



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 15 March 2023

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 12 noon, acknowledged country and read prayers.

PAPERS TABLED

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

LAND AND PUBLIC WORKS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

DRAFT ROTTNEST ISLAND MANAGEMENT PLAN 2023–28

Statement by Minister for Tourism

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism) [12.02 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the draft *Rottnest Island management plan 2023–28*, which has been released for public comment. Rottnest Island is an essential part of Western Australia's tourism industry and is renowned for its natural beauty, cultural heritage and history, and unique wildlife. The plan sets out the Rottnest Island Authority's priorities for the island's natural and cultural resources, facilities and visitor experience during the next five years. It also provides the framework for decision-making and planning for the island's future. The Rottnest Island Authority board developed the new plan in response to the state government's request that the RIA review the plan as part of the COVID-19 recovery strategy.

The draft *RIMP 2023–28* has been divided into five strategic focus areas. The first is to diversify the visitor base and enhance visitor experience; the second is to deliver sustainable island infrastructure and services; the third is to respect and engage the island's cultural heritage; the fourth is to explore and conserve the island's environment; and the fifth is to foster strong partnerships. The focus areas are supported by key initiatives, designed to promote new opportunities on the island while retaining the island's unique natural attributes. The draft *RIMP 2023–28* includes the draft Rottnest Island land use plan, which defines the proposed land uses within the settlement and, importantly, classifies the remaining 85 per cent of the island as a reserve for the purpose of conservation and recreation. The *RIMP* contains significant commitments to sustainability, including the delivery of 75 per cent of future power requirements from renewable sources. The draft plan forecasts that ferry arrivals will increase to 770 000 visitors per year by July 2027, with day visitors accounting for 70 per cent of arrivals.

The consultation process will run for eight weeks and will close on Tuesday, 9 May. The McGowan government understands the importance of Rottnest Island to the Western Australian community and is committed to ensuring that it remains a world-class destination for years to come. I encourage stakeholders, visitors and community members alike to make a submission and to visit the Rottnest Island Authority website to find out more information.

STEM PARTICIPATION REVIEW

Statement by Minister for Science

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Science) [12.04 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to inform the house that the Australian government's Pathway to Diversity in STEM Panel recently commenced consultation on the barriers to participation in STEM. The review's consultation document, *Pathway to diversity in STEM: Review dialogue starter*, aims to engage people in a genuine conversation about how we can break down the cultural and systemic barriers to STEM.

[Interruption.]

Mr R.H. COOK: That was quick. I have more!

The Western Australian government welcomes the review and encourages people and organisations to make submissions during the review's consultation period, particularly from people in historically under-represented groups in STEM, which may include First Nations people, culturally and linguistically diverse people, women and girls, people living in regional and remote areas, people living with a disability, people from low socio-economic backgrounds, neurodiverse people, LGBTQIA+ people and people who face age-based discrimination. The review panel is also encouraging submissions from organisations that support, employ, educate, learn from, represent or have policies and programs that impact people in STEM.

Dr Parwinder Kaur, an associate professor and biotechnologist at the University of Western Australia, has been selected as one of the four independent expert panel members for the review. In addition to her appointment as a review panellist, Dr Kaur was inducted into the Western Australian Women's Hall of Fame on 7 March 2023. I congratulate Dr Kaur on both her appointment and induction. Recently, officers from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation had the privilege of meeting with Dr Kaur to discuss the important work she is

undertaking as part of the review, which aligns strongly with the Western Australian STEM skills strategy. The review consultation period closes on 12 May 2023 and feedback will be sought on the draft recommendations in mid-2023. To participate in the consultation, people can visit the review's webpage via the Australian government's Department of Industry, Science and Resources website. I encourage all interested parties to make a submission.

FREMANTLE PRISON — KARDAN CONSTRUCTION

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [12.07 pm]: In 2019, I launched the *Fremantle Prison master plan 2019–2029*, a 10-year strategic plan to create a sustainable World Heritage site and major visitor attraction. Conserving the fabric of Fremantle Prison is a priority action in the master plan and has been supported by the McGowan government with a commitment of \$17.8 million last year. The master plan promotes improved connection with Aboriginal people through truth-telling, and will also open up opportunities for Aboriginal people to establish businesses or find employment in tourism and heritage.

In April 2021, Fremantle Prison engaged Kardan Construction, a Perth-based registered Aboriginal business and Supply Nation-certified building company, for stage 1 of works to the Fremantle Prison commissariat building. Having demonstrated a high standard of works in stage 1, Kardan was engaged for the commissariat stage 2 project in October 2021, the parade ground north project in October 2021 and the parade ground south project in September 2022. I inspected the completed works last week and I am absolutely impressed with the results and how they have been delivered.

Kardan directly employed 11 Aboriginal people and two school placement students, who gained experience as trade assistants. Kardan, in conjunction with the Katitjiny Foundation, an Aboriginal training provider, took the opportunity to put three Aboriginal apprentices through their excavator operator tickets, as well as specialist heritage training to enable archaeological management during excavation works. One of Kardan's Aboriginal painting apprentices trained with a heritage subcontractor to learn limewashing and related heritage remediation skills—skills that are in short supply. Kardan has since offered a carpentry apprenticeship to one of its school placement students. Kardan also subcontracted to other Aboriginal businesses, including Moorditj Painting and Decorating and Wilco Electrical, which both offered Aboriginal apprenticeship positions related to the Kardan contracts. Wilco created four Aboriginal electrical apprenticeships and last year won a National Excellence Award—that of Master Electrician of the Year. Wilco acknowledges that the prison projects were a direct contributor to this accolade. In 2022, Kardan Construction was the WA winner of the Telstra Best of Business Awards 2022 in the category of Indigenous Excellence. Kardan acknowledges that the support from Fremantle Prison added to its business confidence and contributed to it winning this prestigious award.

The state government is proud to be delivering improved opportunities for Aboriginal businesses in WA and is very grateful to Kardan for the quality of its works to conserve our magnificent World Heritage-listed Fremantle Prison.

HARMONY WEEK

Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests

DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests) [12.10 pm]: Today marks the start of Harmony Week. Harmony Week runs from 15 to 21 March every year, confirming our strong commitment to multiculturalism and celebrating our cultural, linguistic and religious diversity. It is a time to learn about one another's backgrounds, languages and cultures and explore each other's heritage. Harmony Week is an opportunity to recognise the extensive list of positives that we all get from living in a culturally and linguistically diverse society. It is a time to celebrate how far we have progressed in combating racism and to reinforce messages of welcome and belonging.

Harmony Week ends with a day of reflection with the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. I encourage everyone to use this day to make a personal commitment about how we are going to challenge delivering in the community and the workplace. I am proud that the McGowan government has zero tolerance for racism, and it is incumbent on everyone in this chamber to reflect that in every aspect of their lives. We should all be asking ourselves what we can do to promote inclusivity and ensure that the people we serve are free to pursue their goals, unhindered by prejudice, racism or discrimination.

Harmony Week is also an excellent opportunity to celebrate the contributions being made to our society by our culturally and linguistically diverse communities. By increasing our understanding of each other, we make our home a more harmonious place to live. To recognise Harmony Week, a number of public buildings will be lit in orange throughout the week, including the Bell Tower, Elizabeth Quay and Matagarup Bridge. From Broome to Albany, more than 20 Harmony Week events have been funded by the McGowan government—events as culturally diverse as our society, from a Mongolian concert to an Italian bocce and pizza-making day being hosted in my home town of Collie to a multicultural volleyball fest in Madeley. These are in addition to the thousands of smaller activities and school assembles that will take place throughout the week.

I encourage members to seek out the activities happening in their communities and wish you all a happy Harmony Week. A list of all the events is available from the Office of Multicultural Interests website.

COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

Statement by Minister for Water

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Water) [12.14 pm]: I rise to inform the house that during my visit to the agricultural towns of Williams, Narrogin and Brookton in the wheatbelt region last Friday, 10 March, I announced 11 new funding grants under the community water supply partnership program. The program provides up to \$100 000 per project for local government and community groups to develop important off-farm community water supplies. The state government has committed a total of \$1.6 million to the \$3.2 million program, co-funded by the commonwealth government. Since the program began in 2021, over \$3 million in funding has been granted to 27 local governments in dryland agricultural areas in Western Australia. Round 4 of the program was announced on Friday, with 10 local governments receiving just over \$800 000 in new grants. Successful recipients include the Shires of Brookton, with two projects; Dandaragan; Dowerin; Gnowangerup; Kondinin; Merredin; Perenjori; Toodyay; Victoria Plains; and Williams.

I was able to visit three completed community water supply projects in Williams, Narrogin and Brookton that received funding under round 1 of the community water supply partnership program in late 2021. In Williams and Brookton, I visited their new large water tanks that will provide an important non-potable water supply during emergencies and extended dry periods. In Narrogin, I visited their impressive stormwater harvesting catchment dam, which harvests an additional 147 megalitres of water a year for community irrigation.

Sadly, global climate change models confirm that the future climate for south west Western Australia will be hotter and drier. By supporting these community water supply projects, the McGowan government is delivering a long-term solution to address climate change impacts in our important agricultural regions and secure a more sustainable future for these communities. A further grant round under the community water supply partnership program is planned for later this year.

MAJOR EVENTS BILL 2023

Second Reading

Resumed from 22 February.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.15 pm]: I am delighted to have the opportunity to rise today to talk on this important bill, the Major Events Bill 2023, as part of the second reading debate. It is a terrific opportunity to reflect on the good work that this government is doing in the tourism space, and also to reflect on how important a vibrant and successful tourism industry is for not only our economy but also our society. Some great social benefits arise from tourism as well.

By way of starting, I want to talk a little about this bill and its purpose. I think the purpose is very clear and straightforward. It is clearly designed to facilitate Western Australia being competitive in attracting major events to be held here. The relevant minister has talked a number of times about the great success that came from the Ultimate Fighting Championship being held in Perth last month. I am not a fan of UFC, I have to say, so for me it was not a big deal, but clearly there are enormous fan bases not only in Western Australia and Australia but also right around the world. That event brought to Western Australia a significant number of interstate and international tourists. Importantly, flow-on benefits came from the broadcast of such an event and people saw exactly the wonderful tourism offerings that we have in Western Australia. I think that is a really good example of how important major events are to ensuring that we have a vibrant and successful tourism and events industry.

Major events are not the only plank, but they are such an important part of it, so having legislation that facilitates attracting those events to Western Australia is really a critical piece of the overall tourism puzzle. It is increasingly expected and increasingly common that international acts and bodies are looking for governments that have this kind of legislation to provide certainty for them to bring their events here. I note from the minister's second reading speech that most other jurisdictions in Australia already have major events legislation in place, which I think really underlines how important it is that we have similar legislation if we are to be competitive in this space.

The bill sets out some preconditions for having an event declared a major event, so it requires consideration of a number of factors before a major event is declared. It will also put in place some limits on that power, requiring that the minister consults a variety of people and that it is permitted only if it is in the public's interest. Other parts of the bill go through facilitations to allow events to take place smoothly and seamlessly wherever they are held. That includes construction of temporary works if they are required, so grandstands are a good example. It will also provide for the management of roads, traffic and other things that are often key to holding successful major events. It also sets out safety management provisions, which are again key considerations in holding events. There is also a part dealing with the commercial interests of event organisers, which we know is an increasingly important part of the overall event, and they often have significant funds that are tied up in the marketing of events as well. This bill clearly tries to put in place a simplified arrangement that will allow major events to be attracted to Western Australia and for those events to be managed in a way that international companies and organisations now expect. It is a key piece of facilitating the strengthening of our tourism industry.

What I want to talk about today is tourism in Western Australia more broadly and how important it is, as I said at the outset, not just economically, but also socially. It is kind of tempting just to reflect on all the wonderful events that we have had, so in preparing my comments today, I was reflecting on some of the incredible events that have been held in Western Australia. As I said, the Ultimate Fighting Championship is not my cup of tea, but it was certainly a very successful event in terms of the economic activity that it brought to Western Australia. I refer to great events like *Sculpture by the Sea*, which is currently on at Cottesloe Beach. I went to that over the long weekend and I have to say that the place was heaving with people; it was absolutely packed. Although we often think about tourism in terms of people who might come from interstate or overseas, clearly that kind of very local tourism has very positive the impacts on the local economy as well. I am sure that any cafe within a significant radius of Cottesloe Beach on a public holiday Monday will attest that it was, no doubt, heaving with people. That is a really great event that is currently on and I encourage people to go and see it. There is a whole suite of fantastic events that are, again, important in attracting people to be tourists in our own state. I know that the Minister for Tourism has talked in this place about the wonderful Busselton Jetty Swim. Busselton was just heaving with so many people. Many of us travelled from Perth to be part of that event. While we were there, we went to restaurants and cafes, stayed at accommodation and spent money in the local economy.

Mr R.H. Cook: I believe in your case you set a new record as well!

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: Sadly, I did not set a new record. Certainly not for my swimming, but maybe for my consumption at cafes and restaurants!

I think it is important to recognise that tourism is not just people who come here from interstate or overseas but in fact is also about having events in Western Australia that stimulate people to become tourists in their own state and to travel. Whether it is a couple of hours away or just within the metropolitan area, people spend money that they would not otherwise spend and they contribute to the local economy and ensure that people remain employed. Clearly, it has lots of fantastic economic benefits, but it also makes our society richer and better. The appreciation of arts like *Sculpture by the Sea*, a free event, is a great way that tourism products allow people to have a richer appreciation of our social settings as well. For those reasons, tourism is important. I think it is really important to think about not just in terms of the economic benefits, which are significant, but also the social benefits and the richness that it brings to people's lives.

I want to spend a bit of time talking about the economic impacts of tourism. Of course, one of the things that we have seen right around the world is that tourism was impacted by the pandemic. Tourism obviously suffered. The impact here has been a well-documented story. But what is really important is how well the tourism industry is actually recovering since we have opened the border in Western Australia. Expenditure for domestic travel in WA peaked at \$12.6 billion in the 2015–16 financial year. Although domestic tourism expenditure has been down, it is not down as much as the other states. In 2021–22, the figures I have in front of me show that domestic tourism expenditure for Western Australia was down 13.7 per cent compared with 2018–19, so the immediate period before the pandemic, but that in the other states the decline was much greater. The decline was 46.8 per cent for Victoria, 21.3 per cent for New South Wales and 21.9 per cent for Queensland when compared with the same period. That shows that a great rebound is occurring in Western Australia. I think that is a testament to the work of this government and this minister in ensuring that we have not just great events, but a whole range of strategies that are designed to ensure that tourism is returning to Western Australia. Again, I want to reflect on another statistic, which shows the same story comparing June 2022 with the 2018–19 levels. Domestic overnight visitors to Western Australia are down 7.6 per cent. That is a significant recovery. We are down just a very small amount compared with the pre-pandemic level. Again, when we look at the other states, we see that New South Wales and Victoria are 33 per cent below where they were pre-pandemic, South Australia is down 19 per cent and Queensland is down 14 per cent. We are doing an incredible job of recovering the tourism industry after the pandemic. I want to congratulate the minister for all the work he has done—a very proactive strategy that is about ensuring our tourism industry recovers. There is a number of levers that we need to pull. I think we understand that it is a complex industry and that there is a number of things we need to do if we are serious about making sure we have a pipeline of visitors coming to Western Australia to enjoy the really fantastic things we have to see and do here.

The other really important economic impact that I want to talk about is employment, because I think that is the other significant part of the story. Tourism is obviously something that is important in economic terms, but it employs a significant number of people. It is a labour-intensive industry. In WA, there were 56 310 people employed in tourism industries for the 2020–21 financial year. Again, it is down in some areas compared with the pre-pandemic era, but it is really important to note that some regions have seen an increase in employment. The south west area and the coral coast have both recorded increases in the number of people employed in tourism compared with the pre-pandemic era—the 2020–21 period. Again, I think that is a really interesting story. So, the recovery is there. There are clearly people in the industry and we can see that it is a significant employer in Western Australia. But, in a regional sense there are more people working those industries than before. We know that regional employment is something that is very important for regional areas to prosper and succeed, so, again, I think we need to see not just the broader economic impact of tourism in Western Australia, but also understand that it has a significant positive impact in regional areas. That is very important for making sure that we have a diversified economy that is delivering for all people regardless of where they live.

In my contribution today, I want to talk a little bit about a piece of work that has recently been released by the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre. It was launched on 3 February. My good colleague the member for Swan Hills was there and was one of the presenters. Its report is titled *Go your own WA*, so it is a very sophisticated pun! That really was an opportunity to get a bit of a snapshot of the tourism industry and reflect on some of the policy settings that would help ensure that the tourism industry remains a significant part of the Western Australian economy for some time. Before I go on and talk about that report, I want to say that I find its work across a wide range of policy areas to be quite a valuable contribution to the public debate in Western Australia. It is one of the few organisations that is doing research that considers both social and economic impacts in the Western Australian context. I think it is important to reflect that often WA is a bit different from some of the other states and that having an organisation like the BCEC that does that kind of inquiry into not just economic outcomes, but also social outcomes, is incredibly valuable. I want to use this opportunity to give a shout-out to Alan Duncan, who runs the BCEC, for its ongoing contribution to Western Australia and public debate about a whole range of important issues. This report looks at tourism, considering how tourism was impacted by the pandemic and how it is recovering. Interestingly, it also looks at people's perception of tourism—how do people feel about tourism in both their local area and more broadly? I will come to those reflections in a little moment. I think it is a very good report and there was a very good panel discussion on the day. It illustrated a great deal of interest in and passion for the tourism industry in Western Australia.

As I said, one of the report's findings is that our recovery in Western Australia is going very well—better than other states. Because of our geography and the nature of Western Australia, we have some significant differences from how other states experience tourism. Unsurprisingly, a high proportion of people coming to Western Australia travel by air; 89 per cent of domestic interstate visitors fly here. I do not know why they would not drive across the Nullarbor! I have done that. It is a fantastic trip and I would recommend it. It is a great way to see the country. It is a long trip so, unsurprisingly, the majority of people fly here. We can compare the 89 per cent of domestic travellers who come here by air with about 64 per cent of travellers who fly to New South Wales from interstate. Perhaps that is unsurprising but it demonstrates the importance of airports and the importance of flights to ensure we have a good tourism product here in Western Australia and people can access it. Roads are important for a whole range of other economic activities but, for tourism, the majority of people clearly fly. Also unsurprisingly, when people come, they tend to stay for longer here than they do in other states. The average length of stay here in 2021–22 was 4.6 nights, whereas nationally it was slightly lower at 3.8 nights within the same period. Again, that is unsurprising given the distance that people are required to travel to come here. It is not the sort of place they would come for a shorter stay. People also tend to travel to regional areas and one of the challenges is that travelling to regional areas involves significant time. I am sure we have all had visitors stay with us who come from the east coast or perhaps overseas and they say they want to travel over the whole state and they are here for three days. People do not understand the vast distances that exist in Western Australia. We sometimes think that regional travel can be challenging but visitors actually spend more nights in regional WA than in Perth.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: These things show us quite a picture. Again, it is unsurprising for people who live here, but the regional areas did incredibly well through the pandemic. Obviously many of us had the experience of holidaying in our own state. We often discovered new joys. The regional tourism offering was quite resilient through that period. That is important.

One of the other important findings in this report is that there is a concentrated holiday season during which a lot of travel occurs—what we know as the typical holiday season. That underlines the importance of this legislation. The main purpose of this bill is to attract major events to Western Australia. That will allow for events to stimulate travel to Western Australia from both interstate and overseas outside the traditional holiday period. That is a key part of making sure people travel here not just in peak periods when they find that the joint is heaving for a few weeks at a time, but also during the long periods when there is less activity. Having events to fill in the calendar, for want of a better of a description, is a key part of making sure we have a regular stream of tourists travelling here and really spreading out the times during which people travel. I reiterate that this bill will fill a really important strategic role in making sure we have the levers to be able to stimulate tourism products that are going to lead to travel at the times it is needed.

We also understand that international students are a key part of stimulating travel. We have had an incredible focus on ensuring that international students travel back to Western Australia. We know that it is not only the students who come to study. Their families often also come as visitors to the state. That is a really important strategy of this government, underlined by the fact we have appointed a Minister for International Education. That really underlines that it is a key part of ensuring we are doing everything we can to have a really vibrant tourism industry in this state.

I want to talk briefly about a couple of other findings in the report. One is the result of work looking at the importance of Google searches to deliver tourists. When I reflect on my own holiday booking habits, it comes as no surprise that the first thing people do is google a place they might have heard about to see whether they would like to come and, if they do, what it will cost and what they will be able to see. Stimulating Google searches is an

important strategy. This report finds that, on average, a 50 per cent increase in worldwide internet search intensity about travelling to Western Australia would lead to an increase of about 130 000 visitors in the year following the change in that search intensity. If we increase Google searches, more people will travel, which is perhaps not such a shocking finding when we think about it, but I had not previously appreciated how important it is to the equation. Again, major events are an important part of that because one of the ways that people think about where they would like to go in the world is if a friend or family member has travelled somewhere. They might have spoken to them about it or seen posts on their Instagram page or on other social media. That stimulates interests. Part of it is having events so that people come or they may see where an event is being held because they have an interest in the event, which can lead to a bit of activity. It is about using search optimisations to ensure there is a front-of-mind product. The Minister for Tourism has been doing some remarkable work in this space. Members might have seen the billboards; I think one is in Times Square and one is in London with a fantastic whale shark coming out in 3D. It is a really compelling way to get images about our unique fauna in the front of people's minds to stimulate interest and activity. The other thing is that no trip to Western Australia is complete without a quokka selfie. We have seen a remarkable number of very high profile people with significant social media followings post all sorts of fabulous posts with quokkas. Who could not like and enjoy them? These are all part of an overall strategy. It is about ensuring that Western Australia is front of mind when people think about tourism. It is really important to understand that it is backed up by research. It is backed up by figures that say these are not just fun activities, although that is how we might see them, because we would all love to get a quokka selfie as well. It is about having an overall strategy that contributes to people on the other side of the world searching for Western Australia and then being able to land on a webpage that will stimulate their interest and make it easy for them to follow through and book a holiday here. That points to this government's very sophisticated strategy, which sits behind some of the activities we have seen and is how this bill fits into those strategies as well.

The final thing in the report I want to talk about, which I thought was interesting, is that it conducted a survey asking people to convey their positive reflections of tourism as well as some of their more negative concerns. It explores how people, not just in Perth, feel about tourism. Unsurprisingly perhaps, people in the metropolitan area were very positive about tourism; 74 per cent of people in Perth believe that tourism creates more jobs; 83 per cent of people feel it makes an economic contribution; and 70 per cent of residents believe that tourism attracts investment into the area. In Perth there were overwhelmingly positive responses. It was a bit more nuanced in some of the regional areas including the south west and the coral coast. Perhaps that is not surprising, given that these are smaller towns and communities and that both experience significant peak seasons. There is a lot of tourism in the south west. Again, anyone who has ever been in Busselton during the period between Christmas and new year will understand that a significant number of people come into that town, and that creates some challenges.

People's reflections on these factors in those regional areas were influenced by when they were asked the question—the presence of these issues at the front of their mind was affected by how recently they had experienced that peak season—but there were a couple of things that came through. Overwhelmingly, people recognise the importance of tourism in their regional areas and towns, and they support it. People are particularly interested in tourism that is also delivering a benefit for the local community—tourism that is developing services, tours and activities in a way that local residents can also enjoy those tours and activities benefits the local community, as well. That is very important to building support for tourism in those communities. People also recognise the economic impacts very favourably and clearly see that tourism has a very positive impact on their local economy. But there are concerns about managing the numbers of people. Things like increased costs for groceries were on people's minds, and also the potential flow-on to issues such as housing. Unsurprisingly, that issue was more likely to be perceived as problematic by low income earners in those areas. People who earn less than \$41 000 were more likely to identify those issues. I think that really underlines that people very much understand the benefits that tourism brings to not just the state as a whole, but also their local communities, but it is important that we go about that in a way that engages and works with those local communities.

I will finish with a few reflections on our unique cultural heritage. Of course, we have a lot of wonderful things in Western Australia that I think are incredibly beautiful. It is an incredibly amazing place to live, and why would people not want to come here and enjoy it? We have a wonderful natural environment and fantastic weather, and our proximity to the growing middle classes in Asia makes Western Australia well placed for their tourism, but we also have a unique cultural heritage. For more than 60 000 years, traditional owners and First Nations people have cared for this land. Things like the Aboriginal cultural centre—again, spearheaded by this government—that will be built on the banks of the Derbarl Yerrigan are a really important part of making sure that our tourism offering includes that culture and recognises that it is a unique, beautiful, profound part of the Western Australian experience.

I think that there are opportunities—I know that these are being explored—to ensure that we do more. In the same way that we can work with local communities and develop in a way that is sensitive to their needs, we can develop cultural tourism experiences working with our First Nations people and do that in a way that is sensitive to their needs. The cultural centre that we are building is a great example of that, but I think there are other things we can do to ensure that we have a range of different offerings in not only Perth, but also our regional areas. I think it is key that we integrate our First Nations people into those tourism opportunities and ensure that those communities

benefit from the tourism that occurs so that we are not only growing a vibrant and successful tourism industry for people overseas, but also delivering the benefits of economic growth to the communities that will set them up for the future.

I am out of time. I feel there is a lot more I could say. I want to close by congratulating the minister for not just bringing in this bill, which I think is an important piece of the puzzle, but also all the excellent work that is happening to ensure that our tourism industry recovers quickly from the impacts of the pandemic. It is about not only recovering, but also growing the industry for the future. This government is really committed to diversifying the economy because of the economic benefits that flow from that. It means jobs for people, and jobs mean a whole range of social benefits arising for those individuals and their families. The work that is happening will ensure that we are not just trying to bounce back from the pandemic, but also investing in an industry that is going to be a key part of the Western Australian economy for the future, and will ensure that we properly celebrate and enjoy the wonderful and unique things about being in Western Australia. With that, I am out of time. I commend the minister for his work. Thank you.

MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.44 pm]: It is my pleasure this afternoon to speak about the Major Events Bill 2023. This is actually my second iteration as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism. It has been a great pleasure to support firstly the Leader of the House, Minister Templeman, in the tourism portfolio, and now the Deputy Premier. It is an absolutely fantastic portfolio to be working in. The people in the tourism industry are wonderful. In fact, in the first iteration of my job, Minister Templeman and I carried out a statewide consultation across every regional tourism destination.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Ms J.J. SHAW: It was great. It was a bit “what goes on tour, stays on tour”, though! Over 700 tourism businesses were engaged as part of that exercise. Genuinely, the small and large business operators were all wonderful to deal with. It is certainly a very passionate industry. It was observed to me a couple of times, sometimes somewhat ironically, that no-one is in tourism for the money. It is a genuinely passionate sector, with people who are really committed to making sure that everybody that they serve enjoys themselves and has a good time. They are deeply committed to improving their local communities and showcasing what a wonderful place Western Australia is.

It is genuinely a pleasure to be working in the tourism portfolio again, but it is ultimately an economic portfolio, and it has massive opportunities for the state. It is a key pillar of this state government’s Diversify WA strategy, and significant investments are being made more generally as part of our overall strategic vision for the tourism portfolio and as part of our COVID recovery initiatives. COVID was very tough for our tourism sector. There was a very complex set of challenges and really famine or feast-type circumstances. We had record intrastate tourism as Western Australians wandered out yonder and explored our own backyard, but at the very same time, the labour that those tourism operators rely upon for support was not coming in. We did not have the seasonal backpackers and workers, so many tourism operators were absolutely pushed to their limit to service the record intrastate demand we had. Simultaneously, particularly in the Perth metropolitan area, a lot of operators were really struggling, because they are very exposed to the interstate and international markets, and, obviously, their customers were not able to enter the state. I want to put on the record my deep admiration for the resilience demonstrated in the tourism sector. I am so pleased to see the sector rebounding and those businesses recovering. The only way is up. It is fantastic.

After reconnecting with the world in March 2022, the tourism sector in WA is returning bigger than ever. The latest statistics from Tourism Research Australia show that for the year ending September 2022, 10.5 million overnight domestic and international visitors travelled to and within WA. The same figures show the number of international visitors heading to WA is at 84 per cent of pre-COVID levels, meaning our state’s tourism industry continues to recover and grow further. Pleasingly, our latest monthly statistics from February 2023 show our interstate tourism sector is absolutely thriving, with around 1 650 interstate flights into WA, which is 102 per cent of the pre-COVID figure.

One of the key reasons that visitors are flocking to our state is our blockbuster calendar of events. Major tourism events such as festivals, sporting events and conventions can generate significant economic value for both the host destination and the wider region. The events attract large numbers of visitors who spend money on transportation, accommodation, food and drink, souvenirs, and other goods and services. Obviously, this spending in turn creates jobs and income for local businesses and residents. Obviously, as locals, we also benefit greatly from a packed calendar of events. Having a fantastic program of sporting, cultural and entertainment options contributes to the overall vitality and vibrancy of our city and our state, making it a great place to live, and attracting people to make Western Australia their home.

One of the most important economic benefits of major tourism is the creation of jobs. People often think of those jobs as being linked to just the short-term impacts of events. Events obviously require a range of services, from event planning and management to security and catering, which are often short-term jobs. However, major events ideally also generate long-term opportunities through the attraction of new businesses to the area as a result of a strong program of repeat or varied events. Significant economic and infrastructure development opportunities

also stem from major events. The convention centres that are built to host major events obviously create demand for the construction industries. Members might recall the State Reception Centre, which was built for the 2011 Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. That infrastructure project at Kings Park involved the replacement of a tent-like marquee with a permanent high-quality facility that now hosts a restaurant and function centre. That venue is available to host big receptions, weddings, dinners and major events. The member for Mirrabooka spoke about the event at that venue that she and I went to last week, at which I had the privilege of representing the Deputy Premier and launching the Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre's latest report in its BCEC Focus on Industry series, titled *Go your own WA*. At that event, the member for Mirrabooka gave us a great overview of the key findings in that report. It was a fascinating experience.

I lived in New South Wales during the 1990s and I recall the major infrastructure boom associated with the 2000 Sydney Olympics, with the installation of new rail and bus lines, stadiums, aquatic and equestrian facilities, and housing precincts. There was also a general freshening up of the entire city. That included arrows that had been painted on the streets of Sydney telling people to look right, to make sure that the American tourists would look in both directions for traffic before they stepped out and risked severely injuring themselves. The whole city got a workover. It was remarkable how transformative that event was.

The Sydney Olympics was a phenomenal event. I spent a lot of it in the Dutch supporters' tent, which was sponsored by Heineken. That was a remarkable experience. I wore a lot of orange, in addition to a lot of green and gold. The Sydney Olympics was not only a city-changing event but also benefited the whole state. The legacy pieces of infrastructure that were constructed for that event remain to this day and are a good indication of the economic benefits that can be delivered through the hosting of major events. Major events often also spur the development of pop-up precincts with new businesses and restaurants around the facilities that have been developed for those events.

Post-COVID, Tourism WA has been sponsoring a diverse calendar of events to drive tourism and showcase Perth as a global events capital. These events aim to profile Western Australia to key international markets and restore visitation to pre-COVID levels. We have had recent success in doing that. The member for Mirrabooka mentioned the Ultimate Fighting Championship 284 event. Although that event might not have been popular in Mirrabooka, I can tell members that it was very popular in Ellenbrook.

Ms M.M. Quirk interjected.

Ms J.J. SHAW: I am told it was popular in Girrawheen as well—packed! That event brought 9 000 out-of-state visitors into Perth and showcased WA to the UFC's massive global social media and pay-to-view audience from around 172 countries. That event was so popular that it broke the national arena revenue record that had been set by the Rolling Stones. Mick Jagger might have a thing or two to say about that, but UFC is bigger than Mick. It set a new sporting attendance record for RAC Arena.

The Western Australian government has also secured and supported a number of other successful events that have attracted thousands of people from around the world, injected a significant amount of dollars into our economy, and promoted our state through media coverage. A particularly great example is the ICC Women's T20 World Cup. In February 2022, Perth hosted five group stage matches of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament in a festival of cricket at the WACA ground. Nine of the 10 international women's cricket teams competed at that event in Perth. That included New Zealand, Sri Lanka, England, South Africa, the West Indies, Thailand and Bangladesh, and, of course, also the defending champions, Australia. The tournament was broadcast into our key tourism markets, including the United Kingdom, India and Asia. More than 5 280 cricket fans turned out for the double-header at the WACA in Perth on 24 February. The event, which featured Australia versus Sri Lanka, and India versus Bangladesh, broke the record for crowd numbers for a women's cricket match in Western Australia. To support the event, Tourism WA was actively involved in organising a fan walk from the WACA to Optus Stadium in the lead-up to the first match. About 360 people from nine different cultural groups representing the nine international teams that were taking part in the competition participated in that event. It included a T20 trophy tour with stops at iconic Western Australian tourism destinations, including Rottnest Island. That helps to encourage the dreaming theme, because when it makes social media around the world people look at these incredible destinations and say, "Wow! I'd really love to go there." In fact, Minister Templeman and I were at Rottnest to participate in the AFL grand final cup's grand tour of Western Australia.

Another significant event that Western Australia has hosted is the Bledisloe Cup. I know that rugby is a big deal in Western Australia. More than 61 000 fans flocked to the Bledisloe Cup match in August 2019. That set an attendance record for a sporting event at Optus Stadium, although it was not quite as big as the audience for the Ed Sheeran concert. Close to 7 400 visitors from outside WA came to Perth to witness the Wallabies defeat their traditional rivals the All Blacks. The total spend by visiting rugby fans was more than \$12.5 million. The game was broadcast to around 280 million people worldwide, including, again, our key tourism markets of New Zealand, the United Kingdom and Japan. The success of that event saw it return to Optus Stadium in September 2021 when COVID-19 restrictions were in place. Western Australia's world-leading response to the pandemic meant that locals had the privilege of seeing international sport in their home state, with the event held in front of a largely intrastate crowd of more 52 700 people.

When it comes to regional events, we also have the Shinju Matsuri Festival in Broome, which is supported through Tourism WA's regional events program. I had the great privilege of attending that event in September 2021. It was actually also my birthday.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Yes, I know! I saw you having a very good time there.

Ms J.J. SHAW: I should say that Minister Templeman was also there, chauffeuring his principal policy adviser and me around Broome. We also had the great privilege of seeking out Minister Dawson, who was also in Broome for that event. It was absolutely fantastic.

Shinju Matsuri is one of the longest running events in Western Australia, having celebrated its fifty-first anniversary in 2021. The festival name means "Festival of the Pearl". The festival plays an important role in celebrating Broome's rich pearling history, multicultural community and extraordinary landscapes. All the events in the festival's 2021 program sold out ahead of time, with the majority of tickets sold to out-of-region visitors. It was attended by 20 000 people, who went to more than 50 events over the festival's two-week period, and provided close to \$7.5 million in valuable economic impact, as well as creating jobs for the Kimberley region.

The Kimberley also hosts the Ord Valley Muster, which is East Kimberley's biggest festival. It is also funded through Tourism WA's regional events program, and has been since 2008. The 2021 Ord Valley Muster was the twentieth. It had a strong focus on Aboriginal performers and cultural experiences.

The Aviair HeliSpirit Kimberley Moon Experience featured an entirely Aboriginal line-up, which was fantastic, headlined by Jessica Mauboy. There was a welcome to country at all events and a high representation of Aboriginal artists at the inaugural Art in the Park event. The 2021 festival recorded its highest ever turnout with 11 400 people attending over nine days. Close to 2 300 people travelled to the event from outside the Kimberley region, generating thousands of visitor nights for local accommodation providers and injecting \$5.3 million into the local economy. Tourism WA has committed to support that event through the regional events program until 2023.

I mentioned the Toyota AFL grand final—a phenomenal event for Western Australia when Perth hosted the AFL grand final for the first time. It was only the second time that the AFL grand final had been played outside Victoria in the game's 124-year history. It would be good if the AFL considered serving all the other states and territories that support AFL football. The AFL grand final should not just be held in Victoria every year; it should travel to the other states. We are great supporters of the AFL here in the west. I am looking forward to the Dockers bringing home the "Flagmantle" for 2023.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Member, you're younger. You've probably got a better chance than I have.

Ms J.J. SHAW: We came so close.

Mr R.H. Cook: No, we didn't! We got flogged within the first 25 minutes.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Can we live in hope, Deputy Premier? Give us a glimmer of hope. We are long-suffering fans.

It would be lovely to have another AFL grand final here in WA. If we demonstrated one thing, it is that this town knows how to support an event like that and certainly knows how to party!

Mr P.J. Rundle: It will be 2057. Most of us will be dead by then.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Member for Roe, who is your team? Show us your colours. Are you an Eagles supporter?

Mr P.J. Rundle: I am, actually.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.J. SHAW: My commiserations to the member for Roe for being such an avid Eagles supporter.

Mr P.J. Rundle: No, that's when the next AFL grand final is potentially held in Western Australia, or it might be in 2059 I think. We're a long way away from having it back in WA.

Ms J.J. SHAW: That is such a shame. It is a missed opportunity. It is the sort of event that if we program appropriately, it would fall within the auspices of this Major Events Bill. Let us hope the Victorians get their act together and have a change of heart so some sort of arrangement can be made.

Mr P.J. Rundle: They have got their act together; that's why WA won't get it back again.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Again, we can live in hope—like having a Dockers premiership.

In the lead-up to the AFL grand final, Tourism WA did a whole heap of activation and marketing support to ensure that the Perth CBD and hospitality businesses really benefited from us holding that event and that our drawcards were on full display to the nation during that long weekend. There was city dressing and a trip to Rotto for the cup—is it a trophy or a cup, Robyn?

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: A cup—the AFL cup.

Ms J.J. SHAW: You are an Eagles supporter. Pipe down over there!

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: We've got four of them. We know.

Ms J.J. SHAW: I know, but it will be a while before you see your next one!

There was a giant Sherrin football on Matagarup Bridge creating a focal point for the grand final theme, with social posts from the public and Perth signage on Optus Stadium's surface promoting the city to a national audience of 3.8 million who watched the broadcast.

The Western Australian government is really committed to building on these successes and amplifying the tourism sector in WA because it is a key economic driver for our state. To achieve this, a record budget commitment of \$167 million was dedicated to Tourism WA as part of the 2022–23 state budget. It included \$31 million to attract additional major events and business events to WA, \$21 million for a two-year marketing boost internationally and interstate and \$18 million for a national park tourism experiences development package. All these additional funds are being used to attract more visitors, support local businesses and operators and boost the economy to create jobs and secure more business and investment opportunities. The \$167 million budget commitment was in addition to the Reconnect WA package, which included \$195 million in support for tourism, including a boost for interstate tourism, aviation, working holiday makers and international students. Before the pandemic, the tourism industry in WA accounted for nearly 100 000 jobs and \$13.5 billion in visitor spend to the state's economy, including almost \$6 billion into the regions. Our plan is to not only return to, but also exceed these figures. All these initiatives and all this funding will help WA become the most desirable choice for visitors and further grow our visitor economy in a sustainable manner.

Given that I have a little time remaining, I briefly mention that we have these major events. I have spoken at length about major events, but I think it is important to also focus on the dispersal impact that these events can have—the ways in which these events drive people once they come here for an AFL grand final or anything really and then move out to the outer metropolitan regions. It is often a bit of a joke in caucus because I am in the peri-urban fringe and we are special in the peri-urban fringe. I have the great privilege of representing an electorate that has a footprint of some 1 500 square kilometres that takes in the Swan Valley and the Perth hills. I have the great privilege of sharing the beautiful Perth hills region with the members for Kalamunda and Darling Range and the Swan Valley with the member for West Swan. We all work together to talk about tourism and event initiatives that can be significantly impacted by major events in the city. We need to make people visiting the City of Perth aware of these regions and events, and then draw them out. A lot of people in the metropolitan area may not be aware of some of the fantastic community events that are going on. Even if they are not from interstate or overseas but are based in Belmont or Victoria Park, or even if they want to come up from Collie, they can come to the hills and experience some of these incredible events.

I want to mention some of these events because they were founded by some absolutely incredible local community members. In Mt Helena, we have the incredible Whim Festival. Whim is not only an idle, happy thought; it is also a piece of logging equipment. Mt Helena was originally a logging area. In fact, Sawyers Valley, the little community next door, is named after the sawmill that used to be there. The Whim Festival is a community festival. The whole idea is that we draw people to the hills to celebrate our history. There is a vintage festival at which everyone dresses up in costume. In fact, the Deputy Premier has been to the Whim Festival in Mt Helena with me. The festival is run in conjunction with the Hills Billy Cart Festival, which the Deputy Premier may remember.

Mr R.H. Cook: I do. I've never seen anything more terrifying in my life. I was going to reserve part of my response to the second reading contributions to talk about the billy cart festival.

Ms J.J. SHAW: The Hills Billy Cart Festival is another Mt Helena initiative. It started before I was a member of Parliament. When I was a member of the Mt Helena Residents and Ratepayers Progress Association, the president of the association at the time said, "Let's have a billy cart festival." We have some quite steep hills in Mt Helena, as the name would suggest. The idea was that we would run a billy cart festival, echoing days of old, and encourage local kids to build their own billy carts and then pelt down the really steep hills. What could possibly go wrong!

Mr R.H. Cook: Well, I saw lots go wrong.

Ms J.J. SHAW: It is a great event. Since the inaugural one that the Deputy Premier opened, I have subsequently quite heavily sponsored safety barriers and safety equipment. This festival is huge now. It draws thousands of people up to the hills and into Mt Helena. Minister Templeman has also been to the Hills Billy Cart Festival. I drag everyone I possibly can up to Mt Helena. It is a great family day.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Is it on again now at this time of the year?

Ms J.J. SHAW: We have changed it to April. We are not going to have it this year; instead, we will have it next April. It is an absolutely fantastic event. It draws people up to the hills, puts bums on seats in the cafes in the local area and showcases what a great little community Mt Helena is. I want to tip my hat to the fabulous organising committee of Hills Billy Carts Inc.

Mr D.A. Templeman: They have very inventive carts.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Yes, there are some fantastic ones. There is a prize every year for the most elaborately decorated cart. There really are some absolutely fantastic examples.

Mr R.H. Cook: The carts are all very different, but they are all equally dangerous!

Mr D.A. Templeman: They are. Some of them are made of balsawood and held together by a bit of Blu-Tack. It's very interesting. It's like a birdman rally on wheels.

Ms J.J. SHAW: We hillbillies are known for our daredevil stunts!

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: Are there banjos playing?

Ms J.J. SHAW: There actually are banjos! There are some absolutely fantastic musicians up in the hills and there is a stage for live acts, and the local school gets involved. It is a fabulous community event, so members should please keep an eye out and like my Facebook page —

Mr D.A. Templeman: It's the sort of place that the Sensitive New Age Cowpersons would go to!

Ms J.J. SHAW: Oh dear! The Mt Helena Hills Billy Cart Festival—be there!

We also have the Steel Bumper Car Cruise and the Kansas City BBQ Festival in Chidlow, which is absolutely fabulous and organised by the Chidlow Tavern. We have our own music festival, Gidgestock Music Festival, which is a couple of days of music and fun. We have the Gidge Show and our Small Farm Field Day. We have fabulous local events. In the Swan Valley, we have our Harvest festival and the Spring in the Valley event. A whole heap of large music events are hosted throughout the Swan Valley at venues like Nikola Estate, Upper Reach Winery and Belvoir Amphitheatre. In fact, recently, as part of the Perth Festival, I went to the Bon Iver concert and it was absolutely fantastic. It is a wonderful venue. It has this incredibly dramatic quarry-type arrangement with seats cut into it. It is perched on the Darling scarp in part of my electorate and overlooks the City of Perth. Truly, it is the most beautiful electorate in all of Western Australia. Visiting these events, people can sit there on the hills, see the beautiful Swan Valley and look over the city and enjoy all that Western Australia has to offer.

As I say, visitation is driven by major events. These major events are complex and difficult to run. Our experience has shown that they can require multiple approval processes and have to contend with multiple agencies and levels of government. If we are going to be competitive in attracting major events, reform is required, hence the need for this bill.

Our tourism sector is a key part of our economy and it is a really exciting time to be working in the sector as both a parliamentary secretary and a local member for an electorate where tourism is such a key part of the local economy. Examples of past events of such scale and scope that they might attract coverage under this legislation include the International Cricket Council Cricket World Cup, the Rugby League World Cup, the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and *The Giants*, which we all saw as part of the Perth International Arts Festival and was incredible. The FIFA Women's World Cup is coming up. I understand that this bill will be key to facilitating that event, providing yet another opportunity for us to showcase Western Australia to the world and drive tourism. I cannot wait to see the other world-class events that will be facilitated by this bill. I want to see an AFL grand final with the Dockers in it. I will take one anywhere in Australia—Perth, Melbourne, wherever! I particularly want to see visitation driven to Perth, but then dispersed out into the peri-urban fringe and out to the regions. This bill will be key to that and I commend it to the house.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston — Parliamentary Secretary) [1.14 pm]: I rise to contribute to the very important Major Events Bill 2023. I had prepared this amazing speech about the bill and all the intricacies of its clauses, but the member for Swan Hills has inspired me so much that first I am going to focus on a couple of things that I would like her to know about. Minister for Tourism, I promise that I will get to the core of the bill, but please indulge me for a moment. I was very interested to hear about the member's event with the billycarts, which was —

Ms J.J. Shaw: The Hills Billy Cart Festival.

Ms J.L. HANNS: The Hills Billy Cart Festival.

Ms J.J. Shaw: It'll travel to Collie if you want it to!

Ms J.L. HANNS: No, no. I think I might have one to rival the member's. We have a fabulous group in a beautiful town in my electorate called Donnybrook. The Donnybrook Town Team was responsible for this incredible project held in the last couple of weeks called the Dunny Do-over. It had a very run-down local government facility with toilets and change rooms and it decided to create a mural to brighten the area. The mural was unveiled clearly, but there was also a whole day of festivities, including, along with the Dunny Do-over mural, a dunny cart race. Community groups around my electorate built dunny carts. The only proviso was that the cart had to have a toilet seat and it was in. I am very pleased to announce that the Collie Police and Community Youth Centre took out first place in the dunny cart race. Minister Papalia and I were on hand to see the carts being built at the Collie PCYC during a recent visit, so I think, member for Swan Hills, we could get our heads together and come up with some kind of fusion or hybrid billycart–dunny cart race.

Ms J.J. Shaw: You're on!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Let us talk anyhoo.

The really exciting thing about this bill is the focus on Western Australia becoming a major events destination. It is incredible that with this legislation, we will be able to make sure that events are declared major events when they are required to be so declared and that those events facilitate a huge number of opportunities for Western Australia, particularly in social outcomes and, very importantly, economic outcomes. Those events are the drivers of a huge range of benefits for Western Australia.

I want to also look a little bit at the commercial interests part of this legislation. It will be really important once this bill is passed and becomes law to have the ability to declare a particular event a major event. The people who bear the costs of delivering these events need to make sure that their costs are covered. Protecting the commercial interests of event organisers is incredibly important in the success of an event.

Obviously, the events that may be classified as major events can be sporting, cultural, political or economic events. The Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting is a good example. Taking into account the size, importance and social and economic benefits of the event will help shape what events will be declared as major events for Western Australia.

We have a number of event locations around Western Australia that would benefit from some events being declared major events, including the Bendat Basketball Centre. The Minister for Sport and Recreation will be well familiar with the large range of places, including RAC Arena, Perth Motorplex and the like. Obviously, under the arts and culture portfolio, there are places like His Majesty's Theatre and the Subiaco Arts Centre and, importantly for me as a regional member, places in regional areas such as the Albany Entertainment Centre. Events in the regions will also be able to be declared major events under this legislation. That will mean that the social and economic benefits will travel with the event right across Western Australia to the regional areas. There are some outstanding opportunities. The member for Swan Hills mentioned the Shinju Matsuri Festival and the Ord Muster. They are already delivering major economic benefits.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Crab Fest is on this weekend!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Crab Fest for Mandurah, of course! Very good. The member for Mandurah will be there, I am sure.

I want to talk a little bit about my experience of travelling recently to London. I knew it was going to be New Year's Eve while we were in London, but at the time I booked I had no idea that the New Year's Eve festivities had not been attended in the flesh by people—although they had been broadcast—since, I believe, 2019. COVID had impacted events and things in London.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Boris had a party but he got into trouble!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Yes, of course, but we will not mention that!

My experience in London on New Year's Eve builds a vision for me of what could be possible for Western Australia. In London on New Year's Eve Big Ben tolls 12 times. That is pretty incredible because the sound goes through London. Once that last bell stops, the fireworks erupt. I think there were 12 000 fireworks in that location last year. Hundreds and hundreds of thousands of people visited the centre of London for this spectacular event. A very comprehensive traffic and transport, and safety and crowd control, management plan had to be established, and this brings me to our bill.

This bill will make sure that what happened to me in London on New Year's Eve will not happen here in Western Australia. I will explain the night we went to the fireworks. We travelled outside of the borough we were staying in to a restaurant. There was a party and a DJ. I had my 18-year-old daughter there, so it was all very fun. Then we travelled back on the tube to our hotel, which is where we had prime viewing for the event. Unbeknownst to me, it was a ticketed event and the barricades around the whole of the City of London had gone up while we were out for dinner. When we came back and tried to get to our hotel to change and go to where we could see the fireworks, we unfortunately did not have tickets to get past the barricade. This legislation will make sure that does not happen because entry points to events and movements within them will be very closely monitored. The police will be able to enter the event at points other than those dedicated to entry. There potentially will be entry charges to a major event declared anywhere in this location of Western Australia. Ticketing would obviously be limited to people who had purchased them. Again, I allude to the restriction on broadcasting and recording of the major events. In London it was not explained to us as tourists that the event would be locked down only to purchasers of tickets. We did not have a ticket, but the hotel we were staying at was inside the barricades. We had to lobby the local bobbies to let us in and luckily the swipe card for my hotel had its name on it, which is unusual—not a lot of places do that anymore. That was the only way I could prove I was staying in that hotel to get in.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Otherwise, you would have been wandering the streets of London!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Otherwise, I would have been wandering the streets of London! I am sure I could have found something to entertain myself in the wee hours of 1 January 2023.

The capital city of London came alive with that fireworks spectacular. It was interesting that the very next day all those restrictions stayed in place because there was a two-day festival in London. That festival fell within the plans that had been put through the City of London to run a major event on the following day after the fireworks. That event was a New Year's Day parade, and the parade went through the streets of London. It was something I had never seen. I thought it was pretty incredible. Basically, people have to nominate to be part of the street festival.

I will share some of the information on what the street festival looked like and the fact that those restrictions for the fireworks prior to New Year's Day stayed in place. There were 546 United States TV stations broadcasting the London New Year's Day parade. It was incredible to think that the US was interested. When I looked further into this, I found that the US sends representatives to participate in the parade. Eighty per cent of households in the United Kingdom watched the New Year's Day parade, and from the numbers that were there, a lot of them certainly attended as well. One thousand global TV stations carried the event in its entirety. It reached 300 million people globally. *BBC Breakfast* live, BBC One, Sky News and London Live all had exclusive rights to that broadcast. It was live streamed by 15 000 news organisations, including the *Mirror*, *Express*, *Daily Star*, *OK Magazine* and other associated press and print media as well. There was a social media reach of 586 000 between December and January finding out about the London New Year's Day parade. The really interesting thing for me was that a borough competition was run, so each of the boroughs in London could nominate to be part of the parade. Each borough had to develop a float for the parade and shared in a pot of £37 000 of prizes. The winning boroughs got to choose which charity they donated it to. It was an incredible whole-of-community event, and I thought it was amazing. The first prize went to the borough of Redbridge, and it donated its money to the King George and Queen's Hospitals Charity. Westminster borough donated to the Paddington Arts and Harrow borough donated to Harrow Carers young carers and Northwick Park Hospital dialysis and renal care. It is an incredible community-led parade that brought significant benefits to a major event.

