arguing that. I am saying that if a person is the owner of an enterprise in Dandaragan, it may well be that all the activities that they do on that property in Dandaragan are captured by this. However, bear in mind that this would come about only should the industry decide that it wanted to go down this particular path.

They are the considerations of the committee —

This is purely an enabling thing. If part of the business of an operator in Dandaragan was to bring their animals down, those animals might in fact be captured in some way in a scheme, but if they were a pastoralist and their enterprise was in the pastoral region, the fact that they might background their cattle on another property would not bring that enterprise into the purview of the act.

The minister made that fairly clear in her comments. That explanation and the review of the definition was supported in the other place.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I thank the minister for that explanation. I am responding on behalf of the Pastoralists and Graziers Association, which generally represents pastoralists. It is fairly clear that if cattle are being brought down from a pastoral block and being feedlotted temporarily, that is fine. I felt that the minister's explanation in the other place relating to pastoralists shifting cattle back and forth at different times of the year between properties they owned left a bit to be desired. There was a little lack of clarity. It was almost a case of working it out as we go. The worry is that later we will be pushed and asked, "Why didn't you ask the question?" There was not a lot of clarity in that example. I know that people who own properties experience both situations. That would be a concern. I do not know whether any of the advisers have any other comments on that issue.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am advised that essentially the amendment does address that issue and the minister sought to define with more clarity the status of "produced on pastoral land". The minister's comments in the other place and the reworked definition aspects within this amendment have provided that clarity.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I have a final question: who will decide and how? That is my last question relating to the question mark over shifting stock from one property to another.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: As the minister highlighted in her comments during the second reading debate and during the committee stage, this is a producer-driven entity. Essentially, the producers would have direct input into how that operation of the committee, if they decided to set one up, would operate, because they would determine the priorities. As we know, priorities within existing committees vary. Some focus on research and some focus on how to improve the marketability of their product. The producers would need to come together seeking to establish a committee. A long consultative process is needed for that to happen. In doing so, if at some point having established that there were issues around references to the pastoral lease origins issue, the legislation ensures that that will not be imposed upon that group that has formed the committee.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 10 put and passed.

Clause 11: Part 3 Divisions 2 and 3 inserted —

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to proposed section 11C(1)(b), which states, "the poll is in favour of the proposal." I have heard a couple of references to "50 per cent". Proposed section 11C(1) states —

The Commission must not allocate responsibility for agricultural produce to an existing producers' committee unless —

- (a) the Commission has —
 - (i) complied with section 11A(4) and (5); and
 - (ii) conducted a poll under section 11B among the producers of the agricultural produce;
- and
- (b) the poll is in favour of the proposal.

Could the minister clarify whether it is just 50 per cent or whether it is 51 per cent or 75 per cent?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: It is not 50 per cent; it is, in fact, 60 per cent. I refer the member to the Agricultural Produce Commission's documentation regarding producers' committee establishment polls. I will table this for the member. Page 4 refers to the policy of the commission and states —

The Commission will not establish a committee unless a supportive vote of 60% of those that respond to the poll has been achieved.

It is very clearly 60 per cent and that is the existing policy position of the commission, and that will, of course, apply to the establishment of any future committees.

I table the Agricultural Produce Commission's producers' committee establishment polls policy statement.

[See paper [420](#).]

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 12 to 20 put and passed.

Clause 21: Section 16 amended —

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: On page 21 of the bill, new section 16(1)(a) states that the commission must —

in the case of a producers' committee that has, or is proposed to have, responsibility for agricultural produce for the whole of the State — compile a list of producers of the agricultural produce in the whole of the State ...