To give an idea of the scale of this event, in the parade there were marching bands, brass bands and, as an example, the London Pearly Kings and Queens Society. That is a community group that people can belong to if they wear pearls of any sort, or tiaras, necklaces or whatever. That is how people belong to the London Pearly Kings and Queens Society. The London and Surrey Mini Owners Club had a particularly notable display, in my humble opinion. There was Downers Grove North High School from Illinois, USA. As I said, a huge number of schools travelled from the US to the United Kingdom for this event. I really noticed that that New Year's Eve–New Year's Day event brought a huge number of international visitors to London, particularly through this partnership with the US. Every second person I spoke to in London had an American accent. It was an incredible opportunity for tourism in the UK. Reflecting on that, those opportunities for major events that we design and promote in Western Australia also have the potential to deliver some of these amazing benefits, if we look at those examples.

The member for Swan Hills also talked about the football grand final, which was held in Perth in 2021. I must say that I had the pleasure of being in Perth. I did not get tickets to the grand final in 2021. As a West Coast Eagles member, I was very offended by that.

Mr R.H. Cook: Eagles members are often easily offended!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Deputy Premier, my word! I offer to speak on this bill as a favour to the Deputy Premier and he offends me in the chamber! Good Lord!

Several members interjected.

Ms J.L. HANNS: As a proud Eagles member —

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: Hear, hear!

Ms J.L. HANNS: Thank you, member for Murray–Wellington. I knew I would have allies in this place. I have travelled to Melbourne several times for a grand final—once in 2005 when the West Coast Eagles lost to Sydney by one point and then in 2006 when the Eagles won against Sydney by one point. I have had the opportunity to experience major events Melbourne-style and I can say that Western Australia does it equally well in the events we stage.

I want to mention quickly the scope and opportunities for events in Western Australia. I am a child of the 1970s. I was born in the 70s and grew up as a teenager in the 80s. We had that amazing event called Live Aid that was broadcast simultaneously from Los Angeles and London. I looked at Voyager's film clip for *Promise*. That band is representing Western Australia —

Ms H.M. Beazley: That is my nephew's band.

Ms J.L. HANNS: The member's nephew's band? Gee—we are full of talent, aren't we!

The film clip for the single that the band will perform at Eurovision 2023 features some incredible locations around Western Australia, particularly in Kalbarri National Park, with Nature's Window, and, I think, Hutt Lagoon. It gave me the idea that if money were no object to the Minister for Culture and the Arts or the Minister for Tourism, potentially we would have the ability to simultaneously broadcast people such as Ed Sheeran and Harry Styles from iconic Western Australian locations and live beam that across the world. We do not think small in Collie. We have the biggest dam mural in Australia and in the world. With big ideas, big things are possible. With this legislation,

we can be in a prime position to look at major events and the major events industry and to support all the amazing people who work in those industries as well. Importantly, we will have the legislation to support the event organisers. I commend the bill to the house.

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [1.32 pm]: I rise as the shadow Minister for Tourism and the lead speaker for the opposition on the Major Events Bill 2023. I would like to note that my absence from the house earlier was because I was attending an Office of the Auditor General’s presentation for new members, so I thought that was important to attend.

I have listened to everything that has been said about this bill since I have been in the house and I understand that the flavour of my speech will be exactly the same. Essentially, this bill will allow the declaration of major events and delegates responsibility to an authorised body. With this will come greater power and greater responsibility. However, the opposition thinks it is important that it will significantly cut red tape and will make WA far more attractive to international events. The importance of events cannot be underestimated. When someone is asked what tourism is, they think about generic tourism. Everyone is in tourism—the mechanic is in tourism and the hairdresser is in tourism. They do not see themselves as being in tourism, but they are. That is something we can work on as a state.

I am sure there is acknowledgement that there are major events that will not consider coming to WA unless this legislation is passed. I imagine that is across the board. There is a time-critical factor in processing this legislation, and that is important. Everyone would be in agreement with the notion of a framework to support major events in WA that will need to be prescribed by the minister as a major event. The opposition is keen to get a better understanding of exactly what determines a major event or how an event is categorised or determined as such. For example, the upcoming solar eclipse seems to be a major event in the eyes of many people. Is that an example of something that may be considered as a major event, given that it will go across multiple councils and an enormous geographical distance? From what I have read, I understand that the Tourism Council WA called for a tourism events and activation act to streamline approvals for significant state events, attractions and sustainable tourism development. It seems that the legislation does not quite fit what the council asked for in 2021, but, clearly, it is a step in the right direction.

I asked the minister yesterday whether he was the Minister for Tourism or the minister for tourism and events. Obviously, that is very broad and generic, but it was a conversation I had had with myself when I read through this legislation. Events is an enormous part of that tourism portfolio. I ask the minister to provide clarity around who is responsible for the bill. I understand he has clarified that it is the tourism minister.

Western Australia is a diverse and unique state that offers endless opportunities in the tourism space with something for everyone. I have been in tourism in the north west for a long time and I know people often get to Western Australia, particularly from the large international market, and say, “We went to the east first, Sydney and Melbourne, because we thought that was what Australia was.” When they get to Western Australia and go past Jurien Bay and hit the outback—the raw, dry and sometimes desolate landscape—that is what they imagine Australia to be. They find it intriguing. It is raw and it is real. I believe we have something for everyone here. We have open spaces, freedom, rugged outback landscapes and rolling green landscapes in the south. There is always something to climb. There is a mix of ocean and outback experiences and they are relatively close in proximity by our standards—maybe not by some of the international people’s standards. They struggle with the distances, but obviously once they are in Australia, they understand. Western Australia has multiple heritage sites. In the south west experiences there is a broad mix of opportunities for tourism in WA, some of which we take for granted. Visitors in the north see emus in the main streets of Shark Bay and Exmouth and kangaroos on the golf course at Joondalup. That is what they do not expect. Obviously, the quokkas at Rottnest are a major drawcard, too. Getting people here is probably the biggest challenge for some because of the distances. For me, the attraction of events coming to the state will be the catalyst to change that and to get people into Perth and, as the member said previously, to disperse them through the regions, which I think is really important.

We have the diversity as well. We have products coming online in the north. There are some fabulous station stays for anyone heading north. Wooramel River Retreat and Bullara station in the Exmouth–Gascoyne region are amazing attractions for international people in particular, as is Mt Augustus. Interestingly, when I was home two weeks ago, I had a conversation with two German ladies who were in a four-wheel drive camper and wanted to go to Mt Augustus. It was 35 degrees in Carnarvon. I asked where they were going and whether they had enough water. They said they were going to Mt Augustus, where it was probably about 55 degrees in the shade. I said, “Do you know how hot it is? Should you be going there at this time of year?” The response was, “Do you go to our country in the snow?” I said, “Yes.” Their response was that was why they were going there. As scary as it is in places like that, some of the international tourists are very adventurous and our state has a lot to offer in that space.

There is also a lot of history and heritage in our state. People can see a number of different things. We have the burrowing bees in the north, which David Attenborough did a story on. In my patch we have the overseas telecommunication dish, which was significant when man was put on the moon. The solar eclipse will occur and these icons will link in to that event. International tourists will come to Western Australia and they will hook into those natural landscapes and things that they will find attractive. There are wind festivals that interest a large overseas contingent of windsurfers and people who travel our coastline.

There are already a lot of events in our regions and across the state. A lot of those are run at a local level. They can be a little market on a main street right through to a massive event. Next weekend in Exmouth, we will have GAMEX, which starts on Friday and goes for a week. We have the Gascoyne Dash, which is the longest off-road race, through the outback, of 300 kilometres over two days. Obviously, we have the solar eclipse coming up. We also have food tourism. The south west is awash with it and the north also has a lot of food tourism and long-table lunches. There is a lot to offer people who are coming in, and, as I say, the events will be the catalyst for that if we can get the numbers of people into WA.

A previous member mentioned football and that is interesting because any events like football attract people to the city from not only overseas, but also the regions. Towns empty out when something significant is on, be it the Eagles or West Coast Fever. People will travel and spend a lot of money in Perth and the metro area. The CBD has struggled with a lack of spending over time, and since COVID, it has been a challenge. But travel spending has clearly been of help to the city because a lot of people base themselves there when they come down to Perth. Having said that, the member made the comment about being able to push people out to the regions if events are hosted in the city. Being able to maximise that opportunity and get people out into the regions is crucial, as is taking that next step to maximise the experience of those people who are coming in.

People say that distance is one of our greatest challenges, but others see it as an opportunity. We are a vast state, and the challenge is how accessible are the regions, but, in turn, the regions are also what we make of it and how we market it. Over time, we will get better at that, and if we have big events coming in, it will just become something that we do.

One of my observations during the Wander Out Yonder campaign was that many people had not been north of Joondalup and it was a culture shock for them. When they went north, they assumed that it would be just like Dunsborough, when in actual fact, in lots of cases, it was the complete opposite. The first tranche of people who came through were horrified, in some cases, and they found it hard to grapple with the fact that the internet did not work properly or the services and facilities were just not there. As time went on, we moved away from the turning point of COVID and people now come back and they are very understanding, especially about the fact that we do not have a lot of staff in this state. I have noticed that people have gone from asking for their table to be cleared to bringing their dishes up and leaving them at a central point. It is interesting how our mindset can change, and that is important when we think about how we market our tourism products and those experiences because there is a lot to be said for how we turn those perceptions around.

Events are an important part of our communities no matter how small or large they are. We all remember going to events. The Move concert down on the foreshore in the 1980s rings a bell for me. It might have been one of the first concerts that happened there, and we thought it was fantastic.

Mr R.H. Cook: Maybe, member, that's like Woodstock. If you could remember it!

Ms M. BEARD: Yes! My kids are now constant festival goers and they are always looking for events. It is something that has become part of their DNA. We have music festivals and the international balloon festival. Championships are looking at doing events here. With Perth being the gateway to the rest of the state, we have an important opportunity to maximise events for the rest of the region. As I said before, if we can leverage the regions socially and economically, it will improve the overall vibrancy of our state. It will improve jobs, and it will flow through to our economy and our communities and add to the prosperity of our state.

In 2018–19, tourism's contribution to the WA economy was \$12 billion. There was a drop in 2020–21 of about 45 per cent, and there are lots of reasons for that. I was fortunate enough to go to the Sydney Olympics and I have travelled to international events. I remember going to America and, as we are talking about putting an event into a space, Americans used one part of Indianapolis for a single event. The competitors' dining room was the ice-skating rink and the merchandise tent was in the park. That is just an example of a significant event and it worked very well. It was really clear to me, many years ago, how much of an impact that had on Indianapolis at the time, with so many people in that space. The Sydney Olympics was an example of that, as was the Adelaide grand prix when it was there. It is the same situation. It had a big footprint across the city. It was a vibrant city, and it was something that international travellers and Australian travellers really enjoyed.

One of the other aspects that is really important for Western Australia, and one that I believe we have the opportunity to lead from the front, is the Indigenous tourism products that we have. In Western Australia, they are growing quickly. In my own area we have the Gwoonwardu Mia Gascoyne Aboriginal Heritage and Cultural Centre, which has reopened. It is fabulous. It is just about to start some training programs with some young people in the town, re-engaging with people. Darren "Capes" Capewell in Shark Bay is a stalwart of the industry. He is a great mentor for many of the people coming through with his Wula Gura Nyinda Eco Cultural Adventures. We have a new tour. Rennee Turner has just started the Wooramulla Eco Cultural Journeys, and she is forging a pathway forward, as is Hazel Walgar who is leading the Baiyungu Dreaming tours along the Ningaloo Coast. I have had fabulous feedback from these tours, particularly from international people. International people are looking for this product and we have an amazing opportunity in this state to offer it when others cannot. It is important to nurture these businesses. The events that we are hoping to attract will contribute significantly to this effort.

It has been difficult to navigate the upcoming total solar eclipse from an operational and cost perspective because it will be so large. It will be over multiple councils, and I suspect that it might be a major event. It is a natural event. We cannot stop it. Yesterday, I told the minister that I had a constituent come into the office and say, “Ma’am, I think we need to stop this event. It’s just going to be too big and we won’t cope.” I had to say to him that I was very sorry but this event cannot be stopped. The solar eclipse may be an example for which some of the provisions in this bill will be useful.

We understand that visitation is down and spend is up and that may well be attributed to inflation. Some of the hotels have picked up some of the fly-in fly-out workers. I have been staying in hotels at times and they have permanents there who come and go. They have a booking and they say, “See you in two weeks.” Those places have plugged the short-term accommodation gap in the tourism market. Obviously, that will change if we have people come in from overseas, and demand for short-term accommodation will increase. I am confident that we will bounce back, and I am really pleased that we can attract some big international events. Unfortunately, natural disasters seem to play a significant role in WA’s tourism landscape. Cyclone Seroja set the north back a bit, as did the Kimberley floods. But to the credit of the tourism businesses that operate in this state, their resilience is remarkable and I congratulate everyone on that. It has been a long journey, over the last few years, in every aspect of tourism throughout the state. In the north, the Kimberley obviously has a way to go yet. With the Fitzroy River being the gateway from the east, it is going to cause some issues for everyone else further down the line, such as those people who come through the top of the state and go out through Esperance. Hopefully, they will decide to go the other way and we will find another pathway for them.

As a whole, the bill will enable development and growth within our tourism industry, and I hope that from a regional perspective we can leverage as much as we can off that. I look forward to clarifying with the minister some of the queries that I have in consideration in detail.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [1.49 pm]: I would like to make a very brief contribution to the debate on the Major Events Bill 2023 to allow the Acting Speaker to perhaps also make a contribution by vacating the chair.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): I need to find someone to quickly get in my seat!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I think this is a great bill and I fully endorse it. During my short time in tourism, I was able to make some contribution towards its development. It is also important to note that the Arts and Culture Trust Act is now in place, which allows the Arts and Culture Trust to undertake a range of measures similar to those contained in this bill. In fact, the bill before the house today draws on a number of the elements of the Arts and Culture Trust Act, which was put through this place last year. With those few words, which I think have been a major contribution to the debate on this bill, I will —

The ACTING SPEAKER: I can see the member for Cockburn; he might be able to sit in my seat for a minute, if he would not mind.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I agree with the speakers who highlighted the opportunities that will now exist as a result of this bill. Obviously, the minister has already planned for the extravaganza down in Fremantle as part of the Bon Scott arrangements, which will be wonderful.

Mr R.H. Cook: High Voltage.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: The High Voltage festival announcement, which will see a significant part of Fremantle activated for that very important acknowledgement of a great Western Australian musician and the contribution that AC/DC made to our cultural history.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [1.51 pm]: I thank the Leader of the House for stretching. I have been inspired by him and some of the other speakers today, and I of course support the Major Events Bill 2023. I was intending to talk in unfavourable terms about an event that I attended at a winery, which I will not name, but that is a grudge. I will save my grudges for St Patrick’s Day, because as we know, those of Irish heritage are great at bearing grudges.

I want to talk about a survey I got yesterday from the City of Perth about the branding of Perth. Of course, branding goes hand in hand with conducting major events. The Lord Mayor seems to be absolutely fixed on the name “City of Light”. I have a number of problems with this. The first is that many people who might be minded to travel to Perth will not remember that in 1962, when astronauts flew over Perth, John Glenn—I stand to be corrected—said, “Oh, look; we can see Perth.” There would have been a black expanse for thousands of kilometres around Perth, and it stood out like a beacon. In those days, the Swan Brewery was also lit up with the sailing ship; some people will be old enough to remember that. The other reason I think that City of Light is inappropriate is that Paris already has it. Why would we have a brand name that has been taken for many, many years by Paris?

The tabloids around the place like to call Perth the meth capital or the nang capital, but maybe that is not appropriate, so I might share with members the branding of some other cities so that they can get their creative juices flowing. Melbourne was known as the “Athens of the South”, but it has now embarked upon a major branding exercise and is now the big “M”. Hong Kong is the “Pearl of the Orient”, New York is the “Big Apple”, LA is the “City of Angels”,

Singapore is the “Lion City” and Adelaide is the “City of Churches”. How inappropriate is that with all those grisly murders? I do not know! London is the “Big Smoke”, although it has done a lot to alleviate that issue, and Venice is the “Bride of the Sea”, which was news to me when I hit Wikipedia this morning. That goes back to 1177. On the fortieth day after Easter, a special ceremony is held in which the city is married to the sea. I have to say that that branding exercise has not been overly successful! Boston is “Beantown”, Chicago is the “Windy City”, Las Vegas is “Sin City”, Rome is the “Eternal City”, Mumbai is the “City of Dreams” and Shanghai is “Magic City”. Oslo is “Tiger Town”, which is sort of odd considering it is a long way from the natural habitat of tigers, but I understand that there is a very large statue of a tiger there. Finally, Jaipur, which I have been privileged to have been to, is the “Pink City”, because that signifies the pink buildings there.

What are we going to do about Perth? I did think “Sun City” was a good idea because we could just pinch that from Yanchep, but of course there is Sun City in South Africa. Then I thought, “Well, what is Perth renowned for?” We always get mentioned in the context of being remote or far away, so maybe something about getting away from it all by coming to Perth, or even getting away from everything! Perth has diversity and variety, and people can be out of the office for a long time. One thing that strikes me is that if you go to China and look up at the grey sky and you ask, “Is pollution bad?”, they say, “No, no, no. That’s not pollution; that is mist.” We get told that heavy pollution in China is mist. I have met a few parliamentary delegations that have come here from China and they have been absolutely amazed by the sky; they suddenly realise that the sky is blue! We have a vast sky, so maybe it could be something along those lines. The other reason I think City of Light is inappropriate is that we do not have daylight saving here. Just when people are in a position to enjoy the light, it is bloody dark!

I know that Tourism WA might have some involvement in the branding as well, but I just make it absolutely clear to the Lord Mayor that if the city is going to send me a survey asking me what I think about the name “City of Light”, I will say that I do not think it is very original or a good idea.

The last thing I will say is that some years ago, Robert De Niro came to Perth very briefly. As usually happens when people literally get off the airline steps, some journo put a microphone under his nose and asked, “What do you think about Perth?” Of course, most people are flummoxed by that, but his first impression was, “It looks like LA.” We can see why he would get that impression from the freeways, the glaring sun and so forth, but as I said to someone when I read that comment, that is not necessarily complimentary, because let’s face it: Robert De Niro chooses to live in New York!

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism) [1.58 pm] — in reply: I would like to begin by thanking everyone for their contributions to the debate on the Major Events Bill 2023, and in particular the member for Landsdale for that final burst! I want to thank all members, because all took the opportunity to observe just how important it is that we continue to diversify our economy and that we make sure that tourism is an important part of that diversification process. I think every speaker recognised that Western Australia is an incredible place to visit, holiday, live, work or study. Everyone understood and acknowledged that Western Australia has a huge opportunity for the future by continuing to make sure that we drive visitation and have the opportunity to benefit from the economic activity that comes with that. Events are an important part of that tourism strategy of making sure that we continue to attract visitors to Western Australia.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 982.]

VISITORS — CURTIN STUDENT GUILD

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.59 pm]: I welcome all the guests to the gallery today. I understand that we may have Dylan Botica, president of Curtin Student Guild, and the executive of Curtin Student Guild in the gallery. If you are here, welcome—and to all other visitors who come here to witness question time, welcome also.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GOLD CORPORATION — FEDERAL TREASURER’S COMMENTS

118. **Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:**

I refer to revelations of government’s failures at Gold Corporation. Does the Premier share in the concerns of his federal colleague Dr Jim Chalmers, who said these exposed failures are incredibly concerning and very troubling or does he stand by his comments that they are simply a “storm in a teacup”?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

As I understand it, the federal Treasurer was commenting on the matters relating to the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre inquiries, and that relates to some of the processes and systems in place for reporting of transactions in relation to gold. Obviously, we shared in the concerns in relation to that, which is why we are investing \$34 million to improve the systems and provide more personnel inside the Gold Corporation to deal with those issues. Those issues have been around for many years, including for the entire term of the last Liberal–National

government during which nothing was done. When it was brought to our attention, we ensured that action was taken because it was reported to us. For eight and a half years, the former government did nothing about that. The entire time, that issue existed.

In relation to the matters surrounding alloying of gold, which is what I was referring to in a private comment yesterday, the issue was brought to attention in 2021, 18 months or so ago, and action was taken to rectify the situation.

GOLD CORPORATION — FEDERAL TREASURER'S COMMENTS

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

I have a supplementary question. Does the Premier continue to downplay the seriousness of these revelations because he is concerned about what a royal commission may uncover?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

No. The opposition has called for five royal commissions now into things as diverse as the Kimberley floods and COVID. It called for one into Banksia Hill Detention Centre, Gold Corporation and the health system. If the Liberals and Nationals were in office, it would be a lawyer-led recovery in the state. About \$500 million to \$1 billion would be spent on the royal commissions members opposite have called for in the last couple of months, let alone what they will call for in the next two years. We are rectifying the matters that were brought to attention that members opposite took no action over during their eight and a half years in office. The Leader of the Opposition needs to understand that the issues concerning the United States and the model code that applies to some of the states have been around since 1998—during the Court Liberal government, the Labor government, and then the Barnett Liberal–National government and then my government. It was brought to our attention and we are fixing it. In relation to the AUSTRAC inquiry, they have been around since the mid-2000s, during the entire term of the previous government—and we are fixing it.

On the other issues concerning the alloying of gold for the Shanghai Gold Exchange, as I explained to the member—I think the member still does not understand—our gold is 99.99 per cent pure, which meets all international standards. The remaining 0.01 per cent of the gold is meant to be a combination of copper, lead and silver. The Mint gold is slightly more silver than copper. That is the issue. That was rectified because it was identified in two gold bars. If the opposition wants to spend \$50 million on a royal commission into that, we will add that to its expenses and its commitments. If that is what it wants to do, if it wants to say that is its commitment if it is elected, we will add all these royal commissions to its spend.

Several members interjected.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Are they not? They are not commitments the opposition is making. They are just things the opposition is saying now that it is not committed to.

PERTH CBD — COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

120. Ms H.M. BEAZLEY to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's record investment in major community infrastructure projects around the Perth CBD, including the new Causeway pedestrian and cyclist bridges.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how these major projects will encourage people to visit, study, work and live in the city?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house how the new Causeway bridges will boost connectivity between the city and the wider Victoria Park community?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

- (1)–(2) It has been a big few weeks for Perth. We have had some of the greatest bands and performers in the world here. We have had Ed Sheeran, Harry Styles, Rod Stewart and Cyndi Lauper, and a bunch of others that I have never heard of before but apparently they are quite significant. We have had the recent UFC bout and we will shortly hold some of the games of the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup here in Western Australia.

Last week we started construction of something that is even more exciting, and that is the new iconic bridges that will join Victoria Park through to the Perth CBD. We consulted the local Whadjuk working group, which I think is termed the Matagarup Elders Group, on design and so forth, and the project will connect Victoria Park at the foreshore at McCallum Park to Heirisson Island and onto Point Fraser and the Perth CBD. It is jointly funded by the commonwealth and state with \$50 million each. It will be two cable-stayed bridges providing a six-metre-wide shared path so that people will be able to cycle and walk across there. We can imagine that all the people in Victoria Park and Cannington and suburbs beyond who ride their bikes or walk will be able to use that to access the city. It will provide a new route for activity around the city with Matagarup Bridge and around. I suspect that it will become a running and walking track once this is up and operational, and it will make the area safer because currently riding or walking across the Causeway is not as good as it could be. That is what will happen.

That is in addition to all the major projects the government has funded, which total around \$2 billion, including an Aboriginal cultural centre in the city, the repairs and upgrades to the Perth Concert Hall, the upgrade of the WACA, the upgraded His Majesty's Theatre, the Art Gallery of Western Australia rooftop activation, the Edith Cowan University inner-city campus and the East Perth power station and a range of other projects, including some initiatives for housing and homelessness services in the city. This is one of the great projects we are putting in place to continue to make Perth one of the world's great cities.

GOLD CORPORATION — EURO PACIFIC BANK

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

I refer to an international day of action conducted by chiefs of global tax enforcement on 24 January 2020 and Gold Corporation being compelled to produce information related to the Euro Pacific Bank to federal agencies. As minister responsible, was the Premier or his office made aware of this?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I am unaware of what the Leader of the Opposition is referring to and the dates and so forth. If he would like to give me some notice, I might be able to answer the member's question.

MAJOR EVENTS

122. Ms K.E. GIDDENS to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's tourism strategy to attract visitors to Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how facilitating exclusive major events in WA, such as the upcoming High Voltage festival in Fremantle, can provide significant economic and social benefits?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house what these major events mean for local businesses and tourism operators?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question.

- (1)–(2) We can all cast our minds back to 2020—it seems a lifetime ago—when we all celebrated the *Highway to Hell* as part of Perth Festival. It was an incredible event—one of the few events at which we could get the Premier in a black T-shirt, and a great opportunity to celebrate the rock'n'roll highway of Canning Highway. It was a major event. It was awarded the best cultural event at the 2020 Australian Event Awards with 150 000 people from overseas and interstate, and, of course, just a few Western Australians as well, who injected over \$6 million into the Western Australian economy, generating worldwide interest to our great state. Such was the impact of this event that the Premier almost renamed Canning Highway “Bon Scott Highway”.

As the Minister for Culture and the Arts is often to observe in this place, we cannot underestimate the importance of these types of world-class, homegrown events continuing, particularly in the culture and arts space, to promote Western Australian tourism and the Western Australian economy more broadly.

On the weekend, I had the pleasure of joining a number of members of Parliament, including the members for Bicton and Fremantle, to announce the line-up for this year's major rock'n'roll festival, the High Voltage festival, which will be held on 7 May. It is another opportunity to shine a light on Western Australia's great rock'n'roll heritage, particularly through the life of Bon Scott and AC/DC more generally, but also to foster and grow our own cultural and creative industries. By continuing to grow these world-class events, we have the opportunity to continue to attract more people to the state, showcase Western Australia and encourage people to explore everything that Western Australia has to offer.

We know that events play an important role as part of this economy. The Premier made that observation a short while ago. We had Ed Sheeran here at the weekend and over 73 000 people attended that event. Imagine a situation in which we have Rod Stewart and Cyndi Lauper going head to head against Björk! We are changing the pub conversations. It is no longer about whether one supports the Dockers or the Eagles; it is about whether one supports Björk or Cyndi Lauper and Rod Stewart! This continues to make Western Australia a great place to live and continues to make sure that we drive our hospitality and tourism venues right across the state. The Ultimate Fighting Championship is a great example of an event that brings people into the state—we see people come in and spend their dollars in our cafes, pubs, clubs and hotels—and continues to drive the diversity of our economy through a growing tourism calendar. We want to continue to make sure that we can grow these homegrown events. We have seen the success of things like the Vivid Sydney festival and Hobart's Dark Mofu festival. We want to continue to make sure we can have these homegrown events that are organically developed within Western Australia and that draw upon our great cultural and artistic history and heritage, and make sure that we can continue to celebrate everything that is Western Australia. This is about diversifying our economy, growing our tourism industry and making sure that Western Australians—prior to COVID, over 100 000 of them enjoyed working in

our tourism industry—have the great jobs of tourism into the future so that we can continue to bring back this great industry and continue to make Perth and, of course, our entire state of Western Australia a great place to live, work and play.

GOLD CORPORATION — SAM WALSH

123. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to Sam Walsh's appointment as chair of Gold Corporation by this government and his continued reluctance to front media and answer questions on the Perth Mint matter. Why does the Premier refuse to request Mr Walsh to outline what he and the board knew about these issues at Gold Corp?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The Leader of the Liberal Party asked the exact same question yesterday and I answered her question yesterday. People are private individuals. I can control myself, and I have gone out and answered the questions in relation to these matters.

GOLD CORPORATION — SAM WALSH

124. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. He is the chair of a government trading enterprise. He is the government's hand-picked chair. Why is the Premier refusing to direct him to provide an explanation to the public?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

There are certain things that I control. Some people are outside of political life, and they are in other roles. He is not involved in political life. There are certain things that the Leader of the Liberal Party controls; for instance, she controls Mr Collier. She could advise him that he is no longer going to be on her frontbench.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr M. McGOWAN: She could do that because that is within her control, but she decides not to do that. In relation to people outside the Parliament who are on government boards and so forth, me directing them as to when and where they must do media is not really something that governments do. But I challenge the Leader of the Liberal Party: the things within her control, for instance, the role and performance of Mr Collier and some of his past statements in relation to women, are things that she should take up, and as Leader of the Liberal Party, I would encourage her to do so.

KIMBERLEY FLOODS — TRANSPORT LINKS

125. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the devastation caused by the Kimberley flood event and ex-tropical cyclone Ellie. Can the minister update the house on the interim measures this government has put in place to ensure that people in flood-affected communities can stay connected and essential freight and supplies can be provided, and can the minister advise the house how the government is progressing with the long-term recovery across the region?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

I thank the member for Geraldton for that question. I also want to recognise the strong advocacy of the member for Kimberley. On behalf of the house, we all extend our condolences to the member for Kimberley on her recent loss.

As we know, the Kimberley floods had a devastating impact in that region. We have been working very hard with the community and of course with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services to get the reconnections

happening. It is a challenging time. It is a challenging area with variable water flows, and, of course, we are trying to address all these challenges during the wet season.

Two weeks ago, the Premier and I visited the Great Northern Highway at Willare to inspect the works that had been completed to allow for that road to reopen. In just 24 days, the workers employed by Main Roads and the contractors in that region had that road reopened. It is now open 24/7 in both directions. Over 50 000 tonnes of material were used, with 55 items of plant and 90 workers at the site. There were 24 local businesses engaged and 14 per cent of them were Aboriginal businesses. That reopening allowed for the vital connection to be re-established and gave a sense of relief to those in Fitzroy Crossing and in Derby. I again thank all the workers for the work they undertook.

We now have and will soon be signing a contract with the Georgiou Group and BMD Constructions for the construction of the new Fitzroy River Bridge. We undertook a tender process that would normally take about a year. We did that in about three weeks. We have now established the preferred contractors and we will be signing the contract very soon for the construction of the new Fitzroy River Bridge. We know that, again, this one will be challenging. We are now doing forward works in looking at the design of the bridge, but we know that this reconnection is vital for not only Fitzroy Crossing, but also the entire Kimberley and north west.

Yesterday, the new ferry services started to operate across the Fitzroy River, and the new barge services are operating and taking the community back and forward for the first time in that area. That barge service was, again, something that we put in place to ensure that there is connectivity. We will continue to work in particular in relation to the water levels in the river to make sure that we can operate that barge effectively and safely and look at expanding it from transporting people to other freight and other connections.

We will also be commencing work on construction of the new low-level river crossings in the next month. Again, pending water flows, this new low-level crossing will allow for connectivity in the dry season. It very much addresses many of the concerns that have been expressed by key industry groups like the pastoralists to make sure that we have connections in the dry season to be able to move freight in that entire area.

As members can see, there has been a lot happening. I want to thank the crew who have been working up north. I want to thank the member for Kimberley for her work liaising with the community members, and my colleagues, in particular the Minister for Emergency Services, Hon Stephen Dawson, who are working together to try to address all the outstanding issues.

Of course, this is one of the issues the Premier alluded to. One of the members in the other house, Hon Neil Thomson, reckons we need a royal commission into the floods in the Kimberley.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Why did it rain so much! I do not know why we would need to do that. As members can see, we are out there delivering practical solutions on the ground. We could run a royal commission that spends millions of dollars and distracts us from the task at hand, which is getting those connections in place and making sure that the community is once again connected.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Opposition.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister!

GOLD CORPORATION — REVIEW

126. **Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:**

I refer to the announcement by the Minister for Mines and Petroleum that a root-and-branch review was to be conducted into Gold Corporation in September 2022, with a reporting deadline of December 2022. I refer also to the information that he provided to senior government officials last year. Has the Premier or his office been briefed on this review or have they been provided with any copies of it?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The Minister for Mines and Petroleum is not here. He is obviously involved in some matters in which he is pursuing the state's interests overseas. I am sure he will be back and able to answer the member's questions in due course. I do know, as I may have outlined to the house yesterday, that he requested Gold Corporation to undertake some due diligence of its operations, maybe last year. That is how the issues surrounding the US model code were uncovered, which have been around since 1998, and some compliance issues there that we are in the process of fixing. I know that he ensured that Gold Corporation undertook that activity.

In terms of the exact detail of the member's question, I would urge him to ask the Minister for Mines and Petroleum.

GOLD CORPORATION — REVIEW

127. **Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier commit to obtaining and tabling that review in full to start rebuilding public trust in the governance of Gold Corporation?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The governance issues of Gold Corporation were brought to attention because Gold Corporation brought them to attention. They had existed for years during the entire term of the previous government—the entire term—and nothing was done. When they came to attention, we put in place processes to repair them. That is what occurred.

The member is calling for a royal commission into this matter. What would that royal commission look at? It would look at a government that took action to fix some of the compliance issues, which I understand, certainly in the case of the US model code, have not caused any loss or damage to anyone. In the case of the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre inquiry, the systems and processes do not accord with the expectations of the laws put in place in 2006, but it has been brought to attention and we are investing \$34 million to fix it. During the eight and a half years of the previous government, members opposite did nothing on it. If there were the royal commission that the opposition is calling for, what would it look at? It would look at a government that is fixing it versus a government that did nothing. That is what would be apparent and plain in one of the opposition's five royal commission calls. That includes, as the Minister for Transport outlined, a royal commission into floods. Floods

have been around for a while. They have occurred for the entirety of my lifetime. I remember them. Someone might say it goes back to the ark, or maybe even before! Maybe members opposite want a royal commission into that. They go out there and cry wolf at everything—floods and our COVID performance. They say we have to have a royal commission into that. We are having an inquiry into that. An ex-Liberal health minister is on that inquiry. That is how accountable we are. An ex-Liberal health minister is inquiring into our COVID performance, yet members opposite call for a royal commission into it. We had the best health and economic outcomes in the entire world—bar none. Out of eight billion people, Western Australia, with 2.7 million people, came out on top. Members opposite have called for a royal commission into it. Maybe they need to be a bit sensible in what they call for.

SHARKS — HAZARD MITIGATION — SWAN RIVER

128. Mrs L.M. O'MALLEY to the Minister for Fisheries:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's comprehensive shark management strategies to improve safety in our waters.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how this government's shark hazard mitigation strategy is being expanded to develop a better understanding of shark movements in the Swan River?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how swimming enclosures are being used to mitigate risks at popular river swimming locations, including Bicton Baths?

Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:

I thank the member for Bicton for not only the question, but also her unwavering commitment to the safety of ocean users and people within the river systems, and for the many discussions we have had about how to improve safety and the provision of information to ocean users in particular.

- (1)–(2) Today, I very pleased to announce joint work between the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to expand the process of shark tagging within the Swan and Canning River estuaries. This will involve an expansion of the existing research program into juvenile bull shark populations in the river to include adult bull sharks. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will commence tagging programs tonight to target adult bull sharks and place tags within those bull sharks that will interface with three new acoustic receivers that will be placed in the river.

This is a very new process. We recognise that the river system is a very strong interactive zone. There is a lot of movement of boats up and down the river. The ability of our tags and receivers to interface through that traffic will be an important part of assessing how we can use acoustic receivers in the river system into the future. This is a very important piece of work. The acoustic receivers will have the ability to interact with our shark alert network and expand real-time opportunities to advise people of the presence of bull sharks within the river system. Importantly, it will provide research information about the seasonality of bull shark populations, where they are swimming, the aggregations and potential populations within the river system. This is part of our ongoing approach to shark mitigation by building up a solid evidence base and understanding of the patterns of behaviour of sharks that might present a risk. The expanded network of combining this new system with the VR2 receivers that already exist within the river for the juvenile tagging program will help to improve knowledge about seasonal movements and the abundance of bull sharks. It will also provide a better understanding of the connectivity of bull shark populations and how they interact with each other. The new system will also assess the efficiency of detection approaches, including real-time detection in the river system. This is a very important step forward in how we can manage risk issues within the rivers, which we know are very popular and mean an awful lot to our communities along the river system.

I am very pleased to also announce that following the announcement that I made in February with the member for Bicton that we are progressing down the track of putting in place the first swimming enclosure on the river, which will be at Bicton Baths. That will provide the first opportunity, in partnership with the City of Melville, for an enclosed area of the river that will prevent access by sharks. The river system is very different from ocean environments. I have written to other local governments to assess their interest in looking at all forms of shark mitigation, but particularly enclosure options, recognising that enclosure options will not be suitable for every location in the river as a consequence of river stream currents and boating interactions et cetera.

That is part of our program and we will be looking very closely at any additional opportunities that might come out of both the shark tagging program and the beach enclosure program to improve safety. This is part of our evidence-based shark mitigation program. We will continue to build our knowledge base and to do our very, very best to understand shark behaviour and the risk of interaction with our communities and with individuals who have taken to using our oceans and river system. We are committed to looking at how we can inform the public and can make our waterways as safe as possible.

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

129. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:

I refer to a report from the Australian Medical Association that was published in *The Australian* of 31 January that states that across Australia, seven out of 10 of the worst performing emergency departments for failing to treat patients within clinically recommended time frames are in Western Australia. Can the minister explain why Western Australia was the worst performing jurisdiction?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

The member's colleague sitting right next to him has already asked this exact question. I would remind the member for Cottesloe that the Leader of the Liberal Party has this year asked me the exact same question, although she did ask it incorrectly. She said seven out of 10, when the report says seven out of eight.

That report was developed using Australasian Triage Score 3 data. That is people who are unwell and need to see someone within 30 minutes or so. That was one dataset that was used and, frankly, weaponised for a particular purpose.

Overall, Western Australia is performing very well on the four-hour rule. That is the standard measurement that all emergency departments measure each other against. We are performing very well on that four-hour rule.

We are also performing well in our increase in FTEs—in improving the number of staff on the floor supporting our health system.

We have also delivered 523 beds to our system in 12 months—523 beds, which includes 40 mental health transition care beds. All those beds help to ease flow through our hospitals—through every single part of the hospital.

It is no secret that, certainly over the last 12 months, it has been very challenging in hospitals around the country because of very high levels of COVID in our hospitals. We had COVID for most of last year, including right up until the end of the year, which meant that we had a lot of leave and a lot of people not coming to work, and quite rightly, because they did not want to infect people. Every hospital system is challenged by this.

I take issue with the data and I take issue with the report. I have to say that following the release of that report, the president of the Australian Medical Association went on to do an interview that was factually wrong. He has since called me and apologised for getting it so wrong in the claims that he made. I am saying that they are using data to get a particular result. Overall, we are performing very well nationally; our emergency departments are absolutely performing very well. Our ramping figures for this February were significantly lower than last year when we also had COVID in the community. Our healthcare workers are working —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! I am going to ask you to cease those repetitive interjections.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I will conclude by saying that I am looking forward to hearing some constructive ideas from the opposition on health. I am looking forward to hearing a policy. I look forward to hearing constructive ideas. Six years and not one policy!

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS

130. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. How can the best performing economic state in the country continue to have such —
Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! No! Can everyone, including ministers, be quiet. I would like to hear the question in silence. I am not interested in your commentary or reaction to it. It is a supplementary question.

Dr A.D. Buti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister, that is the second time you have interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: How can the best performing economic state in the country continue to have such a poor health-related outcome under the minister's watch?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

First of all, on behalf of the government, I will take the compliment from the member for Cottesloe that Western Australia is the best performing economic state in the country, with a high rate of employment and very high rates of participation. That is good for households.

I will outline the investment by this government in our health system, particularly as it relates to emergency departments. Much of this investment is actually in commonwealth areas. We have had \$60 million to convert 120 temporary transition care beds—that is, aged-care beds—into permanent care beds. This government is funding that. There is \$22 million to uplift adult community health treatments to support people.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The member asked the question; I am giving him the answer. We have spent \$90 million on innovation in how we support our patients to find alternative care, because at the moment the emergency department is the only funnel. We know that primary care is struggling. We know that people cannot get in to see general practitioners.

This government has made record investment in our hospital system, from the emergency department through to discharge and through to community services. I look forward to the opposition's solutions to the complex issues that face every single health system around the world.

TARGET 120 — KARRATHA

131. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting at-risk young people through successful early intervention programs such as Target 120.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house how Target 120 is making communities across Western Australia safer, while also steering at-risk youth away from the criminal justice system?
- (2) Can the minister update the house on the government's \$11.1 million investment in Target 120 at nine additional locations, including Karratha?

Ms S.E. WINTON replied:

I thank the member for Pilbara for his ongoing strong advocacy for his community, particularly at-risk children and families in his community. He is doing a fantastic job.

- (1)–(2) The McGowan government's early intervention program, Target 120, is helping to steer at-risk young people away from the criminal justice system, helping us to create safer communities. The program has been extremely successful to date, with nearly half of all participants not having any further contact with the justice system. We see these great results that this program is achieving and know that the best way to ensure that it succeeds is to engage with local service providers and local people with a good understanding of their own communities and strong connections with local people and young people.

Since 2018, \$31.5 million has been invested by the McGowan government into this important early intervention program at a total of 20 sites. That included investment of \$11.1 million from the last budget to roll out this important and very successful program in nine new locations, including Karratha of course, member for Pilbara. Earlier this month, it was my great pleasure to travel to the Pilbara and to places like Newman, Port Hedland and Karratha and get a clear understanding that "King Kevin" is ruling up there. People can see lots of infrastructure and investment that has transformed the Pilbara in the last six years. From the perspective of my portfolios, it was really nice to see the priority that the member for Pilbara is placing on supporting his community and the local communities with what are some challenging issues not only in the Pilbara but throughout the state, and I commend him for that.

Of course, together with the member for Pilbara, we announced that the Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation is the successful service provider chosen to deliver Target 120 in Karratha. Robe River is an Aboriginal community-controlled organisation and has been in operation since 2013. It represents the Robe River Kuruma people, who have traditional rights to an area covering nearly 16 000 square kilometres in the Pilbara. It is committed to progressing the interests of the Robe River Kuruma people and delivering capacity-building programs to help improve the community. It is little wonder that, with its experience and commitment to the local community, it is perfectly placed to deliver the Target 120 program in Karratha. A community youth officer has been working with an interagency group to identify suitable young people for the program while arrangements are underway for Robe River to take over the program.

This is another example of the McGowan government's commitment to improving the lives of young people and supporting young people and steering them away from the youth justice system. Service providers and agencies work together to tackle the various factors that increase a young person's chance of interacting with the youth justice system. They are complex issues; it is alcohol and drug related, it is housing, it is domestic violence and it is a failure to engage with school. Target 120, at its heart, brings people and organisations together to support young people to turn around their lives. It has been successful. The data shows that nearly 50 per cent of young people who have been engaged with the Target 120 program have had no future contact with the youth justice system.

Karratha is the fifteenth Target 120 site to be rolled out in WA, and more locations are being implemented as a priority across the state. I look forward to updating the house at every opportunity I get about this most successful program. I know that the member is really pleased that the Robe River Kuruma Aboriginal Corporation is doing this important work. It was lovely to talk to Terrance, Rodney and Tom about their vision to support young people in their community.

The SPEAKER: The Leader of the Liberal Party, with the last question.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS

132. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the deputy coroner's report on the death of Aishwarya Aswath and the recommendation that the WA government consider the introduction of safe harbour provisions to protect nurses from Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency investigations. Does the Premier support the introduction of this legislation to protect nurses when an adverse event occurs when known risks in the workplace have been identified and not rectified by the employer; and, if so, when will such legislation be introduced?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The recommendation will be carefully considered by the government. Obviously, we need to balance a range of factors. We have not made any decision on it, but it would need to be considered at a national level as well we are advised. AHPRA is a national body created under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. It would therefore need some further consideration before it could be implemented.

AUSTRALIAN HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION AGENCY INVESTIGATIONS

133. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given this recommendation, will the Premier now apologise to the health workers whom this government referred to investigation to AHPRA following Aishwarya Aswath's death?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

The referral of health workers was required by law. If you did not do it, you would be breaking the law. If the member is suggesting that we break the law —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr M. McGOWAN: — you are not fit for office.

The SPEAKER: That concludes question time.

MAJOR EVENTS BILL 2023*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism) [2.41 pm] — in reply: I will make a few remarks in response to commentary from members. From the get-go, it is important to make the observation that it would be a fairly rare activity when enlivening this legislation once it is enacted. This is essentially for multi-day, multi-venue, commercially protected events. A number of members made a range of observations. It would not be, for instance, the sort of legislation used for Ed Sheeran, even though that was the biggest concert in the state's history. Those events take place inside venues with well understood arrangements and processes, and the current laws adequately cater for road transport and other related purposes. As the member for North West Central observed, this is to make Western Australia more attractive for large events that typically have an international, multi-venue flavour and multi-day aspect.

A very good example of course in the first instance is the FIFA Women's World Cup. A number of members will note that in relation to this event, I have been referring to Perth Rectangular Stadium when it comes to referencing what we normally call HBF Park. There is a reason for that—the organisations that bring these events to Western Australia have very stringent requirements with their obligations to their sponsors and with the protection of intellectual property rights of their sponsors and the organisations themselves. FIFA, for instance, has very strong views about the venues in which these events take place. It requires what is called a "clean" venue; that is, all those awnings that are typically around these sort of stadiums have to be stripped out in order to provide FIFA with a very specific arrangement so that it can defend the intellectual property rights of its sponsors, who, in many cases, part with many tens or hundreds of millions of dollars. A good example of the sort of events that would attract this sort of legislation would be something like the Formula 1 Australian Grand Prix, which utilises Melbourne roads and evolves over a number of days, involving the activation of a number of different venues around the city. It needs to make sure that there is an opportunity to manage those things in an appropriate way.

The member for North West Central rhetorically asked whether the total solar eclipse would attract this sort of legislation. Typically, if this legislation was in place today, we would probably use it to manage that sort of large event. It would involve the management of large traffic flows in circumstances in which there would be a significant amount of unregulated road usage. As the member said, it would involve the coordination of a number of local government authorities. In this case it would potentially attract this sort of legislation, but on that point, the work that departments have done to bring together all the necessary activities required to stage the total solar eclipse has been outstanding. I appreciate the member's constituents' concerns. We all have anxieties for these sorts of events, but the advice that the member provided to her constituent was absolutely right: we cannot put this festival off; it is one of the few things that we have no control over and the show, as they say, will go on.

I want to thank members for their observations about different aspects of the tourism industry and the important role that they play in our economic life, for the diversification of our economy and also for our cultural life. In response to the parliamentary secretary, member for Swan Hills, I cannot see the Perth Hills Billy Cart Festival attracting the attention of this legislation.

Ms J.J. Shaw: I am ambitious for Swan Hills, Deputy Premier!

Mr R.H. COOK: I simply cannot see any internationally renowned insurance company backing that! It is scary. It is true, member for Collie–Preston, that I have not seen the dunny cart festival just yet, but it sounds like an outstanding event and one that I very much look forward attending one day.

Ms M.M. Quirk: You will attend at your convenience!

Mr R.H. COOK: Madam Speaker, the interjection from the member for Landsdale surely should invoke some sort of censure or something! Do the standing orders take into account bad jokes?

The SPEAKER: I am just going to point out that you accepted the interjection.

Mr R.H. COOK: While on the subject of the member for Landsdale, I would like to thank her for her contribution and particularly the observation that John Glenn made about Perth as he orbited the globe. He said that he could see Perth, “the city of lights”, down there. He also made another observation. He said that he could see a smaller light just to the south of that, and that it must be Rockingham. I want to correct John Glenn, because he was not actually right. He was looking at Kwinana. On that evening, the various refineries in Kwinana blew off their flares, being the stacks with small flames around them. They are essentially safety devices, which means that when some part of the refinery goes on the blink, they automatically divert the gas, or whatever flammable substance it is that they are refining, to the flares, and they burn it off. On this evening, they purposefully burnt off the flares to create a second body of light, which John Glenn mistook to be the city of Rockingham. Of course, it was the town of Kwinana and it is a globally renowned advanced manufacturing area, known as the Kwinana strip.

Ms J.J. Shaw: You couldn’t get the environmental approvals for that these days!

Mr R.H. COOK: No, we certainly could not, member for Swan Hills! But it was a great celebration, and I loved the contribution of the member for Landsdale.

In conversation with the member for North West Central—although she did not make it a point of her contribution this afternoon—I understand there was some anxiety about a review clause for the bill. Consideration was given to a review clause but, as I said at the outset of my remarks, this is not the sort of legislation that will be utilised on a regular basis. It simply may be that after five years, for instance, we do not have the activity required to provide a meaningful review of the legislation because we simply would not have enough events to review to see whether it was working as we intended.

The criteria for recommending that an event be prescribed as a major event would involve consideration of the size of the event and the prestige or reputation of the event. Some members raised the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting and asked whether that would attract major event status if it were held here again. Criteria would include also the number of people likely to attend, the likely extent of media coverage of the event, the likely social and economic benefits that hosting the event would confer on the state, whether the event was sponsored or otherwise supported by the state, and the likely contribution the event would make to the state’s national or international reputation as a host of major events. This would be used in only select circumstances. Similar events that we might expect would attract major event status would include, as I said, Formula One, the UCI Road World Championships in cycling, the ASEAN–Australia Special Summit, the T20 World Cup cricket, the AFC Asian Cup, the Commonwealth Games and the Invictus Games. We will certainly utilise this legislation if Parliament provides us with the authority to enact these laws for the FIFA Women’s World Cup. As the member for North West Central said, these sorts of laws are important to ensure that we can attract these sorts of events, not only for the opportunity to celebrate them, but also to seize the economic opportunities that come from them. As the member for Mirrabooka observed, this legislation is in place in every other state and jurisdiction except, I think, the ACT and Tasmania. If we want to ensure that we continue to attract these sorts of events, it is important that this legislation is in place.

This bill will suspend certain laws so that there are consistent approval processes and the ability to make sure that we establish the events with the greatest level of ease. However, it does not suspend all laws, and there are laws that will continue to be in place. The member for North West Central raised the issue of the burrowing bee. Is that what it is called, member?

Ms M. Beard: Yes, the burrowing bee.

Mr R.H. COOK: Although aspects of the Environmental Protection Act 1986 can be suspended, this legislation would not suspend all aspects of that act. For instance, it can suspend EPA laws on noise and electromagnetic radiation, which I think relate to radio technology, but not the protection of the environment in general terms—that is, the core elements of the purpose for the EP act. From that perspective, it does not represent a risk to other aspects of the environment and things of that nature.

This is important legislation that will enable us to attract international events. We want to protect the intellectual property. We want to ensure that these events can be staged in a professional and seamless way so that Perth continues to build its reputation as an event destination. I want Perth, Western Australia to be known as one of the three top event capitals of South-East Asia, competing with Kuala Lumpur, Singapore, Hong Kong, as well as other major cities in South-East Asia so that we can continue to be seen as a place where people come to enjoy these incredible events. Because of that, we must do things such as ensuring that we protect the IP of international sponsors. This law will stop ambush advertising and make sure that people do not take advantage of these sorts of events to undermine intellectual property rights.

I understand that the opposition would like to consider some aspects of this bill in detail. That is a great opportunity to continue the discussion. I thank all members for their contributions today and for bringing a positive attitude to this legislation so that we can continue to make Western Australia a great tourism state.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Consideration in Detail

Clause 1: Short title —

Ms M. BEARD: What is the main difference between the current processes and this legislation? I assume it is the proponent as opposed to multiple authorities.