What evidence does it rely on and where does it get the list from?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I thank the member for his question. The advice I have is that the commission works with the body or producers requesting the establishment poll, so to compile this list it has to identify the most appropriate definition of producer. For example, with wine, it was decided to be the owner of the grapes at the point of crush; and for vegetables or fruit, it is the producer of horticultural produce of the particular type of which the committee is being established. Identifying those producers that meet the definition will be done by ensuring that the pre-polling consultation process includes clear information on who will be considered a producer and requesting that persons who fall within this definition contact the commission to ensure that they are included in the polling list so that they can participate in the poll or to advise why they should not be considered a producer, should they not want to be included as a producer. The commission will be able to request membership information from industry associations or other established bodies about which producers might belong; for example, in the wine producers' poll, the holders of a producer's licence with the then Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor were identified as producers. In the notice that advises of the conduct of the poll, the commission will state that a list of eligible producers is being compiled and will invite producers to view the list. People who may have questions about the list will be requested to contact the returning officer by a nominated date. Essentially, the list will be compiled from a variety of sources, including already established industry and sector entities, and there will be a process of advertising for input from those who may seek to be included within the definition of a producer within that particular industry. A relevant industry registration, such as with beekeepers, who are required to be registered with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, would be an example of a source from a government department.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: In a broadacre sense, when we talk about grain growers statewide, for argument's sake, I assume that the commission would go to the CBH register. How would the commission deal with the approximately 3 800 CBH shareholders within the CBH register, some of whom have different trading names but may be the one producer?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I am advised that it is quite forensic. In the wine industry experience, it took 10 years to establish that committee. Essentially, it will be sourced from available registrations and information that both government and industry sector groups collect. It will continue until there is clarity about the identification of producers. Obviously, that task can take some time, as in the case of the wine industry, and as the member is probably aware, wine production and those who produce wines can be registered under various entities, so the commission essentially sought to ensure that proper and appropriate identification was made before an entity was counted as a producer.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I move now to new section 16(1)(b), which states —

in the case of a producers' committee that has, or is proposed to have, responsibility for agricultural produce only in relation to a particular part of the State ...

Let us say the west Katanning barley growers group, which I might be part of, decides that there is a particular variety of barley that is suitable for the area and it would like to raise some money to look at that variety. How will the commission ascertain who is in that group? How will the commission interact with that group?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have been to Katanning, and I think it is a great place. I have not been to west Katanning in detail. Member, ultimately, the spirit of the establishment of committees is based upon direct and ongoing influence by those who are interested in establishing one. There is a framework that sets out the provisions for the establishment of such a committee, and in the case of west Katanning, if there were specific growers—obviously, as in the case that the member has given—it would certainly be up to those growers to seek and garner support for such an entity to be created, and, of course, there is a process in the case of poll provisions et cetera that would lead ultimately to the establishment or not of such an entity. The whole framework of this, both its history and the current amendments, are very much framed upon choice. A number of members who contributed to the second reading debate highlighted that as being an important component. I wish the west Katanning grain growers committee of the future all the very best if that was their endeavour.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): I believe it was the barley growers association.

Clause put and passed.**Clause 22: Sections 16A and 16B inserted —**

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to proposed section 16A(2)(a) and (b) on page 22 of the bill. This relates to weighted voting and I guess this is really my last area of concern. I saw in the *Hansard* of the other place that there was

a reference to this, and I noted in my second reading contribution my concerns over weighted voting, whereby certain producers, whatever commodity it is, will actually potentially take control or exert a lot of influence over a certain type of industry. We had a reference there I think from the minister that if there are 20 wine growers and two or three growers grow 80 per cent of the wine grapes, they will have control or vote weighting to that extent. It really worries me that two or three growers can have that type of influence. It is not the fault of the smaller grower that they do not grow as much, but quite often they would like an equal say. It is no different from any industry: there are always big players and smaller players. As I said in my example, if someone said, “You should grow 20 000 tonnes of grain or you shouldn’t be a director”, that does not always count, because sometimes the smaller growers might have good things to say and to contribute.

I guess I would like an explanation. I believe that is a dangerous precedent to set. I would like to hear the minister’s comments on this proposed new section.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Member, I am advised that the Western Australian Farmers Federation was one entity that supported the concept of the introduction of a weighted voting process. Indeed, I am advised that one of the criticisms of the act by the WA Grains Group and the Pastoralists and Graziers Association was that weighted voting was not available for use in polls. In this case, the premise of their criticism was that larger producers of industry would tend to pay the bulk of the charge, and it may be the smaller, more numerous producers who constitute the majority who impose the charge on the whole industry but pay less of the charge. They referenced that as the reason there was a need for consideration of a weighted process.

This scenario can currently occur in theory because each producer will have only one vote in each poll. However, the opportunity for weighted voting is proposed to be provided by clause 22, which we are currently considering, and weighted voting specifically addresses the concern outlined in the scenario.

Clause 22 introduces the concept of weighted voting, which can be used when the commission is satisfied according to some criteria. The first is that there is sufficient industry data available to use weighted voting; second, that it is in fact in the best interests of the agricultural region to do so. There are some issues and provisos around data collection or data availability in that case. In making a decision on the weighted voting aspect, it is my understanding that currently the commission would require five years of data, which is an appropriate sample of data, if you like. Consolidated industry production levels are another important consideration, as is the individual production levels of each producer, and, essentially, consolidated data, which would need to be industry verified or accepted verified data.