Mr R.H. COOK: This legislation will allow us to coordinate a range of different acts that may impact on the staging of an event as well as coordinate the different entities that will be impacted by the staging of the event. I think the member made the observation that it may involve the coordination of multiple local government authorities. It will also provide a legislative framework to support the staging of major events by providing better safety and crowd management, commercial controls, and traffic and transport management. It will allow for the coordination of all these things under an essential coordinating process, rather than requiring all the issues and processes to be resolved on a broader, less coordinated basis.

Ms M. BEARD: Given that many local governments, particularly the bigger ones, and state authorities already have major events and event teams, will the legislation in any way remove those teams from that decision-making at a local level? What will be the requirement for community consultation? I guess I will explain myself. If an organisation like VenuesWest that already has cornerstone tenants for whatever it might be that are locked in and they have their sponsorship arrangements and things in place and an event comes in, how will that work? Will there be compensation? I am just wondering what the linkages are there.

Mr R.H. COOK: Thank you, member. As I said before, this bill brings everyone under a single legal framework. From that perspective, the bill brings the requirements of a whole range of areas into one piece of legislation. I apologise for not addressing this in my second speech; in saying that, under this legislation the Minister for Tourism will be responsible for managing the act. Other states and territories principally use the Minister for Tourism. In some of those states and territories, the Minister for Tourism is also the Minister for Sport and Recreation, so that creates a bit of efficiency in that respect.

Under clause 13 of this bill, it states that the minister must consult a range of other ministers, local government authorities, event managers and controllers—such as VenuesWest—before the minister can make a recommendation under section 6 of the act, which is, of course, to declare it a major event.

Ms M. BEARD: Can the minister tell me who was consulted during the preparation of the bill?

Mr R.H. COOK: I hope to provide the member with some more details as this answer progresses. I can certainly tell the member that in broad terms, all government departments, ministers and stakeholders impacted under the legislation were consulted. In particular, one we had to consult with was the Chief Health Officer, who is responsible for the Public Health Act. In that sense, they play a very crucial role in terms of the protection of public interests, particularly crowd safety and protection. The Western Australian Local Government Association—the local government professionals—VenuesLive, the Events Industry Association, as well as the City of Perth and the Town of Victoria Park were all consulted on the bill.

A range of about a dozen and a half departments were consulted, including, as the member would expect, Main Roads Western Australia, the Public Transport Authority, the Road Safety Commission, VenuesWest and the Western Australia Police Force. A range of direct agencies were consulted as well. A significant amount of consultation took place, which resulted from the establishment of a working group in 2015 to progress the development of the proposed legislation. The working group consisted of Tourism Western Australia, VenuesWest, the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the State Solicitor's Office.

This has not been a cobbled together piece of legislation. It has been worked on for some time. We are actually now facing a time constraint because we obviously want to have these laws in place in time for the FIFA Women's World Cup, which will occur in July and August this year.

Ms M. BEARD: I notice the minister did not mention the Tourism Council Western Australia. Would I be correct in assuming that it was not part of the consultation process? I am just wondering, given it would scoop up some of the regional consultation of its membership base.

Mr R.H. COOK: My notes do not specifically go to that, but yes, I can assure the member that the tourism council would have been involved. This is the sort of stuff that it is very keen on. Under the leadership of Evan Hall, it really championed the role that events and attractions play in Western Australia in terms of making it an attractive place to come to. It would have very much consulted in terms of this process.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for North West Central, I will just remind you that we are on clause 1, which is the short title of the bill. I will give you a bit of leeway to keep asking the questions that you are asking. When you are ready to move on, that will be great.

Ms M. BEARD: One was about a review clause, which the minister already explained to me during his address. I will move on to clause 3.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Objects —

Ms M. BEARD: The minister has touched on this already—the fact that it is the number of people that an event will attract that will make it a major event. I am just wondering whether there is any information on whether there is a minimum number or a minimum spend? Are there any minimums?

Mr R.H. COOK: It is a good question member, thank you very much. No, it will not be based upon a minimum number. It will be on a case-by-case basis. It is really based on the nature of the event. For instance, the other night we had Ed Sheeran at Optus Stadium—I was about to call it the Subiaco Oval. That had over 73 000 people. That is a significant number of people. However, the venue was made to cater for that many people. That number of people going, of itself, does not trigger that it is a major event. However, if there was a situation in which a number of people were spread across a range of venues, or if it was a particular requirement of the event proponent—in this case FIFA, in terms of the Women's World Cup—it may. There is a smaller amount of people, but because of the complexity of the event, it would probably attract major event status.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 4: Terms used —

Ms M. BEARD: One of the terms defined under clause 4 is “responsible authority”, which could be an individual person. Is there any reason so much power would be delegated outside Parliament to an individual for a major event, or is my interpretation of it incorrect?

Mr R.H. COOK: I draw the member's attention to clause 10, which we will ultimately come to in this afternoon's discussions. It states that the responsible authority for a major event may be the major event organiser—ultimately, in that context, an individual—a state agency or a local government. I am also aware, for instance, that under the Public Health Act, the Chief Health Officer has the authority of the state. In that instance, yes, it would be an individual, but they would be acting in a legal capacity rather than their individual capacity.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 5 to 13 put and passed.

Clause 14: Power to suspend or modify legislation in Schedule 1 —

Ms M. BEARD: Clause 14 states that the minister is required to consult other ministers before creating regulations that suspend legislation under those ministers' remit. Can the minister outline the protections that will be put in place to capture those discussions about implementing regulations under this clause?

Mr R.H. COOK: Obviously, this is an important part of the legislation because it will impact on other legislation, and as a result of that, the minister will be required to consult other ministers. Under clause 15, which refers to the criteria for suspending or modifying legislation, the minister will have to consult and act only if the minister confirms in writing that the minister of the act concerned has agreed to the suspension or modification.

Ms M. BEARD: Is that done on an event-by-event basis? It is something that changes?

Mr R.H. COOK: Yes, that is correct.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 15 to 25 put and passed.

Clause 26: Road closures for major event —

Ms M. BEARD: This clause is about traffic management and it notes reasonable travel through an event. What would be an example of this? If it were a very big event and the area were densely populated, what would be deemed to be reasonable travel? Would reasonable travel be normal day-to-day travel?

Mr R.H. Cook: Sorry. Can you tell me the line, member?

Ms M. BEARD: I will just find where it is—sorry. It is on page 11 for me. The prohibition will not apply if the person has a reasonable excuse. I wonder what the definition of “reasonable” is from a community perspective?

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is page 25, line 4.

Ms M. BEARD: Sorry. I have a different page.

Mr R.H. Cook: I see—so line 4?

Ms M. BEARD: Yes.

Mr R.H. Cook: It is subclause (7)(b). My apologies.

Ms M. BEARD: Yes. What would “a reasonable excuse” from a community perspective be?

Mr R.H. COOK: As the member will see, the bill states —

(7) A person does not contravene subsection (6) if the person —

(a) is acting with the written authorisation of the major event organiser ...

This is someone who has to access a particular area on behalf of the event organiser. Clearly, in reference to other circumstances, the member for Collie–Preston made an observation about the major event that she witnessed in London after which she had to get back to her hotel and other people involved who have reason to be in that space. This will be part of the holistic traffic management plan that will be put in place as part of the major event, and will of course be overseen by the officers or officials in relation to that. Pier Street has residential houses on it and is opposite HBF Park. That street might be closed off in the event of a FIFA Women’s World Cup happening at Perth Rectangular Stadium, but residents will still be allowed to access that area because they have a reasonable excuse.

Clause put and passed.**Clauses 27 to 43 put and passed.****Clause 44: Possession of prohibited items —**

Ms M. BEARD: Clause 44(2)(a) refers to “the thing”. What does “thing” relate to?

Mr R.H. COOK: The “thing” in that context covers the items listed in clause 44(1)(a) to (g). There will have to be a good reason for someone to have any of those items in their lawful possession.

Ms M. BEARD: In terms of clause 44(1)(f), “an animal”, if a person lives somewhere near where a major event is being held and they have a pet, is that classified as a reasonable excuse? If they live in a high-density area with a dog and they want to take it for a walk and it is in the middle of a three-day event, are there parameters around that? I am not sure how highly likely or unlikely that is.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is a fair point, and it is one that is anticipated in the following subclause (4) wherein it states that subclause (1)(f), which refers to the banning of an animal, will not apply if the person with a disability has an animal, as defined under the Disability Discrimination Act, and the animal is an assistance animal or if the person resides in the major event area and the animal is the person’s pet. That subclause expressly anticipates that argument. It is a point well made.

Clause put and passed.**Clause 45 put and passed.****Clause 46: Obstructing performers or participants —**

Ms M. BEARD: Clause 46(2) refers to the reasonable excuse provision. Will this provision be subject to the courts? Other legislation such as the Local Government Act references climate change. Is that a reasonable excuse? I want to flag what a reasonable excuse might be in the instance that someone is deemed to be obstructing an event. What does that look like?

Mr R.H. COOK: This clause will prohibit a person from obstructing another person in a major event area while they are performing or participating in the major event. A person does not contravene this section if they are acting with the written permission of the major event organiser. I cannot think of a specific circumstance. There may be some reason. Maybe a sportsperson has misbehaved previously and has therefore been barred from the tournament. The event organiser would issue a barring notice to that person coming into the event. But there might also be another circumstance in which someone would be excused from doing that. It might be for an emergency, for

instance. It might be simply if someone made a mistake, someone might prevent a performer or sportsperson coming into the venue but has done so under genuine circumstances of mistaken identity. We must have opportunities in these sorts of laws to have clauses for reasonable excuse to provide a jurisdiction with the opportunity to allow for those sorts of circumstances that are otherwise not anticipated under these clauses.

Ms M. BEARD: I was more contemplating that some of these events will happen in spaces that people might be aggrieved about—if it is a World Heritage site let us say. If groups were protesting, some would deem that to be reasonable. I wonder how far it would extend to meet that kind of arrangement.

Mr R.H. COOK: For instance, this refers specifically to “another person in a major event area while the other person is performing or participating in the major event”. From that perspective, it does not stop someone from letting them know what they really think of whatever. Maybe they have a particular objection to women in soccer or something like that. I do not know. But it simply says that we cannot obstruct someone from basically going about being a performer or a sporting participant.

Clause put and passed.

Clause 47: Possession and consumption of liquor —

Ms M. BEARD: This is my last question. I do not have any after this. I am thinking about dense living, so it certainly does not apply to my patch. This is just a hypothetical example. Say the event is in a large space—maybe it is for the Australian Grand Prix or whatever it might be—where a lot of people live. Would mum and dad having a family barbecue with a bottle of wine in a park in that area be exempt under section 47(4)? Is there scope or will this apply to the actual performance area?

Mr R.H. COOK: It anticipates that a member of a local community might have alcohol on their person if they take it to their accommodation or something like that. A person will not contravene clause 47(2)(c) if the person resides in or is staying in accommodation in the major event area. But they would still be subject to the Liquor Control Act. Although the member for North West Central and I might enjoy a glass of wine in the local park, and from time to time that might be overlooked by certain authorities when they see us partaking in the family picnic, technically I think we are street drinking. In that circumstance, no, we would not be protected under this clause.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 48 to 112 and passed.

Schedule 1 put and passed.

Title put and passed.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism) [3.24 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [3.24 pm]: I thank the minister and the advisers for the briefing. I think this robust legislation is an important move forward for the state and it will, hopefully, facilitate growth in our events space. Time will tell whether the legislation works as intended, and I guess the reduction of red tape coupled with the increased powers, hopefully, will be effective and efficient.

I believe that the Legislative Council will examine this more deeply and see how the bill impacts and, hopefully, it will see the merits of this bill. It is a key enabler for growth and development. It is significant for our social and economic growth and for the entire state of Western Australia. Opposition members are supportive of the bill, but recognising the strength of the powers that come with the changes, we would have been keen to see the inclusion of a review clause. However, we also saw the potential of this bill, so we are supportive of it.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [3.26 pm]: I think this is my first contribution to a third reading debate and I am very pleased to participate in part of the debate that is usually not as lengthy as the second reading debate, but in this case I think it needs to run for about 33 minutes, so I decided to offer my services to the Deputy Premier to assist him in getting to 4.00 pm!

Mr R.H. Cook: Any contribution from you is always welcome!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I thank the Deputy Premier. I am not sure others feel the same way but I am glad that he does!

Ms J.J. Shaw: Aw!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Thank you, member for Swan Hills.

I want to speak on the Major Events Bill because it is a significant bill, as other speakers have alluded to. One could even say it is a major bill! That is not quite deserving of the plaudits that the member for Landsdale gets for her contributions in this chamber.

This is a significant bill because, I have to say, I had not appreciated before I came to this place how important major events are to the broader economy. They are not only a significant driver of economic activity for that particular event, but also provide a platform to promote the state and the city or a particular locality to a national or global audience. That can have many flow-on effects for our economy. It can lead to people coming here for tourism purposes or to study. It can lead to people saying that Western Australia is somewhere they want to visit when they see it on an international broadcast. They then visit and may very well then decide that Western Australia is somewhere that they want to live, work and play. It has an enormous knock-on effect for our economy.

I am pleased to see us catching up to the pack because, as other members noted, other jurisdictions in Australia already have major events legislation, so it is important that we have it as well. It puts us at a competitive disadvantage not to have dedicated major events legislation. The lack of major events legislation means that large insurance companies, sponsors or event organisers may have less confidence in holding events here. In the past, when we have held major events like the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, we have had to introduce specific piecemeal legislation for that event, which is not the most productive use of the government's or the Parliament's time.

I have a proposal for the Deputy Premier for another major event that could be included, and that is the Coogee Live festival that was held last weekend. It was a really significant event in my electorate and it was attended by thousands of people. I understand that the Deputy Premier has dismissed some events as not falling into the category of a major event but, being the good representative of the Kwinana and Cockburn area that he is, I am sure he would agree that Coogee Live is deserving of major event status. It was such a major event, in fact, that one of the opening events was a mermaid migration down at Coogee Beach. I am saying that you do not see that at most events!

Mr R.H. Cook: Sounds like a perfect event!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes. I want to congratulate the City of Cockburn for running Coogee Live. I want to acknowledge the many groups that participated in the event. I also want to acknowledge the community groups I helped out. I helped out the Coogee Community Garden with its preparations for Coogee Live. I try to get my hands dirty at least a couple of times a year, and the other weekend I helped that community group sort out the pot plants it sold at Coogee Live.

Deputy Speaker, I have sought an indulgence from you over the last few minutes because, as members will probably know, a third reading debate is restricted to the clauses of the bill. It is not supposed to be a debate on policy generally.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nor is it for the introduction of new material!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Nor is it for the introduction of new material, but I appreciate the indulgence of the Deputy Speaker and the opposition's indulgence, whether intentional or not. For the rest of my contribution I want to talk about the clauses of the bill. I want to speak about the clauses in part 6 of the bill, "Restrictions on commercial activities". The Deputy Premier, in his closing reply to the second reading debate, referred to the prohibitions on ambush marketing in this bill. I want to focus on that because it is an important consideration that can be neglected. We think about this bill being around things like traffic and crowd management, but it has significant provisions to protect the commercial interests of organisations that might hold major events. This is really significant because, in many cases, the organisation that is running a major event will have sold various sponsorship rights. They may have sold advertising or broadcasting rights and all of that is part of the major event and the business model of the major event. When we have major events and a lot of people congregate in one place, it can be appealing to other businesses to market in the same location. Members can imagine that if tens of thousands of people descend on a particular part of Perth, and a business has a lot of people wandering around with wearable boards advertising the business, that is a great opportunity because they will get massive exposure to a population that is densely located in that area. The problem with that is that it takes away from the sponsorship rights that have been sold by the event organiser. This is what we refer to as ambush marketing.

There are some interesting examples of ambush marketing. It has been around as a concept for a long time. For example, there is quite a funny case, which is not quite a major event but is an example of ambush marketing. When Google Maps was driving around a particular city—I cannot remember the location—taking images for its virtual maps program, Fiat drove a car around and parked it out the front of every Volkswagen dealership. On Google Maps, every time someone looks up the VW dealer or auto lot, there is a Fiat parked out the front. That is an example of what ambush marketing can look like. It is essentially taking something where the rights are owned by someone else and sticking yourself in front of it, saying "Look at my product instead!" I think it is notable that clause 62 of this bill makes it an offence for a person, while in a major event area or a controlled area, to promote a person, service or thing, or to do anything to suggest that a person, service or thing is an affiliate of the major event. Importantly, a person will not commit an offence under that clause if they act with the written authorisation of the major event organiser. That is the bit that carves out permission to be given to an official sponsor or an official partner to advertise, but it makes it an offence for other people to run in to the major event area and promote their own product. Members can imagine that that could cause all sorts of problems for things like traffic management and crowd management if businesses are driving vehicles they are not permitted to have in that location, for example, towing signs behind them through an area.

Mr R.H. Cook: Remember drones as well, if you have an outdoor event.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Drones are a great example. Clause 66 refers to aerial advertising. It makes it an offence for a person to display aerial advertising within sight of a major event. Historically, this would be associated with people flying light aircraft, trailing signs behind them. That seems a little bit quaint as a concept now because, as the Deputy Premier pointed out, we are much more likely to see drone technology being used, which is obviously cheap and affordable and can be used to essentially ambush market in these events.

This legislation takes up the cause of issues like ambush marketing that have been around for a long time but the form of which has been evolving with technology. It is important that we have these protections in place so that sponsors or broadcasters can have certainty that when they are partnering with a major event in Western Australia, they will benefit from these protections.

I want to briefly reflect on the clauses in part 7 of the bill. These will essentially protect intellectual property like a logo that is associated with a major event. Members can imagine that if a major event is branded, there may be a particular logo or tagline. People might want to appropriate that image, logo or slogan and use it for their own commercial purposes or they might want to somehow tie themselves in with the event as though they are an officially endorsed part of it. That can be misleading to people who might turn up to a bar or restaurant or something thinking that it is part of the experience of the event or maybe part of the ticket price, and it turns out that it is not but they have already been trapped by the business into using the facility. That can leave a bad taste in people's mouths and can certainly lead to reputational damage to the event sponsor and the jurisdiction in not giving that certainty to the event organisers.

On these clauses, in particular the ambush marketing clauses, I was thinking about a major event—*The Giants*—as part of the Perth International Arts Festival, as it was back then, not Perth Festival. The Deputy Premier can correct me if I am wrong, but I think it would probably be a candidate to be a major event. I remember attending *The Giants* in about 2015. It was a great show—an excellent experience. It was outdoors, through the streets of Perth; it was not located just in one particular place. I remember getting to the CBD and it was just madness. There were people everywhere. I had never seen the CBD packed with that many people before. Businesses should rightly take the benefit of that activation of the precinct, but we would not want to encourage people to do it in a way that is not authorised or not in the spirit of the event. If organisations have specific sponsorship arrangements or specific partnerships, those businesses are paying for those opportunities and we want them to be able to reap the benefits of those investments in accordance with their investments.

However, as I alluded to before, in the case of a performance like *The Giants*, we would not want a business hiring a bunch of trucks or trailers with signage on them and following the puppets around the Perth CBD without authorisation. That would be dangerous, given the size of the crowd. It would also cause problems for our police, who would have to manage the route, and for our emergency services and paramedics who would have to respond to any emergencies. It would have been very attractive for someone to do something like that.

We see that happen in election campaigns. I am sure every member in this chamber is familiar with being at an event that has been organised by their campaign manager only to have the opposition candidate pass by with a big truck with their own advertising on it. In that case, I am not sure that they are trying to garner support for their cause; it is purely provocation. The point is that when a business knows that a major event is on and will attract a particular cohort of people, it is tempted to take advantage of that advertising opportunity. *The Giants* was a great event for Perth and one that we would want to continue to attract. However, if that opportunity had been abused by businesses that were not officially associated with Perth Festival, it could have caused significant harm to people and property, and that would have led to reputational damage to both Perth Festival and Western Australia as a location where people can be confident to hold major events.

I want to briefly tie that into the logo issue. In the case of *The Giants*, we can imagine a person putting up a sign that displayed the official logo of the event and said, "*The Giants* are coming this way. Grab a drink." I think part of that performance was that people were not sure what route they had to follow to see *The Giants*. If someone had used the official logo to give their sign a sense of authority, they might have been able to get people to peel off from the crowd and go down a particular laneway thinking that was associated with the event, only to discover that a business was just trying to take advantage of the crowds in the area. Unauthorised use of the official logo or title of an event will be outlawed under clause 70 of the bill. It will also be an offence to use a logo that is substantially identical or deceptively similar to the official logo or title. People often try to find creative ways of getting around the intellectual property protections. This will capture people who want to alter a logo so that it is deceptively similar to a protected logo. The bill will also provide power to an authorised officer to seize property that displays a logo that is deceptively similar to the official logo. The reason is that if we just made it an offence, it would not cure the harm at the time that it is occurring. An authorised officer will be able to remove the sign and prevent people from being misled.

This is a very good bill. It is great that the Minister for Tourism has brought it to this house. I certainly commend it to the house.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.44 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the third reading of the Major Events Bill 2023. I wish to congratulate the Deputy Premier; Minister for Tourism for bringing this very important bill to the house. Many members spoke in their second reading contribution about the need for this type of legislation to be introduced in this state, as has been done in other jurisdictions. The reason that this state needs this legislation is the many big events that have come our way in recent years. Before I mention a particular event that stands out in my mind, I will preface my comments by saying that I am not traditionally someone who watches a great deal of sport, but in my household I cannot seem to escape it. I have two children who are obsessed with sport, as is my husband. We were pretty excited when in 2021 we secured tickets to the most celebrated day in the AFL season, the grand final, which was held in Perth. That was only the second time in history that the AFL grand final has been played outside of the MCG. That was a pretty big and monumental event for Western Australia. The success of that event showcased our ability to hold major events.

In 2020, Western Australia hosted the ICC Women's T20 World Cup tournament at the WACA. It was fantastic to see that. In 2021—sorry; I have lost my momentum. I got caught up in talking about sport, and that is always a dangerous topic for me!

The reason I wanted to make a contribution to this debate, with your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, is that although I have no great history of sporting capacity or anything like that, I see as the mum of two daughters, and in my community of Belmont, how impactful sport can be. If you cannot see it, you cannot dream or aspire to be it. To see these important sporting events come to Western Australia and be showcased on television right across our country and overseas is really impactful for younger viewers, particularly female viewers. Sadly, we are seeing an enormous decline in the participation of girls in organised sport the moment they hit their teen years. We need to take a serious look at that. A lot of research has been done into this. We are also seeing a big increase in the incidence of mental health issues in many of our teenage girls. That is occurring alongside, whether coincidentally or otherwise, the major decline in the participation of girls in sport, especially in comparison with the participation of boys.

I read something recently that was quite strange. It referred to something as simple as the uniform that is provided to girls for their sport. If girls do not feel that their uniform is comfortable to move in, or if in their eyes it is inappropriate and they do not want to parade around in it, they will not participate in that sport. A lot of reports have also highlighted the issue of self-confidence. If young girls do not feel good enough at a sport, they will not continue to participate because they do not want to embarrass themselves in front of their cohort. Another issue is when parents take their children's sport too seriously and their children get embarrassed when they come along to support them. I know that my eldest daughter, Bobby, is horrified when I cheer from the sidelines at her basketball games. Nonetheless, some parents do take it a little too far. I have a quote that says that one in every two Australian girls quit sport by the age of 15. That is pretty stark. I do not need to labour the point. I wanted to highlight the importance of enabling young children to see that women's sport is taken seriously. Tennis has always been a great example. For a long time, women did not receive the same prize money as men. I think that has changed nowadays. In a lot of sports, Australia is lagging behind in what our female athletes and sportspeople are paid. I would like to see a big change in that.

Big events are important because they showcase our wonderful state of Western Australia, provide great entertainment and employment opportunities and, most importantly, can be a great source of inspiration for young girls and teens. I wanted to make those comments. Thank you very much for your indulgence, Deputy Speaker.

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Tourism) [3.49 pm] — in reply: I would like to take this opportunity to close off the third reading debate on the Major Events Bill 2023 and to thank members for their contributions.

I think the member for Belmont nailed it in one. What we are trying to achieve through something like the FIFA Women's World Cup is a great sporting festival that will benefit everyone in Western Australia, from an economic point of view. As the member observed, "If you can't see it, you can't be it." The other day I had the opportunity to be at Scarborough Beach with the Minister for Sport and Recreation where there were some of the very best women's football players with a bunch of young girls from one of the local soccer teams. I cannot imagine what a great inspiration the FIFA Women's World Cup will be for that young generation of players coming through; it is really exciting. Over the last 12 months, the percentage of girls and young women taking up soccer has increased by 26 per cent. It is said that in four years' time there will be more female footballers and soccer players than male footballers and soccer players. The FIFA Women's World Cup is an example of the sorts of best sporting festivals that we want to bring to Western Australia. Obviously, it is a great sporting event for Western Australians, but it is also a great opportunity for Western Australia to be on the global stage and attract the economic benefits that come with staging such a major event.

I want to thank members for their contributions today in support of the Major Events Bill 2023, and especially those members who provided some analysis and cross-examination of it. I congratulate the member for North West Central, who unfortunately is not in the chamber. This was her first bill to shadow through the Parliament, and that is always a fairly daunting task. I remember the first bill I shadowed; it was the Royal Perth Hospital Protection Bill 2008. The Labor opposition of the day was much aggrieved that that legislation was coming before the chamber and was furiously opposed to it. I remember going to one of my mentors—I was, at that point, the shadow Minister

for Health—and saying to him, “It says here in the standing orders that I can speak for up to 60 minutes, but how long should I speak for?” He said, “Sunshine, you’re speaking for an hour!” That was my first major debate. I can remember standing there at the 57-minute mark and all the other fresh members of Parliament were in the chamber to watch me trying to conquer the full 60 minutes! They were going, “Yes! You made it, you made it!” It is difficult and it is a tough task, and I think the member for North West Central did a great job in providing analysis and cross-examination of the bill, so I want to congratulate her and say that it will never be harder than your first bill. I also thank her for her remarks, and the opposition for its support for the bill.