I understand what the member is saying. Weighted voting is a very interesting issue for many of us in this place and in other places. I note that the member alluded to a number of things during question time. But can I just say, I think the weighted voting option has been weighed up very carefully. I obviously support this proposed section and I believe it should be supported.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I thank the minister, I appreciate the explanation, and I guess I just comment that, obviously, as the minister said, different people have different feelings on these things, in a variety of sectors. I am certainly focused on the producer groups and the like, and I always find it important to have a wide representation of the smaller growers and the larger growers. It is no different from the voter in the Mining and Pastoral Region versus the voter in the North Metropolitan Region. We need a wide range of people. I believe that that is a really important perspective that the Agricultural Produce Commission needs to be careful of, I guess. Those are the comments I wanted to make. Otherwise, I appreciate the time of the minister and the advisers today. I thank them very much.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 23 to 31 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Tourism) [4.40 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [4.40 pm]: I will make a few brief comments. I appreciate the Leader of the House’s answers at the consideration in detail stage of the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. I want to point out a couple of things from the contributions. I appreciate the contributions from some of our regional members and also our peri-urban members; I think that is how the Leader of the House’s electorate was described. The member for Geraldton is probably the only Labor member who is representing the broadacre industry to some extent. The member for Moore and I also made contributions; we are genuinely involved in the broadacre, cropping and livestock industry, and we understand some of the heat that comes on as a result of a bill such as this. I believe the Agricultural Produce Commission in general terms is a good thing, and it is great especially for smaller industries. However, it was interesting to me that during those contributions I generally did not hear too much about the levies paid by broadacre people who either produce crops or livestock.

As I said in my second reading contribution, it can be up to 12 or 13 per cent of their gross income. There are concerns in people's minds in the background. They listen to the *Country Hour* and people on radio programs whose comments may not always necessarily be true. There are sometimes scare tactics, and that worries them. They are concerned that another levy will be slapped on them and they may not necessarily receive any benefit from it. That is where that is coming from. We just wanted to make sure that we put that on the record on behalf of our broadacre producers.

As I have said previously, there have been concerns in the pastoral sector. I think largely they have been addressed now. My only concern now is the opt-out regulations. I believe that in the other place, concerns were raised about this matter from several angles. The concern is that regulations may or may not be produced somewhere in the distance and we do not know what they will be while we are trying to talk about the legislation. That was the reasoning behind Hon Colin de Grussa moving that amendment. We would have preferred the clarity. Despite quotes that have been thrown around here in the chamber, several of the Western Australian Farmers Federation's representations have been that it would have preferred that in the legislation, rather than in regulation.

I do not think I need to go on too much longer. I have concerns about the weighted voting, as the Leader of the House knows. It is really an issue on which we need a broad range of people from within an industry to represent their thoughts on what is going on. I thank the Leader of the House for the clarity on the 60 per cent. I think it is important to have more than just 50 per cent; that is for sure. As the Leader of the House and many of the speakers have said, this has been going on for a long time, so I am sure that the Agricultural Produce Commission will get on with its work and do a good job, especially in relation to those smaller industries.

I have just a final point about levies. The member for Moore mentioned this matter. Biosecurity levies seem to get plonked into certain regions around the state. We cannot quite understand why one area has them and another area does not. The minister seems to come in and prescribe the scenario in a certain area. I know that sometimes a biosecurity group wants a levy and it uses it for pest and weed control and the like, but quite often it is done without as much consultation as we would like. As with everything, consultation of the community and growers is really important. I think in the Agricultural Produce Commission scenario, the ability to consult and poll the producers is much better than it is with some of these other things, such as our biosecurity regions and the like. I thank the Leader of the House for his time.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Tourism) [4.43 pm] — in reply: I thank the member for Moore and other members who spoke during the debate on the Agricultural Produce Commission Amendment Bill 2021. I congratulate the Minister for Agriculture and Food for the passing of this bill through both houses. I also thank again the advisers who assisted me: Angela Howie, Karen Barlow and Ingrid Behr. I am very pleased that the bill has passed both houses of Parliament.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and passed.

METROPOLITAN REGION SCHEME (BEELIAR WETLANDS) BILL 2021

Assent

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

House adjourned at 4.44 pm