Before I get carried away and run out of time, I want to also take this opportunity before the end of the debate to thank all those who have been involved in the crafting of this legislation. As I said during consideration in detail, this bill has been part of the work of government since 2015, when a cross-agency working party was put together to look at the merits of the ways in which we could put this legislation together and to consult widely to make sure that we would get an opportunity to put it in place. Although we are in a bit of a rush to pass this bill because we want to have it in place by the time of the FIFA Women’s World Cup in July–August, it has actually been under consideration and consultation for a good period of time. We want to make sure that it enjoys the wide support of all agencies and stakeholders, which is why we consulted widely when we were putting it together.

We also enjoyed great support from the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and I want to thank my advisers, Amanda Blackwell and Eliza Lyon, who assisted in the passage of the bill today. I want to thank all those who have been involved in stewarding this bill since 2015. I also want to thank the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation and my ministerial office for bringing the legislation to this point.

Increasingly, these sorts of major events are highly technical, highly diverse and very complex in their staging. That is why we need this sort of legislation—to make sure that we can stage such events in a seamless way and be competitive when we go out to bid for major events. We have obviously been very successful in recent times in attracting some major events to Western Australia and we want to make sure that we maintain that competitiveness.

One of the reasons we put this legislation in place is that we know that similar legislation is already in place in pretty much every other major jurisdiction in Australia. If we are going to be competitive, we have to make sure that we have this sort of legislation to provide seamless management of these events, to secure protections from the event proponents and to provide the necessary coordination between agencies, whether they are local government authorities, Main Roads or any other authorities that may be touched upon by the staging of such events.

I want to acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Cockburn, who made an important observation about *The Giants* event. That was a particularly difficult event to stage; it involved road closures and a whole range of very complex coordination pieces. If members cast their minds back, they will also recall that some media organisations sought to spoil the party by revealing the characters or elements of the event before it was actually staged. I would like to think that the protections provided under this legislation will not allow people to spoil the party in that sense. It is also important that we manage these events to protect the members of the public attending them and the proponents who have invested heavily in bringing them to Western Australia, and that we continue to manage the complex networks of agencies that are involved.

I said in my reply to the second reading debate that this bill does not, in itself, mean that every event that comes to Western Australia will be a major event. They will still be fairly rare occurrences, but they are obviously important and we want to make sure that this legislation will be in place so that we can avail ourselves of the powers that exist under it. I will also stress that those powers do not automatically suspend the laws relating to the relevant agencies; in fact, it will be on a case-by-case basis. Only those laws that need to be suspended and coordinated in order to manage an event under this legislation will be impacted.

I thank all members for their support and their contributions. The member for North West Central is back in the chamber, so I will take this opportunity to congratulate her on shadowing her first bill.

I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

PERTH CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

Motion

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [4.00 pm]: I move —

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

The opposition has raised many concerns in this place regarding the state of the health system, certainly in the lead-up to 2021 and the tragedy that took place on 3 April 2021 with Aishwarya Aswath, but also in the many months

since. It is fair to say, as we have said in this place, that Aswath and Prasitha and the family of Aishwarya have had to fight every step of the way to ensure this government responds properly and takes seriously the issues in relation to Perth Children's Hospital and the broader concerns right across the health system. They took it upon themselves to be involved in a hunger strike. They have called for a royal commission into the health system, and they have over 1 400 signatures. They have made strenuous calls and demands to ensure that no other family has to go through what they did that fateful evening on 3 April 2021. There have been three reports into this case. The first was the root cause analysis talking about the government's response to this tragedy of a young seven-year-old girl waiting two hours at Perth Children's Hospital to receive the urgent care she required before it was too late.

There has been real concern about the government's approach to this matter. First of all, we had the root cause analysis report that was not even endorsed by Perth Children's Hospital. From the outset, the opposition called for an independent inquiry. It was quite extraordinary that although the report was accepted as a piece of evidence, it was not endorsed by Perth Children's Hospital because of some of the issues that Aresh Anwar highlighted. The root cause analysis showed that staff at the hospital had been raising some very real concerns and resourcing issues with the hospital since October 2020. This was whilst the government and the then Minister for Health stated that staffing was not an issue at the hospital. Some very real concerns were highlighted pointing out the disconnect between what the Premier and the McGowan government's health minister at that time were stating and what we were hearing on the ground. As has been stated by the Australian Nursing Federation and the Australian Medical Association, there were a number of calls from staff in October and December 2020 about dangerous levels of staffing.

The other highlight of the root cause analysis report was the very real concern and feeling that senior emergency department staff had repeatedly escalated concerns about resourcing in the emergency department before the tragedy took place, but they were overlooked. Again, this was when the government was denying that the understaffing was a factor, with the Premier stating that there was a full complement of staff on the night. At one point, he suggested that the emergency department was overstaffed. Although this report was not endorsed by Perth Children's Hospital, the recommendations were. Aresh Anwar explained that by saying that there was a gap between the information and the recommendations. Also, there was support for the independent inquiry, which was a positive. There were certainly some very informative highlights in the findings of the root cause analysis report.

I today asked a question in the house about something that also came out in the aftermath. The health workers, two nurses and a doctor, who had raised concerns about the dangerous levels of understaffing and had seen Aishwarya before she died were referred to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. I refer to a quote from Andrew Miller at that time. He said —

“To release a SAC1 report and use it to attack junior staff, but then say it is full of inaccurate information is hypocritical, and worse, it is cruel to a grieving family who now must not know who or what to believe ...

That was a comment by WA president of the Australian Medical Association, Andrew Miller. He also said —

“It further damages efforts to rebuild a team shattered by the duplicity of managers and the Minister of Health.

“We want fairness for the staff in the department—the ones in particular who have been sent to the regulator already before the independent inquiry, before the coronial inquiry.

The report was not endorsed by Perth Children's Hospital, although the recommendations were endorsed. While there was a cloud over that question and support for an independent inquiry, the government moved to effectively throw these health workers under the bus, which was a very real concern. I asked the Premier a question about this today. Quite rightly, there was concern raised. The point that the AMA, and I think the ANF, were making was that such a consideration should have been made at least following an independent inquiry, an endorsed inquiry or following the coronial inquest. I might add that the coroner had recommended safe harbour provisions and had largely exonerated staff, given that warning after warning had been raised about the night in question. As I stated, the ANF and AMA were curious. They expressed their disgust that junior staff were referred to AHPRA ahead of the planned coronial inquest that effectively vindicated them. An independent inquiry followed, and the responses received from the Minister for Health last month highlighted that only 17 of the 30 recommendations made by the independent inquiry had been completed. I appreciate that the implementation of some of the recommendations is ongoing, but to have implemented only 17 of the 30 recommendations after two years raises very real concerns.

The Premier made a comment in Parliament about the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and its obligations. We are not saying that a government should not fulfil its obligations, but we are underlying those very real concerns with this case that were outlined by the Australian Nursing Federation and the Australian Medical Association and the timing of the decision, given that the coroner's report effectively exonerated those staff and went further to recommend safe harbour provisions. The report also highlights a 30-minute period that evening during which one nurse was left to watch over eight waiting room cubicles as Aishwarya deteriorated. The report also highlights some very real pressures that evening.

We then come to the coroner's report and its recommendations. The last paragraph of that report is very telling. Before I go to that, I will refer to the root cause analysis again, which I touched on before the conclusion. As I stated,

the root cause analysis as highlighted in the coroner's report was not endorsed by the Perth Children's Hospital executive, which caused some controversy. In this case, Aresh Anwar said that the scrutiny required between the leadership team and the investigating team did not occur; therefore, the management team went to the Department of Health and said there were elements within the report that had not been adequately explored and the executive wanted it to be subject to greater scrutiny without seeking to censor the report. Dr Anwar said in evidence in the interim that the executive had accepted the recommendations but highlighted some significant gaps in the report's root cause analysis, which again underlines the reason the opposition backed the family's calls for an independent analysis. The fact that Aresh Anwar could not endorse the report is very troubling and raises questions about the disconnect between the government's response and what was actually happening on the ground.

I have touched on the independent inquiry. The coroner's final report was certainly damning and highlighted a number of issues, including the lack of investment in our hospital system. The last paragraph of the coroner's report was particularly damning and highlighted an issue that the opposition has been raising for some time. It states —

I think every member of the community would agree with the answer to that question. It shouldn't take the death of a beloved little girl for the Department of Health, and the Government, to stop and consider what more it can do, and how much more money it should spend, to keep children safe when they visit our specialist children's hospital. We are fortunate as a State to have come out of the pandemic in a relatively healthy financial position, and while I acknowledge there are many competing demands on the public purse, the health of our community, and particularly our children, must be a priority. That means spending money on providing a positive practice environment for the nurses, doctors and support staff who run these hospitals, and in particular PCH. There is no point in having a state of the art facility, if the staff working within it are stretched beyond capacity and parents lose their trust and faith in them.

That is exactly what happened with that case. It is also what happened to the staff who felt demoralised by the government's response to these reports and its lacklustre approach to implementing their recommendations.

The coroner's report made five recommendations, including the Child and Adolescent Health Service committing to the early implementation of the nurse/midwife-to-patient ratios to replace the current ratio system, which is certainly a positive. There are questions about whether the current government can fulfil the current ratio model, but it is certainly a welcome recommendation. The report recommended that CAHS prioritise the implementation and staffing of a supernumerary resuscitation team—I will go into that later—and that the government introduce safe harbour provisions, which I have touched on. Those provisions will protect nurses from an AHPRA investigation and prosecution when an adverse event occurs in the context of the nurse doing their work in circumstances when known risks in the workplace have been identified and not rectified by the employer. That points directly to warning after warning that had been made about the real and dangerous staffing levels at the Perth Children's Hospital emergency department and a government that ignored those warnings and had, at one stage, suggested that the emergency department was overstaffed. Since this tragedy we have seen a significant uplift in staffing levels at the Perth Children's Hospital emergency department that clearly highlights the government was misleading the WA public on this.

What is most concerning about this was again the government's response, the deflection of the truth and what was actually happening inside the hospital system. Many in this place would remember the Minister for Health's comments in September last year when I asked her a very simple question about the dedicated resuscitation team that had been a clear recommendation of the previous report into the tragedy and backed up by the coroner's recommendations. At that time, the minister stated —

... grubby does not even begin to describe your ambulance chasing and your shameless exploitation!

...

The willingness to exploit tragic and difficult circumstances beyond accountability purely for self-promotion is appalling and embarrassing.

What is embarrassing and appalling is that the minister actually misled the house, she was not across her brief and, despite her weasel words at that time, it is clear that one of the most important and key recommendations has not been implemented. It was very disappointing that the minister did not see it worthy enough to check that that recommendation had been implemented, given its significance. I had asked the question because I had been in contact with a number of stakeholders who were concerned about the lack of implementation of that recommendation, including health workers on the ground who, again, had highlighted that they did not feel that a lot had changed in the two years or certainly the first 12 months since that tragic event took place.

We heard the minister repeat her comments of September about that critical recommendation of the coroner's report and its implementation. The minister's comments were quite clearly contradicted by the chair of the Child and Adolescent Health Service, who stated that a supernumerary resuscitation team had not yet been implemented. On the Monday morning following the report being handed down on the previous Friday, it was reported that Ms Capolingua told ABC Perth —

... "there is an allocated team of four experienced nurses that can do resuscitations" while acknowledging these staff were still being pulled from the ED.

That was two years on. A supernumerary resuscitation team was one of five recommendations made by the coroner in her report. The minister had stated it was in place not only in September, but also on the Friday that report was handed down. The minister realised she was not across her brief when she was contradicted by the CAHS chief. She said that the executive who alerted her to the information gap was the CAHS chief executive but still laid much of the blame for the miscommunication with CAHS. Again, the government blamed everyone but itself for its responsibility to deliver services in key areas.

Given the significance of the tragedy, the dangerous levels of understaffing and what we know about what took place that night, with the resuscitation team nurses being pulled away, one would think that the minister would make sure that not only the information she was providing was accurate, but also, more importantly, that a critical recommendation had been implemented on the ground. It was extraordinary. The minister called it a knowledge gap. The opposition will certainly back that up, but it is a knowledge gap between this government and what is happening on the ground in our hospitals, and it is completely inexcusable. These recommendations are about saving lives. It was made quite clear, despite the government spin in the wake of this tragedy, that staffing was an issue. The government's first response was to say that staffing was not an issue. At one point, the government said that the emergency department was overstaffed. Quite clearly, that was not the case. Reports have highlighted that it was not the case. Given the uptake of staff, we know that was certainly not the case. For the government to be so lacklustre in its response to implementing these critical recommendations is appalling and quite damning.

One of the recommendations was nurse-to-patient ratios, yet the head of the Child and Adolescent Health Service could not say how many extra nurses were required to fulfil the recommendations. That raises the question: if not, why not? Nurse-to-patient ratios are vitally important and talk of ratios is not new. Surely, someone in the system would have done modelling on what would be required. More than a year after the *Independent inquiry into Perth Children's Hospital* report was tabled, more than one-third of the recommendations are yet to be implemented. We cannot afford to see the government sit on its hands and wait another two years before these critical recommendations are implemented. That is why I asked the Premier about the safe harbour provisions today. Quite clearly, the government is not certain there will be support for that and will consult at a commonwealth level on the safe harbour provisions. Again, that raises concern about how urgently the government will implement these recommendations.

As I said, the Premier steadfastly denied staffing was a factor. At one stage, he stated that the ED was overstaffed that night. He then also made a point in Parliament of making light of this incident. He stated —

... you have a one in six chance of dying if you acquire sepsis in a country like Australia ...

He went on to say —

... that was a very sad situation for Aishwarya and her family and explains a lot of what occurred on that night.

Understandably, the family was deeply troubled by the Premier's comments and that statistics were used. Aswath is reported as saying —

"I think when someone talks about statistics, it was like disrespecting Aishwarya," ...

The comment was certainly not well received. The approach from the start was to deflect, blame, belittle the enormity of what had occurred and ignore the pleas and concerns of health workers. I highlight the opposition's very real concerns about one of the most tragic events that happened under this government's watch and arguably across the health sector as well. We know health workers have been reeling as a result of this incident. The coroner's report is heavy reading. One can read about the impact this incident has had on all health workers across the health system, particularly those working at Perth Children's Hospital.

Sarah Linton raised a number of questions during the inquiry about the evidence that staff were run off their feet and doing too many jobs for one person to do in a safe and sensible way. It really highlighted the safety of the working environment. Again, she stated that the incident raised the issue of why it should take a death. We urge the government now with the third report, the deputy coroner's report, to implement those very important recommendations.

Aswath has stated that his concerns are certainly not limited to Perth Children's Hospital.

As a family they are certainly very concerned about what happened there. Their lives have been ruined. Through this tragedy, they have taken an interest in the broader issues right across the hospital system. My colleague the member for Cottesloe asked a very fair question to the Minister for Health in Parliament today about why seven of the 10 worst performing emergency departments in the country are here in Western Australia. That is a damning statistic that was raised by the Australian Medical Association. The minister tried to correct us by saying it was seven of the eight. Well, I do not think that matters. It is as damning as seven out of 10. The emergency departments are: St John of God Midland Public Hospital, Rockingham General Hospital, Royal Perth Hospital, the public Joondalup Health Campus, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Peel Health Campus and the Armadale Health Service. All have unenviable statistics for death risks for emergency department patients. It raises the question: for a state as economically wealthy as ours, how is it that we have emergency departments that are performing so badly?

There is no doubt that there is patient harm and deaths are occurring because of delays in moving patients out of emergency departments. We heard the minister today sprout about the ramping figures. I thought that was a bit rich, given last month's ramping figures were about 3 900 hours. Again, that is about three times what WA Labor called a horror story when it was in opposition. This article from *The Australian* states —

At seven WA hospitals, less than 23 per cent of emergency department patients triaged in the urgent category were treated in the targeted 30 minutes. Nationally, 58 per cent of public hospitals met this target.

It shows that we are falling very short. I do not think the government's approach of saying that these issues are happening everywhere and that it is a crisis everywhere actually washes with the WA public. On one hand, we have a Premier spruiking about how well we are doing as a state, saying that the other states would be green with envy with our budget surplus. However, on the other hand, we have a government that is failing to deliver in key areas of government delivery. Health is certainly one of them. There were over 3 900 hours of ramping last month. WA anaesthetist Andrew Miller described the situation as a crisis. He stated —

“We're seeing operating lists cancelled all the time ... theatres sitting empty. This is repeating itself in cities all across the nation.”

Quite clearly, the performance in WA is particularly appalling. We have asked a range of questions in this place around the Department of Health's performance. One of the areas has been the government's lack of urgency in progressing major projects, such as the \$1.8 billion women's and babies' hospital. It was announced in 2021 and is another go-slow project of the McGowan government. Recently we saw an announcement of \$35 million for King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, understanding that these works will be undertaken to support that hospital over the next 10 years. This has raised some very real concerns in the health community and the broader community about what that means for when the women's and babies' hospital construction will actually start. There has been much fanfare about this so-called signature project. Again, only business case funding has been committed. The minister is unable to provide a clear time frame for when construction will start for this hospital. Concerns were even raised about whether there would be a family birth centre at the new campus. That is probably because the minister is unable to state when construction will start and does not have a clear idea of the signature project and when it will be delivered.

The most recent comments from the Minister for Health on this was at a recent press conference. She stated —

“Well, certainly I'd like to see that but the priority at this point is making sure we have services that are women-centred, that are modern and that will be well-integrated in the current site,” ...

Again, this underlines the fact that the government has a go-slow approach to this major project. Increasingly, under this government's watch there has been a lack of choice for women when it comes to the delivery of maternity services. Through questions asked in the other place between June 2021 and May 2022, we have heard that there were 311 maternity bypasses over that 12-month period. That highlights the women in the distressing situation of being diverted to another hospital because of a lack of capacity in the system. It is completely unacceptable to have over 300 maternity bypasses recorded in a year. This reflects the distressing lack of choice for pregnant women. Particularly during COVID, we saw that the government has dragged its feet on its recruitment campaign. I am sure others will talk about the impact that this has represented in regional areas where there has been a scaling back of the delivery of regional health services.

The commitment to the women's and babies' hospital is a concern not only in terms of what a new facility would represent, but also because of the ageing facility at the King Edward site. The feedback that I have had from health professionals is about the importance of having effective support for women and babies at the same site. This is one of the purposes and objectives of the women's and babies' hospital, so that when women are challenged in the birth process and things are not going to plan from a clinical perspective, they do not have to be moved to another campus. I am told this happens currently. Women or mothers are being transferred to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital when they need additional support.

We are hearing that the government is still clearly at war with our hardworking nursing and midwifery workforce. The McGowan government suspended the Your Voice in Health survey during one of the most stressful periods that our health workers had experienced. This was when the minister first took on the role as Minister for Health. It is pleasing to hear that the Your Voice in Health survey has been reintroduced. I look forward to hearing the results of that survey. It was a five-minute survey. There was no need to suspend the survey. That was certainly the feedback we heard from health workers and their advocates. Health workers wanted their voice heard and to be able to provide that important feedback. The survey revealed that just 47 per cent of workers felt that their employer helped them in their goals and that just over 30 per cent of health workers felt safe speaking up. In many respects, I guess that highlights why the government wanted to suspend the survey following those results. It is important to continue this survey. I know it was an initiative of the former Minister for Health, so for the new minister to come in and suspend the survey until there were calls for it to be reintroduced after several months raised some real concerns about the government's approach to staff morale, which continues to be a significant issue.

Although I highlighted the government's go-slow approach, it is also worth highlighting what the previous Liberal-National government achieved in office through its asset investment program. I was recently in Laverton

and heard very real concerns raised by that community about the government's lacklustre approach to the delivery of upgrades at Laverton Hospital. It is worth highlighting the significant asset investment program under the previous Liberal–National government. We had seen the investment of \$1.8 billion in Perth Children's Hospital; \$2 billion for Fiona Stanley Hospital; \$30 million for the Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital mental health unit; a \$360 million investment in Midland Public Hospital; a \$230 million investment for the Joondalup Health Campus expansion; \$170 million for Albany Health Campus; \$59 million for the Kalgoorlie Health Campus redevelopment; \$270 million for Karratha Health Campus; \$31 million for the redevelopment of Esperance Hospital; \$27 million for the Carnarvon Multi Purpose Service; and \$42 million for the redevelopment of Onslow Hospital. We also initiated the Southern Inland Health Initiative and the Northern Inland Health Initiative projects, which were about supporting health care in the regions and implementing the four-hour rule. We certainly had a good record on the delivery of health services in the state through not only the asset investment program, but also the timely delivery of health services.

People often use ambulance ramping as a measure of the delivery of hospital services. Again, if we look at the annual figures, we see that the ramping figures under this government are going to be five or six times what we saw under the previous government.

[Interruption.]

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms A.E. Kent): Excuse me, ministers. If you have any conversations, can you step outside. Thank you.

Ms L. METTAM: Other members would like to speak, so I will leave my comments there. Quite clearly, this government has failed when it comes to the delivery of health services in this state. The response to the death of Aishwarya Aswath and the lead-up to that tragedy is indicative of the significant failures right across the health system. Other members would like to speak and I look forward to listening to their contributions.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [4.43 pm]: I am pleased to rise to speak to this motion. The Leader of the Liberal Party has spoken in depth about the very confronting challenges the health system faced in relation to the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath, the circumstances that led to that situation and also the response from the government. The second part of the motion is to discuss the —

... ongoing failure to understand, acknowledge and manage the challenges facing the health system, which is putting patients and staff at risk.

I will just go through a number of areas that I think the government could most certainly be doing better. It will not surprise anyone that I will have a regional focus, because the health system is one of the key issues that is raised with me and any regional member of Parliament. As I said in the last sitting block in the debate around education, people choose to relocate away from regional communities if they cannot educate their kids and pursue an education locally or if they cannot access quality health care or look after their elderly and family and friends. Those things are deal-breakers. That is why when we spoke about regional development, we always spoke about getting the basics right in regional Western Australia, because they are the things that the government should do well.

By any measure, the health services and infrastructure in regional Western Australia are sub-par. Certainly, the health outcomes for individuals are stark. I will go through a number of things in a minute that will highlight the disparity between regional and metropolitan areas and why we need to make sure that there is a concerted and considered focus on delivering services and infrastructure into regional communities to ensure that people can access health care that allows them to contribute productively to our community.

Before I go any further, on Wednesday, 1 February, the Australian Medical Association released a statement in response to the Prime Minister's urgent care clinics announcement. The AMA was quite disparaging of it. This is something that the state Labor Party has had a crack at, although not very well. The federal government has come back to have another crack at it. There has been a number of interventions in and around this. I think St John did it and we have had the GP Super Clinics model. I do not think that any of them have really delivered on the promises that have been made when they have been opened. That is by governments of both persuasion. I am not questioning that there have not been investment and decisions made by governments of a Liberal and National persuasion as well, but the federal government has gone down the path of saying it will add a number of urgent care clinics.

I do not think it is about adding more infrastructure; it is always going to be about how the dollar is spent and how it is prioritised. Although having the infrastructure is important, when we came to government, there had been an absolute dearth of spending on regional hospitals. Members can imagine that within governments of a mind to centralise and pull back services into the Perth metropolitan area, because it is more expensive to deliver those services regionally, was the thought that if we simply whittled away and allowed some of those buildings to become so poorly maintained that they were no longer able to be resolved or upgraded, the government would eventually say that it had a responsibility to shut them. Those who have been around long enough will remember the Moora Hospital campaign run by the community of Moora. That hospital was crumbling and members of the community would turn up with a brick to every event where the Labor Party was and say, "Please fund our hospital, because without

the actual building, we cannot deliver the services we know we deserve.” The community won that campaign. When we came to government, there was a raft of hospitals like that that needed investment, and the Leader of the Liberal Party went through them. When people go to the WA Country Health Service website, they see that the vast majority of the completed projects on that website are from our term in government, our investments and our plan. Even though some of them were opened in the early days of this government, it was our government that made the commitment to invest. That investment was not just in the big regional centres. Anyone who has been to Karratha, Kalgoorlie in the goldfields and even Northam, in my home town, would acknowledge that there are big regional health services, but there were also investments and upgrades in some of the smaller communities like Wyalkatchem and little towns like Cunderdin and Pingelly where we trialled new health facilities. That is the sort of thinking we need from this government. We need it to actually push the boundaries and think outside the square when delivering health services, because once the buildings are in place, the funding for the staff and support services needs to flow. That has most definitely not been prioritised by this government.

I spoke in my reply to the Premier’s Statement about the challenges, particularly with respect to my electorate, but having met with Rural Health West at the end of last year, I was very concerned when I heard the chair say, “I don’t think we’ve ever been so concerned about the shortage of doctors.” For the most part, they are the central part of our primary healthcare model. One thing we need to do better is make sure that we have that access point so that we can access federal government funding. We are under-represented in the amount of Medicare funding that flows back into our state because we do not have access to the doctors to allow us to utilise that. As a state government, if we are not working more closely with the federal government to resolve those challenges and barriers, we will continue to see a reduction in the access to primary health care, and we will continue to see an escalation in all the problems we are seeing. By a factor of multiples, there are worse outcomes in cardiovascular disease, lung cancer, diabetes, obesity and quite often comorbidities that are experienced, and the figures escalate again for Aboriginal and First Nations people. This is a great concern. It costs our state a significant amount if we do not do the work up-front at the primary healthcare level, because it ends up at the tertiary end of the continuum, and our tertiary hospitals are the most expensive part of the system. More work needs to be done. How that will be achieved is up for debate. Certainly, there is a lot of conversation happening at the moment, but I would urge the state government to not take its foot off the pedal when it is having those conversations. In Western Australia, a state of this size with such a significant regional population dispersed across such an enormous geographical area, we have to get it right.

I have already touched on the concern that because we do not have the GPs, our local governments are required to foot the bill and actually do the attraction and retention of those health professionals. The Nationals WA along with the Western Australian Local Government Association did a survey back in 2020. The numbers will have got worse, not better, since we did this survey. We had a really good response rate of about 70 per cent across all regional local governments. At the time of this survey—again, it was 2020, so this will have only got worse—30 of the respondents offered incentives to health professionals and expected to have to continue to offer incentives over the next two years. The main costs borne by these local governments with very low ratepayer bases were housing and medical centre costs—for example, rent was waived and there was the purchase of at least one car—and for most local governments, that was five per cent of their budget. I think this has gone up, but these are the numbers as at 2020. That equated to a spend of around \$200 000. In a newspaper article the other day, the Shire of Quairading stated that it was going to need to spend around \$1 million. That is excessive, and it is certainly deeply concerning if a shire of that size is being forced to go down that path to attract a GP. We had respondents that had been without a GP in their town for more than a year. Again, that creates enormous challenges.

This survey needs to be repeated. I would think that the state government could do that to make sure that it has those statistics. It is certainly powerful to be able to present that on behalf of the state government to say that our local governments are footing the bill and the federal government needs to step in. What is the state government doing to ensure that those local governments do not have to continue to use their ratepayers’ dollars to have at least one GP in their communities?

We also have a concern about nurse practitioners. I spoke very briefly about this and I want to mention it again. Rural Health West has just had its awards event. At the 2023 WA Rural Health Excellence Awards, Laura Black, one of the first nurse practitioners recruited to the wheatbelt when we started running the Southern Inland Health Initiative under the previous government, was recognised for working for more than a decade. She is as rare as hen’s teeth. Qualified nurse practitioners working in regional Western Australia are a really important part of the process and we need to be doing more to get more Lauras into the system. I offer my sincere congratulations to Laura. I know how much the doctors in the practices in that area rely on her and appreciate what she does to allow them to focus on what they need to do, filling in that continuum of care for their patients. The citation was that “Patients have commended Laura for her caring and trustworthy nature, persistence, and attention to detail”. She has worked in Westonia but has been a part of the network out in the eastern wheatbelt for over 10 years now. It makes an enormous difference if we can attract more of those nurse practitioners into the system. That requires a change to the Medicare rebate system. That is another thing our state government can make sure it keeps on the record every time it speaks with its federal counterparts.

The other thing I will touch on—I briefly spoke about this—is housing. I have since had more meetings with community representatives about Health housing in particular. I have gone onto the WA Country Health Service website, and it actually has a section in which it invites investor partnership opportunities. This is not new, but it points to the fact that, to me, it appears that this government has completely exited being responsible for the housing of and building housing for its own workforce. I know that at least eight or nine of my local governments have been approached to build houses. As I say, it is no easy feat for a local government that has a relatively small ratepayer base and has significant road networks and primary responsibilities to then take on the responsibility of building a house. It has to take out a loan. Even if it gets access to a Treasury loan, it still needs to be able to service that loan.

The request that local governments have made of Government Regional Officers' Housing is to change the terms of the payment. At the moment, they enter into a 10-year lease, but the term of those leases is typically 25 years, so there is a gap at the end of that 10-year lease in which the local government could well find itself without a tenant and having to cover the cost. I do not think it is a simplistic or silly suggestion from some of these councils to ask for a guarantee for the life of the loan that they take out, or that the government cover the gap after the 10-year agreement with the state government so that they are not left out of pocket. Local governments are happy to partner with the state government to deliver this, but they do not want the financial risk for their ratepayers, and quite rightly so. It is not their responsibility to provide housing for state government workers. The reason they are doing it is that they can see that their hospitals are at risk, because nurses will not stay in hospital nursing quarters that were built in the 1960s and 70s. Some of these facilities—single quarters like dormitories with shared bathrooms that have maybe had a lick of paint—are wholly unsuitable. Maybe in a town like Wyalkatchem, where the crime rate is relatively low, it is not an issue to live in an unsecured area, typically behind the hospital; however, unfortunately, I have had nurses who have been part of the flying squad who have been sent to regional and remote communities in which there are serious crime concerns, and they have been assaulted. They will not go back. We then lose good, experienced people who are prepared to bridge the significant gaps in staffing that we know exist, because they do not feel safe in the accommodation that is provided, which is substandard in the first place. Those things are primary responsibilities for any state government. The government needs to do the basics and house its workers. It needs to make sure that we have the ability to staff those hospitals and facilities that have had upgrades and investment and make sure that is a priority for our communities, because, surely, by investing in and supporting those people who look after our most vulnerable and are prepared to go anywhere over the state, as many of our nurses and midwives are, we are going to deliver a better outcome for the overall health of the state.

It is very disappointing that the response—this was at an officer level, not the government level, and I will pursue this with the Minister for Housing—from the Government Regional Officers' Housing officer was that it was an unprecedented request, that it would take too long to change the policy that the department has in place for its partnerships with local governments and potential investors and that it would be better if the local government signed up to the process the way it is. That is not the flexibility that we need when we are dealing with the significant crisis of staffing and housing shortages. All stops need to be pulled out. The Minister for Housing can stand in this chamber and earnestly tell us that the government is doing everything, but it needs to trickle down into the department so that when those conversations are had with local governments that are trying their very best to be a part of the solution to retain the staff they know they need, they get the right answer—and that was not the right answer. The Minister for Housing and the Minister for Health need to follow this up. They must look at all options to make sure that there is appropriate housing.

I have so much to say but not long to go.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. DAVIES: The last thing I want to talk about is the midwifery issue; that is, the challenges that we are facing in securing midwives in regional communities. It has been well canvassed in this house that we have a midwifery shortage and that midwifery services in regional Western Australia are retracting. Mums are unable to deliver their babies close to home, which is putting enormous pressure on them and resulting in great expense when they are forced to travel to have their baby. I appreciate that the Minister for Health has reviewed all the cases that were highlighted as a result of community members approaching the opposition and saying, "We are out of pocket." That is in the process of being resolved, but it would not be if they had not been forced to approach the opposition and make that point clear. It should not have been a problem in the first place, particularly when a decision was made to remove maternity services.

There is a broader argument here. Personally, I think we have lost sight of the balance between being able to offer women a safe birth and being able to accommodate women having their baby close to home. The risk-averse nature of our community means that we are, as a matter of course, moving towards the end of the continuum and trying to remove all the risks, which means that women have to go to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, Geraldton Health Campus or a hospital in a major regional centre to have their baby. We do not have many hospitals in regional WA. Very soon, the same argument will be applied to some of the major regional centres because it is harder for GPs and anaesthetists in major regional centres to get insurance and hospitals will face malpractice suits. There has to be a conversation at a higher policy level about how to find that balance.

The midwifery-led models that have been trialled in Northam, my home town, are delivering good results. There are some perverse outcomes in that it is more difficult to attract doctors to deliver babies because the midwives are doing such a fabulous job. I want the minister to touch on the outcome of the work going on in Northam and, I think, Narrogin. Member for Roe, I know for a fact that Esperance is desperate for a midwifery-led group to deliver babies. That is something that the community has been calling for. It is a very isolated community and if women do not have the opportunity to deliver their babies in Esperance, they have to travel a long distance, find accommodation and be apart from their family and friends. That is unacceptable. In a state as wealthy as Western Australia, we need to do more to ensure that we are encouraging innovative models and embedding them in our service models through the WA Country Health Service so that mums can safely deliver their babies close to home. I urge everyone who is involved in the broader policy debate to include the mental health and stress levels of women in the balance when they decide that they should have their baby in Perth or that it is not deemed safe to have their baby in a setting close to home. Those are my concerns about midwifery.

I would love to talk about a raft of other issues in regional health, such as access to specialists, child paediatric services and speech pathologists, on which Hon Donna Faragher has been doing a power of work. There are challenges in the wheatbelt for kids accessing those health services. There is a bit of resistance from WACHS to allow the Telethon Kids Institute to come in, which I find remarkable. Again, it is about making sure that what the minister is saying and projecting—that the government is doing everything to form positive relationships, that it is garnering the state's resources to make sure that it gets it right and that it is not protecting its own patch—is occurring in every aspect of health. It is a complex area and for those who live, work and raise their family in regional Western Australia, the outcomes are poorer. That should not be acceptable to anyone in this place. We should all turn our minds to how the government can prioritise the spending it has at its discretion to get the basics right. It is not doing that at the moment.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [5.06 pm]: I would like to contribute to the excellent motion moved by the member for Vasse, which, amongst other things calls on the McGowan government to be condemned for its failure to implement some of the key recommendations that arose following Aishwarya Aswath's death at Perth Children's Hospital and its ongoing failure to understand, acknowledge and manage the challenges facing the health system, which is putting patients and staff at risk. I want to talk about some of the more diverse challenges that we face in the health system. Before I do, I would like to acknowledge the great work that staff, doctors and volunteers do to keep our health system going, despite the lack of support from the government. They should be acknowledged and supported for all they do.

I note that today, the Leader of the Liberal Party, the shadow Minister for Health, asked the Premier about safe harbour provisions, which are very important. I have been briefed by the Australian Nursing Federation on that matter, and I understand its concerns. Given what happened to the unfortunate staff members who were thrown under the bus and reported to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency following the unfortunate death of Aishwarya Aswath, the government needs to consider it with a great deal of sincerity.

As we know, there has been a lot of discussion—there has been an inquiry—about St John Ambulance and the appropriateness of some of the settings around the ambulance structure. What cannot be denied is the dedication of the many volunteers in electorates such as mine who do their best to keep people safe when their local services are disappearing. We hear that babies cannot be born in certain isolated towns. Most of the smaller health centres are very limited in what they can provide. There is a need to embrace new ways to perform and manage the health system.

For some time, people in my area have been calling for a helicopter service in Geraldton to serve the midwest to enhance the health system to a greater degree. It could be used for urgent patient transfers and to get to people as quickly as possible because we know that the golden hour can make all the difference between people surviving an accident and having a good recovery and not having a good recovery or, unfortunately, passing away. Given the regional road toll and drownings in regional areas, there is a range of reasons why a helicopter service would be fantastic for the area.

On Monday, the shadow cabinet went to Joondalup and spoke to people in the northern corridor about their needs. One of the strong things that came to us was the need to reinforce the health system in that northern area and make Joondalup Health Campus a true tertiary hospital so that urgent cases would not need to be transferred to Fiona Stanley Hospital or Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. That is especially important given Joondalup's distance from Perth, its growing population and the fact that the freeway is always clogged with traffic and difficult.

I point out also that Joondalup Health Campus is important for many of my constituents who have no formal health facilities in their area and have to be regularly transferred to Joondalup. Jurien Bay has one of the highest ambulance transfer rates in the state. Fortunately, thanks to the helipad at the health centre, which was announced and funded by the previous government, people can now be transferred to and from that area by helicopter when needed. Joondalup Health Campus needs to be reinforced and given a truly tertiary aspect. In some ways it is already designated as a tertiary hospital, but it cannot provide the same level of service as other hospitals. The people of the northern suburbs deserve that.

We know that the northern suburbs area is growing very quickly. I have statistics about some of the areas north of Joondalup, such as Yanchep. Yanchep is even closer to my electorate. People in the Shire of Gingin would benefit

greatly from a first-class district hospital at Yanchep. The City of Wanneroo would also like that to happen, as would the community in my electorate. I am sure that eventually the Shire of Gingin would also like to have its own hospital. We know from the forward projections that Gingin is growing at a rate roughly double that of the Perth metropolitan area. The population growth in that shire is very strong and is expected to double in the next 20 years to about 10 000 people. The catchment actually goes further than that and includes Alkimos, Eglinton, Yanchep and Two Rocks, the population of which is expected to grow from the current 34 000 to 124 000 within that same time frame. That is very strong growth indeed. That is a scenario of increasing demand and population. That area is also not far from my electorate. I will very much be arguing for the Yanchep area to be provided with better facilities into the future, because that will spill over into my electorate. It will also be good for the state because of the strong population growth in that area.

The government needs to think and plan forward instead of lagging behind and waiting until there is such a shortage that it is not possible to catch up. That is what has happened in Geraldton. The Geraldton Health Campus project was announced ahead of the 2017 election and was costed at \$73.3 million. About 56 000 people live in the wider midwest region, with around 70 per cent, or 40 000 people, in Geraldton. My electorate of Moore has between 1 500 and 2 000 people who have no health facilities apart from Geraldton hospital. The Shire of Chapman Valley, for instance, has no medical facilities whatsoever. Geraldton hospital is also the major health facility for people who live south of Northampton and west of Mullewa. Another 6 000 or 8 000 people in my electorate rely on Geraldton hospital to provide the next level of service that their small local health centre cannot provide. That is a very important health centre for my constituents. We very much look forward to that being delivered, but we are disappointed that it has taken this long to get underway. The hospital project was re-costed in May 2020 at an expected cost of \$122 million and was due to be finished by mid-2022. However, because of delays, the new completion date is not likely to be until at least 2026. The project is at least four years behind, and it will probably be even longer, because we know that there is a lag in construction all around the state. We have seen the recent reports on the building industry and how building sites are sitting idle for months at a time with no sign of anyone showing up because of the lag in the supply of skills and labour in this state. It is very difficult. The government has done very little to change that by providing accommodation and housing so that this state can attract the necessary skilled people. It is very disappointing that so little has been done. Nonetheless, I look forward to that project eventually being delivered.

The current Geraldton Health Campus is not up to standard. Figures from the Australian Medical Association and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare show that only 52 per cent of people who require emergency treatment in the Geraldton hospital emergency department are seen in the recommended time. I think the benchmark figure is 95 per cent. Only 45 per cent of people who require urgent care and 53 per cent of people who require semi-urgent care receive treatment within the recommended time frames. We can see from that that Geraldton hospital is failing to provide the service level that people would expect at a major regional centre. Geraldton hospital is the only such facility for hundreds of kilometres. It is not as though people can go to another place when they are not being attended to at that hospital. The Geraldton hospital oncology unit was going to be funded by the previous federal coalition government, but that has not been matched by a state government contribution, so it does not look as though that project will go ahead.

Mullewa Hospital is still sitting idle. That is a decrepit looking site. I was there a couple of weeks ago. The hospital has deteriorated. It is actually falling down. It is crumbling. Nothing is being done about that. We are told that planning still needs to continue. The Minister for Health went up to Geraldton and spoke to some of the councillors. Reports came back that Mullewa will have to wait until Geraldton hospital has been built. The minister denied that and said differently. The minister is now saying that it will depend upon further budget decisions. If the minister were here, I would ask her whether she has been putting forward proposals to the state Treasurer to get that project underway in a timely fashion, or at least has had it put in the forward estimates at a particular moment in time to provide some certainty for the people of Mullewa about when their hospital will be delivered. Perhaps the parliamentary secretary will be able to answer that.

We know that at other hospitals, such as Meekatharra and Laverton, there has also been a slowdown. The member for North West Central has alerted me that the hospitals at Paraburdoo and Tom Price are in urgent need of attention. We believe that the Paraburdoo Health Service is effectively now operating only out of Tom Price. That is the case, is it not?

Ms M.J. Davies: It has no doctors.

Mr R.S. LOVE: People who need to go to hospital might as well go straight to Tom Price, because I imagine that is where they will end up. Wyndham Hospital has moved from 24-hour care to 12-hour care, allegedly due to staffing pressures. There is no indication of when it might return to normal. It seems that will be permanent unless something changes in the attitude of the minister.

I turn now to Albany Health Campus. We know that Albany is receiving a large number of migrants, if you like, from Perth.

Dr D.J. Honey: Refugees.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Refugees from Perth. About 10 times as many people moved to Albany last year as in the year before. That centre needs a lot of increased care. We know that there is community concern about the level of care provided at the hospital, so that is another one that needs to be examined.

In Margaret River, the local doctor described the issues at the hospital by saying —

“This growing world-class tourist destination and beautiful region deserves a world-class hospital,” ...

She said that the region’s population is forecast to be 30 000 by 2030, but the facilities are not meeting demand now. She also said —

“It is potentially unsafe at times due to overcrowding,” ...

... waiting patients are crowded and overflow outside, posing difficulty with oversight.

“There is overflow of patients into theatre recovery areas that are distant and physically difficult to observe. Pretty chilly outside too and backing ambulances a hazard.”

The situation is desperate in Margaret River, but the government has failed to prioritise investment in infrastructure since coming to power in 2017.

Another issue I would like to briefly touch on is mental health. We know that the government has spoken of the need for licensed firearms owners to undertake mental health checks, but I know that people in much of my electorate do not have access to mental health services of any sort. This will only highlight the lack of investment and the lack of progress. In all the time I have been in Parliament, I have heard about projects and programs that will improve the mental health services in my electorate, but I have not seen them. I am not saying that it is a problem just for this government; it has been a longstanding problem in many small regional centres. One of the reasons for that is that if a person comes to town to provide a service, people do not like to be seen; there is no anonymity in a small community. That is also an issue. The government needs to thoroughly examine how to get around that and to make some improvements that will provide a step forward for people seeking to receive mental health services in regional areas.

I know that other speakers want to talk and I have spoken for about as long as I need to, but I will finish by saying that we know that a vast number of people are waiting for elective surgery at the moment. Elective surgery sounds like it is a nice-to-have but not a need-to-have thing, but for the person who is hobbling around because of their hip or knee and cannot work effectively because of it, it is a productivity issue, not just a human need. It can make such a difference to people’s quality of life and also their expected health outcomes. The longer that some of these so-called elective surgeries are delayed, the worse it will get for those people who are waiting and their morale will collapse. As a member of Parliament, I have often dealt with people who have had to drive from Carnamah to Perth. They get prepared for surgery in the hospital, but then they are told, “Sorry, not today.” Then what do they do? They have to either go back or wait in Perth. It is not fair and it is not something that should be happening in our state. The issue of trying to catch up with elective surgery will plague the health system for some time.

I am grumpy, not happy, that I have to support such a motion, but it is a worthwhile motion that has been brought forward to highlight the failures, the lack of planning, the lack of investment in infrastructure and the lack of regard for the findings from the inquiries into the unfortunate passing of Aishwarya.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [5.24 pm]: I rise to support this excellent motion put forward by the Leader of the Liberal Party in respect of both the failure to implement key recommendations of the inquiries into the very unfortunate death of Aishwarya Aswath at Perth Children’s Hospital and, more generally, the failings in the health system itself. I want to continue a theme developed by the Leader of the Liberal Party into dear little Aishwarya’s death. The coroner’s report indicated that it might have been preventable; it did not say that it was preventable, but it might have been preventable. The approach taken by this government has been to try to deflect any blame whatsoever from itself. I watched with absolute horror as this developed. The minister and the Premier came into this place and threw staff under the bus. The Leader of the Liberal Party asked the Premier during question time today whether he was going to issue an apology on behalf of the government to those staff who were referred to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. We had this ludicrous answer from the Premier in which he said that they had to be referred to AHPRA when they were because that was a legal requirement. What absolute rubbish. We know that the CEO of the hospital would not sign off on the investigation because they were not satisfied with it, yet I saw the minister and the Premier defend their government in this place by saying that those staff had been referred to AHPRA as though somehow the staff were to blame. It was absolutely shameless and disgraceful treatment of those young doctors.

I have said in this place on a number of occasions that I have a number of immediate family members who work in the medical world and in hospitals and other specialties, so I know that the younger doctors and nurses were absolutely aghast at what happened. I know from speaking to staff at Perth Children’s Hospital how utterly apprehensive they were. They were in a situation in which they were completely overworked, which the government denied at the time, and they did not have the services that they should have had in the hospital, which the government denied at the time and continues to deny. They were apprehensive that if they made a mistake in that overworked situation,

their careers would be sacrificed from being referred to AHPRA. I know for a fact that the young medical professionals who were referred went through hell—and still are going through hell to be frank. Their reputation has been tarnished forever from an absolutely disgraceful episode of throwing those poor young staff under the bus. In considering whether the government was directly involved in that, we might say in this place that that was in the hospital, but it was very clear that there was a desperation to find a scapegoat and that was translated through the way that those staff were treated. It was absolutely disgraceful. To this day, that causes an enormous amount of concern. That is why I completely support the Leader of the Liberal Party's call that this government urgently introduce safe harbour legislation, so that when hospitals are understaffed, the services are not there and staff are being called upon to perform extreme hours of work, their careers and their lives and the lives of their families—because it affects everyone in the family—are not destroyed by being referred to AHPRA.

As I said, a number of my immediate family members are involved in the hospital world and I can say that, as a routine, young doctors work 14-hour shifts or more. The hours that these young medical professionals work would be illegal in the mining industry under the 16–64 rule, yet these young people who typically work on the front line in emergency departments are doing that, and that is directly due to the understaffing of hospitals. We hear this government deny. We heard the previous minister deny that there were problems and we have heard this minister deny that there are problems, yet we know that the truth on the ground is that we have an enormous number of distressed staff in departments. Some medical departments have a rate of absenteeism by doctors of 60 per cent or more because there are so many who are on stress leave because of the enormous distress in the medical world.

As I say, coming back to the case of Aishwarya Aswath, the way those young professionals were treated, before the CEO was even satisfied that the inquiry was complete, was absolutely disgraceful. Through subsequent investigations and the coroner's inquiry we have seen that there were major shortcomings in the resources provided in the hospital, and that contributed to the death of that dear young girl.

I am fascinated by the spin that comes out of this government on various topics. It seems that is its excellence. It is an excellent government on spin. Let us go to the women's and babies' hospital. A little while ago I was looking at the leaders' debate before the last state election between the Premier and Leader of the Liberal Party at the time, Zak Kirkup. The Premier was talking about the women's hospital—how it would be going ahead and that construction would begin in this term of government. Let us see where we have gone with the new women's and babies' hospital. I thought I would go straight to the source. I do not want to quote myself; let us quote the government's own website on this. There is a website that talks about visions and so on, and I thought the project time line was revealing. Let us look some months after the election, in fact nine months after the election. The website states —

2020 — December: funding secured to deliver a new Women and Babies Hospital

That sounds promising, does it not? It is like a *Yes Minister* script from that point on. In February 2021, so more than a year later, the website states “artist impressions of the new hospital unveiled”. There we go, Leader of the Liberal Party. It took a year and one month to get an artist's impression. Perhaps there was a shortage of artists to come up with visions of what the hospital would look like. We then get to May to August, and the website states —

... project vision developed in consultation with more than one hundred stakeholders, including patients and families

Then we go to November 2021 —

... consultation with Aboriginal health stakeholders to assess the cultural appropriateness of the proposed site options and to confirm preferred option

Then we go all the way to January 2022 and the site is confirmed at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. As an aside, I am extremely concerned about the concentration of services at that site. I am not sure that is the best outcome for the state, especially when there are no train lines within kilometres of that location and people typically have to catch multiple forms of public transport to get to it. That is an absolute barrier to people getting there. We go to January 2022 and the site was confirmed. There we go, I come back again. For February 2022, the website states “concept design phase commenced”. Then we see that the concept design phase was completed in July, so more consultation. In November 2022, which is the last entry on this site, “community engagement and focus groups commenced”. I tell members what, there is some consultation on this hospital going on. What is not going on is building the jolly thing! We are halfway through the Second World War in the time line and some considerable distance from when the government said it was going to do this, and we are still with concepts and consultation. It is pretty clear that we will see nothing in this term of government, when the Premier said we would have the hospital. We will see nothing in the second term of this government, eight years in, when there is a screaming need, as was well outlined by the Leader of the Liberal Party. When there is a crying need for that women's and babies' hospital, we do not see anything on the ground.

I was fascinated today to listen to the minister's answer in question time. The minister's response to the question was to talk about dollars. It is something I have seen with this government; it loves to talk about dollars. It is a bit like Metronet. Boy, the government is burning the dollars, but it has not delivered a single thing other than the project started by the previous coalition government, which is the Forrestfield–Airport Link. But dollars are not outcomes.

I have said this before: dollars are not outcomes. The government can announce as many dollars as it likes, but it is what people see when they try to assess health services that counts. With this government we hear lots of talk about dollars, but not outcomes.

The Leader of the Liberal Party was kind enough to share some statistics, and I will not go through a lot because there just is not time, but by the end of last year, it was the worst ambulance ramping on record, at more than 66 000 hours last year. Here is the real pain, and the Leader of the Opposition mentioned this: the elective surgery waitlist grew from 19 000 in 2017 to almost 28 000 at the end of last year. That is the record of the Labor government. As I have pointed out in this place before, elective surgery sounds benign—it sounds like it is just a bit of frippery or a bit of a hangnail or the like—but, in fact, this is people’s lives. This is about people who need hip operations because they are completely immobile. They need other critical surgery because the quality of their lives is being destroyed. They may not die immediately, but when we are talking about elective surgery, we are talking about critical surgeries that people have to undertake. Under this government there has been an almost 50 per cent increase in these wait times. It is an appalling record by this government, one, in the failure to deliver services, and, two, in outcomes for those patients.

I want to look at something that was covered to some degree by the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Central Wheatbelt, and that is the absolute importance of regional health services. I approach this from the aspect of state development. One of the fundamental problems in Western Australia is that we are seeing a greater and greater concentration of population in metropolitan Perth. Unlike Queensland where there is a good level of decentralisation, in Western Australia we are seeing a greater and greater concentration of people in Perth—net migration of people to the south of the state and in particular to metropolitan Perth. Why is that? The reason is inadequate services in the regional parts of the state, in particular north and east of Perth.

As was pointed out by the member for Central Wheatbelt, if families are going to live and stay in those communities, they need a few things. One, they need to feel safe. There has been a complete failure by this government, because families do not feel safe in many of those communities, and less so as the days go by, let alone the months. They want first-rate education for their children because they want their children to have the opportunity to have careers, particularly as farming industries and the like are reducing. They want their children to have opportunities for other careers. But, critically, they want first-rate health services, as has been alluded to, not only at the start of life with maternity and birthing services, but also at the end of life, and that is palliative services. Of course, at end of life, people typically have to access medical services much more often than when they are middle aged, and in these regional areas we are seeing anything but. I raised this in a debate before in this chamber and the health minister again talked about dollars.

The reality is that this government’s record in regional health pales into absolute insignificance compared with the record of the previous coalition government. The member for Central Wheatbelt went through that and I will go through it in a little bit more detail. As has been discussed, the excellent plans for Geraldton Health Campus were derailed and we will have to wait another four years for Labor to deliver everything, so it will not be delivered in this term of government. I will not go through the list; the member for Central Wheatbelt has already gone through that list and some of those projects. We see spin from this government, as I said—first-rate spin. I give the government top marks for spin and perhaps even for conceptual drawings. It does a pretty spanking job of that! However, that does not help people. It might help get the government through a moment so it can pretend it is doing something, but it does not help people.

As outlined, eight major rural hospital projects were delivered by the Liberal–National coalition government during its term. It is six years into this government’s term and the only thing it can hang its hat on is the Newman Hospital redevelopment. That is it—one project as a significant development in rural hospitals. That is all we are likely to see in the larger part in the next eight years. I will go through what was talked about before. The minister went through a list of projects, and I will remind the minister of those. The Bunbury regional hospital redevelopment is just starting and is four years to completion. Work on Geraldton Health Campus is starting this year, four years behind the schedule set by the previous Liberal–National government. Work on Meekatharra Hospital is yet to start, but is described by the minister as being on track. The Tom Price District Hospital redevelopment is just starting, and here we are, six years into the government’s term. The Laverton Hospital project is apparently going to start next year—let us not hold our breath on that one—and Mullewa Hospital is not even in the budget. That is the record of delivery. When we look at it, we see that what we have is a gonna government—it is gonna do these things; it is gonna get these projects up; it is gonna have a women’s and babies’ hospital—but things are not delivered in the time line that is required in those communities.

[Member’s time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: We hear that projects have had to be prioritised. It reminds me of the other weasel words that were used in relation to Metronet after a complete failure of the government to deliver on its time line. We will not even talk about the budget in relation to that. It then said that it was not behind schedule—that it was smoothing the projects. Sir Humphrey would be proud of that term. This government is not delivering. There are lots of things that are gonna happen, lots of dollars that are allocated, but we are not seeing anything delivered on the ground.

I will talk a little about the level of funding. The budget shows us a bit about the priorities of the government. The cost of the program for small rural hospital services was just on \$267 million in 2020–21 and \$266 million last year, and in the budget this year it is even lower again—\$265 million. In fact, what we see is a budget that at best could be described as flat but in fact is reducing. If we look at it in real dollars, given that inflation is six to seven per cent and construction inflation is probably 20 per cent, we see that it is going down. Then we hear the government saying, “But no, we are going to have more staff.” It is going to increase the FTEs, so it says, from 1 236 to 1 322 this year. It has a reducing budget, but it is going to take on more staff.

What does that mean? It means a reduction in services. This is something that was made clear to shadow cabinet when we visited the three main councils in the northern suburbs. It is actually not a lack of services. For example, Joondalup Health Campus could deal with many more patients, but it does not have funding for the services. It is not the hospital facilities that are the issue, but funding for the services. We have seen from the small rural hospital program that funding for services must be reducing. It has to be; it is an arithmetic consequence. If a government is going to increase staffing by that number, almost 100, we will see a reduction in those services. I am interested to hear the minister explain that.

We want people to be encouraged to move to the bush. That is critical for the future of this state. If we want to make Perth more liveable, if we want to address the impact of reducing tree canopy in the metropolitan area and if people are concerned about the continuing expansion of the footprint of Perth city, let us get people living in the bush. If people are going to live in the bush, we want an excellent standard of safety for people, excellent education facilities and excellent health services there.

I want to touch on the area of early childhood education. As was mentioned in the other place, Hon Donna Faragher has done an outstanding job of highlighting these issues. I will touch on a couple of key statistics in relation to youth. We know that a failure for the government is not getting sufficient resources for early intervention for youth. What have we seen from this government? We heard the previous minister and this minister say that the state is doing much better and that our services are much better. However, the access time for a paediatrician has increased to 17.8 months and the access time for a speech pathologist has increased to 12.2 months. The wait time to see a speech pathologist has jumped from 8.7 months to 12.2 months—longer than a year. This is in the period when children are trying to learn and when we know that early intervention makes a profound difference in the ability of children to speak, and that then has an impact on their entire life, particularly their achievement in education. It is even worse than that in rural and regional communities, where travel is a complicating factor.

We have heard talk about extra expenditure and the like, but we see in those communities, particularly regional communities, a regression of service and a delay in getting facilities. This government is completely failing Western Australia in public health outcomes. I want to reinforce it: dollars are not outcomes. The minister needs to focus on the outcomes and not promised future expenditure.

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [5.46 pm]: As the last speaker, I want to touch on some of the points the other speakers have made today from a regional perspective and some of the issues that are floating to the top and becoming more relevant in my space in the north. The health facilities are impacting on the retention of population in the regions. I am getting anecdotal information and emails from people saying that they thought they had services when they were encouraged to apply for jobs and move to the north, but in fact they do not.

A lady from Paraburdoo contacted me. She moved to Paraburdoo under the impression that there would be a doctor on site. She has a child who is asthmatic and anaphylactic and reacts to the EpiPen. She is now faced with the prospect of not having a doctor in the town and needing to take an 80-kilometre drive, whatever time of night it is, to Tom Price. She is in a bad place. Her family accepted a job and moved there, and two weeks later was faced with this situation. On top of that, Paraburdoo Hospital is in disrepair. I understand that is why the doctor who was there as a private doctor has moved to Tom Price. Coupled with that, if someone is sent by the Royal Flying Doctor Service from Paraburdoo to Hedland Health Campus, they are left to find their own way back. People do not realise that there is no connection between Paraburdoo and Tom Price and Port Hedland or Karratha. There is no bus service and no flights, so it is back to Perth and then back up, just to get home, depending on what time they are discharged. That is becoming a bit of an issue.

Both the Tom Price and Paraburdoo hospitals are in need of repair. Work on them is still stalled, as the member for Cottesloe said. The health service is becoming a deal-breaker for people who might move to the regions, particularly young families who need to travel for maternity services. In some of the regions in my electorate some of the mothers are extremely young and the risks are really high, so they are in a town without the care they will need when they have their babies. If they have their babies early, there is a higher risk of things going wrong, such as breech deliveries. It is a 500-kilometre drive to Geraldton—there are no flights—and from Exmouth it is nearly 900 kilometres. It is geographically challenging when there are no basic services.

People are also in desperate need of aged-care facilities. People in Exmouth, Kalbarri and Tom Price have been assessed as second and third generation. I understand that a 1 600-person work camp will be established close to Paraburdoo. Someone quoted me as saying that about 800 new people will be moving into town, which heightens the need for medical services and a robust hospital in that town.

Staffing is a continual issue everywhere. It is also linked to housing in a lot of areas in the North West Central electorate. Shark Bay has issues getting doctors. There are between 3 000 and 5 000 people in Coral Bay for a large part of the year, especially over Christmas or during the high season. It has a nurse and a nursing post. Sometimes it struggles to find volunteer ambos and people to transfer patients. I would like to acknowledge the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It is absolutely amazing. It is an outstanding service. It does an amazing job, as do the ambulance volunteers. Our regional paramedic, Kyle, is just amazing; he is incredible. The volunteers are completely dedicated to the cause and are often under a massive amount of pressure to meet the demands.

Another service I would like to mention is the breast screening service. I know that BreastScreen WA was in Cue the other day, which is positive. There is also an increasing need for renal dialysis in my region, along with mental health services. Mental health is that silent illness that people do not realise they need help for until they really need it or until it is too late. Schools in particular need support and wraparound services for some children who are particularly challenging. It can be difficult for them to deal with some of the situations that they deal with on a daily basis.

In a nutshell, a lot of things have been implicated by these issues. Attracting people and workers to the region is an issue. We all understand why. We have a housing issue. It also relates to education. Some people do not want to live in these towns, which makes it increasingly hard to provide services. We need the basic services, such as a doctor in a town, especially when these towns are so remote and so far away. We need services that are acceptable to the community and not falling down. As the member for Cottesloe said, some of the facilities are really dilapidated. Not to have a doctor as well is a bit traumatic for a lot of people and it is causing people to leave the regions. Retention of people in the regions is very dependent on health services. I urge the government to take action as quickly as it can to rectify some of those issues across those towns that really need desperate help in that space.

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.52 pm]: I rise to oppose this motion. I will first speak about the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath. If anyone in this chamber witnessed the grief of the family, it was me. I was at the funeral of Aishwarya Aswath. It was a tragic death under unfortunate circumstances. Many factors contributed to it. The government did everything possible to get to the bottom of exactly what caused that so that we learn from that and put policies and procedures in place to prevent such things happening in the future. Politicising such an issue with nonstop commentary is heartbreaking. I am sure the opposition is well aware of the recommendations of the coroner and the implementation that has taken place. Playing petty politics with it will not bring better health outcomes for Western Australians.

WA Health's annual budget has increased by 30 per cent since the McGowan government started taking charge. That is an average increase of five per cent year after year. If we look at the per capita expense in the commonwealth for GPs, WA has the lowest. If we look at the availability of GPs per capita around the country, again, WA has the lowest. Who is picking up the gap? If the funding is less and if there are fewer GPs, who is picking up the gap? The state government is funding it. Who is facing the extra burden and the extra pressure? The state government is facing it under exceptional circumstances. The opposition has come to this place and assumed that something like COVID-19 never happened, there was no disturbance to the health system and everything was as usual. That is unimaginable.

I have been a GP, as everyone in this chamber knows. I have been an advocate for international medical graduates for over 15 years. The previous federal coalition government brought in an unimaginable classification called distribution priority area. In my view, it is discriminatory because we are not allowing a doctor who graduated or qualified overseas to work in a certain area. In my view, that is discriminatory. That has caused a huge shortage. There was almost 10 years—a decade—of advocacy to the federal government to resolve issues and to speak about a Medicare rebate for GPs, but it fell on deaf ears. The Albanese Labor government put in place the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce. It consulted the community. It started listening and started hearing the concerns of GPs and the community. It came up with recommendations. The federal health minister is in the process of implementing those recommendations to start making things better. For the opposition to come here and expect 10 years of damage to be reversed in a matter of days or months is a bit too much of an expectation.

The state government is spending whatever it can and putting the money in the right places. Let me explain to the opposition that there is a link between primary care, secondary care and tertiary care. When it comes to tertiary care, again, we split that into two or three different streams—short stay, long stay and particularly mental health issues. Disability issues come under other streams. All these are linked to one another. If members of the community cannot get to see a GP, where do they turn up? They turn up at an emergency department. If they cannot get access to specialists and patients are not able to see a specialist within a certain time frame, would the GP risk sending the patient back home? No. The GP then refers the patient to emergency. There has been unprecedented, unexpected and increased demand for emergency services and mental health services, which has stretched the health system, not only in Western Australia and Australia; it is a global phenomenon. We are coping with the demand and we are putting measures in place.

What is a long-stay patient in a hospital? In typical management terms, these patients are called bed blockers in an area. What happens when a long-stay patient occupies a bed for two weeks when there is no requirement for the

patient to be there for 14 days? During that time, 14 different procedures that could have been done have to be postponed because the bed is occupied by one patient. The lack of bed availability causes delays in admissions to the emergency department. Primary, secondary and tertiary care long-stay patients have a flow-on effect. We have identified these issues. The Minister for Health has established a task force that meets every month on a regular basis to deal with those problems and is coming up with innovative solutions. Even the minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Hon Bill Shorten, said that no state in Australia has implemented solutions as innovative as those implemented in Western Australia. Credit goes to the minister for making the effort and to the task force that has worked out a solution to the problem. No-one is denying that the health system is stretched, but solutions are being implemented and we are already seeing the results.

Mr P.J. Rundle: If long-stay patients don't need to be in the hospital, why don't you get them out?

Dr J. KRISHNAN: Let me explain that to the member. We are trying to do that now. The long-stay patients do not have a permanent facility. For example, an aged person cannot go into an aged-care facility because there are no facilities available. This minister has implemented a digital portal. We have live data coming in about the bed availability in the aged-care sector rather than having to make 35 phone calls before finding a place. This is an innovative solution. We are implementing solutions to solve the problem. We have already seen the length of stay come down significantly. I have been monitoring the data very closely because I am very passionate about health, as members know. The data clearly shows that things are getting better.

I urge the opposition to log on to St John Ambulance Service's public portal that shows the data for ambulance ramping. We cannot forget the COVID curve, which rises sharply and drops significantly. Please look at the graph on ambulance ramping. It is dropping down at the same rate as COVID. There has been a 45 per cent reduction in ambulance ramping compared with mid last year. The only positive thing I hear from the opposition is that the government has the best financial statements. I am thankful for that compliment, but please appreciate the efforts taken by paramedics, hospital staff and emergency department nurses and doctors in trying to reduce ambulance ramping as fast as possible. There has been a 45 per cent reduction, but no appreciation from the opposition.

Dr D.J. Honey: No, because you are still four times what your previous minister said was a disaster.

Dr J. KRISHNAN: Do members opposite expect things to change in 48 hours? Please go and look at the graph. Over two months there has been a record reduction in ambulance ramping. The results are already visible for opposition members to see and accept. It is about looking at the data. I will come back to the data. There is absolutely no denying that 300-odd patients requiring maternity services had to be bypassed. Let me put the data another way. How many births have there been in Western Australia? It is close to 34 000, so 99 per cent of women had their delivery at their place of choice. Is that a better way of looking at the data? I am not trying to say that 300 women being bypassed is acceptable. Not a single woman should go through that, but the opposition fails to recognise that we have had extremely extraordinary circumstances whereby we have had staff and doctors who have not been available because of COVID. These issues have had an impact. The opposition is taking that number and trying to politicise it.

I will turn to the workforce. Opposition members said that we need to build infrastructure. Then they said that the infrastructure is not enough, we need people. But when they were in government, they should have realised that having a workforce in place is important. During March 2014 and March 2017 under the previous Liberal-National government, the full-time equivalent health workforce reduced by 916. Over an eight-year period, the government increased the workforce by 1.4 per cent. They are the statistics and that is the data. The opposition is trying to paint a picture as though nothing is going right when every action has been taken and innovative measures have been put in place.

I turn now to the waitlist. Again, setting aside the extraordinary circumstances and assuming that nothing happened, why would the waitlist get longer? The shortage of staff, including doctors with COVID, extended the list. But I remind the opposition that Western Australia had the shortest cancellation period, and cancelled elective surgery procedures because of COVID compared with any other state or any other place in the world. In spite of all that, this minister and this team of health workers are putting every possible effort into bringing about better health outcomes. The opposition should stop criticising and start appreciating the good work that everyone in the health department is doing.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [6.07 pm]: I rise to oppose this motion because I am very concerned by the repetition that the government is somehow or other to blame for the tragic circumstances of the death of a child. The government has responded effectively to deal with them. I want to share with members that I have experienced firsthand the problem of someone dying, having been misdiagnosed and not properly treated in an emergency department. That happened in another state, but the process that he and his friends and family went through were exactly the same as the circumstances that Aishwarya Aswath's family had to deal with. My friend had a pain in his chest and collapsed at a gym, but by the time the ambulance arrived, he had recovered. In the ambulance, the paramedic tended to focus on the musculoskeletal problem, and that was conveyed to the triage nurse at the hospital when he arrived. Having arrived at the hospital, he was triaged as a low priority. He had a scan on his back for musculoskeletal conditions and was found to have no problems. The doctor did a D-dimer test to find out whether there was any clotting or issues like that that would indicate a greater problem, but, basically, my friend was stuck

in a triage area. Nobody had even spoken to him. He was in pain and nobody would come to him and do anything about it. In the end, he decided to go home. He went home and he died that night. What had happened was at the gym, his aorta had begun to tear. It was a terrible tragedy. It ruptured at home and he bled out.

The hospital was a private emergency hospital. A root cause analysis was undertaken, but the root cause analysis related to cardiovascular disease. He had a very particular type of cardiovascular problem, but it did not relate to a run-of-the-mill heart problem, so there was a problem with that analysis. An independent expert on emergency medicine was called in to comment on the case, because the results of the root cause analysis were unsatisfactory, and the medical expert said that it was probably a preventable death. If my friend had been correctly diagnosed, the hospital had the capacity to operate and treat his condition.

The staff involved were referred to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, and that is standard procedure. It is a legal requirement that they be referred to AHPRA. If someone had said to me or to my friend's family that there should not have been any referrals made to AHPRA because of X, Y or Z, we would have been very unhappy about that. The family actually represented themselves at the coronial inquiry, and although the hospital and the treating doctor denied any responsibility, at the coronial inquiry, the doctor admitted that he had failed to provide adequate care to my friend. The doctor did not even notify him of the results of the D-dimer test, which indicated more severe problems, so my friend had gone home without that information. That is a tragedy. What we could learn from that tragedy about the hospital system is peculiar to that case. Do not collapse at a gym and then get misdiagnosed with cardiovascular illness. Do not come in on State of Origin night in Queensland, when everybody is watching the screen. Do not get triaged down the list and fail to advocate strongly enough for yourself in the hospital. There were a whole lot of learnings from that experience. Maybe do not go to that particular hospital emergency centre. It was a peculiar set of circumstances—a tragedy of errors that conspired to cause the death of my friend. But Aishwarya Aswath's death was also a tragedy of circumstances that are heartbreaking for any family. Dr Jags has indicated the extent of the grief, and we have heard the extent of the grief from the Leader of the Opposition. But all this occurs in a context that requires a policy response from government, and that is what our government has been doing.

The context is that we have the COVID pandemic. COVID has had enormous implications for workloads at hospitals, staff availability et cetera. We have bed block, with aged patients and National Disability Insurance Scheme patients being medically fit for discharge but having nowhere else to go that has suitable living arrangements and support. We have had a reduction in bulk-billing by GPs, making it attractive for people to opt to go to emergency departments, often presenting with conditions that really require a GP or primary healthcare intervention, including patients with mental health issues. In WA, we receive from the commonwealth the lowest funding for GPs per capita among the states, and we have one of the lowest numbers of GPs per person of any state, placing more pressure on the hospital system. We have a shortage of specialists, and this is not just happening here; it is happening everywhere. People are being referred to EDs so that they can get timelier specialist intervention. People are opting out of private health insurance and opting for procedures in the public system. This is the cause of increases in the number of people seeking elective surgeries. As the Minister for Health has previously pointed out, it does not mean that they are waiting longer for those interventions, but we do have an increase in numbers. There are problems with recruiting staff. There was a particular problem with recruiting staff from overseas during the COVID pandemic. I recently had the occasion to go to Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, and I was treated by an emergency doctor who was Irish. He said that he had wanted to come two years ago but had not been able to because of all the travel issues during the COVID pandemic. He was very happy to be here in Western Australia. This has been a problem in recruiting staff to hospitals.

There are problems recruiting health professionals into regional areas. The health minister described very well the situation of midwives in Carnarvon, for example. They have to undertake a certain number of deliveries a year in order to maintain their certification. Unfortunately, our geography in Western Australia means that we have many, many small towns that have low populations and therefore a low percentage of people presenting with medical issues, and medical staff find it very unattractive to go and live in those towns. We are not like Queensland, which has large regional centres throughout the state; we have lots and lots of very small population centres. It is very hard to serve those areas with quality health professionals and facilities.

To add to all that, we have a stretched building and construction industry, which is resulting in delays in the schedule for construction delivery. But I want to comment on the Perth women's and babies' hospital. As someone who has a background in procurement, I can tell members that our planning, consultations, design and consideration of all the factors that go into that hospital mean that we will deliver a hospital in less time than it took the opposition to deliver Perth Children's Hospital. We can either do the hard yards up-front or we can do them at the end of the process, but we are doing the hard yards up-front, and that is the way it should be. In the meantime, we have to maintain King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. I remember the complaints about Princess Margaret Hospital for Children being absolutely dilapidated, falling to pieces, and the impact that had on staff in the transition to Perth Children's Hospital. We will not make that mistake again.

I oppose this motion. I am sick to death of listening to a solution-free zone. It is a constant repetition. I affectionately call Wednesdays "Whingeing Wednesday". I want to hear some constructive solutions from the opposition.

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.18 pm]: I thank the member for Churchlands for her contribution. I particularly thank her for the very sensitive story that she was able to tell the chamber.

I do not propose to make a long contribution, but I had the benefit of being here throughout the opposition's contribution, so I want to answer some of the points that were raised.

Before I do that, I have had the benefit of reading the coroner's report. In her report, the coroner said about Aishwarya's parents —

... they conducted themselves with grace and dignity in these proceedings and put their focus on the system rather than individuals. Their position demonstrated a true generosity of spirit and an understanding of the need for the coronial system to focus on death prevention rather than blame. Their unwavering commitment to see this matter through, despite the undoubted pain having to attend and hear the evidence every day caused them, must be recognised. Their bravery in the face of tragedy has been acknowledged by all involved.

As we again discuss this matter, I want to start my contribution by recognising what Aishwarya's parents must have gone through. That is why it is irresponsible to give them false hope. It is irresponsible to suggest that something other than what transpired could have transpired. Dr Speers, an expert called to give evidence in the coronial inquiry, had this to say at paragraph 228 of the coroner's report. He noted —

... Aishwarya had those two factors that would "have both made it less likely for Aishwarya to survive, even with a bit earlier intervention with the resuscitation." In Dr Speers' opinion, Aishwarya's case showed an extremely rare severe disease process of a number of negative prognostic factors or signs that lead to a tragic outcome in previously well children, —

That is, not just Aishwarya —

within the space of one or two days. Dr Speers was unable to say that Aishwarya would definitely have survived if things were done earlier, given the sheer rapidity of her disease progression, the fact she was already in cold shock or compensated shock at the time of presentation to hospital and her rapid demise soon after. Dr Speers gave evidence that only a minority of children would have survived in those circumstances.

It was inaccurate for the member for Cottesloe to say that if things had been done differently, she would have survived. I was really disappointed —

Dr D.J. Honey: I didn't say that. I said "could have" not "would have". I was very conscious of the fact that it was a lone probability.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I am letting the member for Cottesloe interject because to do otherwise would be a shameful display of politicisation of a tragic set of circumstances, which I have already articulated.

I want to say number of things in response to some of the contributions that have been made by members. Firstly, it is clear through the coroner's inquiry that there has been a number of investigations into what transpired in this circumstance. There was the root cause analysis, which is referenced at paragraph 7, and there was the independent inquiry undertaken by Dr David Russell-Weisz, the director general of the department, which was tabled in this Parliament. Details about whether Aishwarya could have been saved are provided at paragraphs 431 through to 435 of the inquiry report. The coroner also made it clear that although it was in the public interest for her to undertake the inquiry, a number of the recommendations that were identified in the root cause analysis and in the independent inquiry had already been acted upon.

Let us turn firstly to the changes that have been made by the Department of Health and the staff response to those changes. I am referring to paragraph 424 of the coroner's report. Under the heading "Staff response to changes", it reads —

Dr Hollaway gave evidence that there have been a lot of very positive changes since April 2021. He had noticed vastly increased nursing numbers and an increase in doctor numbers as well, with both junior and senior doctors having extra cover. Further, there have been changes to the electronic medical records, namely the EDIS screens, so that doctors can enter contemporaneous notes even without the presence of the paper notes. Dr Hollaway expressed the view that the most important changes, however, has been the introduction of the permanent presence of two waiting room nurses and Aishwarya's CARE Call.

That is the staff response to the changes. I want to talk very briefly about the recommendations because the coroner noted on the recommendations that only counsel for the nurses made submissions for the specific recommendations to be considered. I am referring to paragraph 454. It reads —

At the conclusion of the inquest, counsel for the various parties made submissions orally and in writing. I note that only one of the parties submitted to me that I should make any particular recommendation, with others noting that a number of important changes, such as increase to nursing and medical staffing at PCH and formal escalation pathways, have already been made.

A number of the recommendations had already been made. The recommendations continue —

Ms Burke, who appeared for Nurses Taylor, Vining, Wills, Hanbury and Davies, was the only counsel who submitted specific recommendations for me to consider. Those were:

- CAHS immediately implement and staff a supernumerary resuscitation team in the ED at PCH;
- CAHS immediately implement safe staffing ratios in the ED at PCH as apply in the Victorian equivalent paediatric ED, honouring the recommendation of the Independent Inquiry that the ANF 10-point plan be given the highest priority; and
- That consideration be given to the introduction of ‘safe harbour’ provisions, to protect nurses from Ahpra investigation and prosecution when an adverse event occurs in the context of the nurse doing their work in impossible or suboptimal workload and patient safety circumstances.

I have to say, over the last two days one of the most surprising things has been the emphasis that has been placed by opposition members on the safe-harbour provisions. It is obvious from the way opposition members have prosecuted their case that they have no idea how the safe-harbour provisions will work. Do they operate in any other states in Australia? No, they do not operate in any other states in Australia. Do opposition members know how referrals are made to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency when tragic circumstances like this occur? They are made as a matter of law. It is impossible for an employer to avoid referring medical practitioners and nurses to AHPRA for investigation in circumstances such as these. If, axiomatically, opposition members say they want us to implement safe-harbour provisions, they must know that the government did not have a choice to refer these medical practitioners to AHPRA. They must know that because it follows as a matter of obvious logic. There is only one jurisdiction in which safe-harbour provisions have been implemented—that is in Texas. We do not know what the consequences might be. We do not know what attitudes the other states might have to safe harbour legislation. We do not know what the view of patients might be to safe-harbour provisions when they are subjected to negligence or alleged negligence on the part of medical practitioners, which is not what is being suggested here. The counsel for the nurses did not even lead any evidence or make any detailed submissions on safe harbour. A line was just thrown out to say consideration should be given to it. All of a sudden, these champions of uncertainty who are going to cause all this confusion are saying, “Quick! Implement safe-harbour provisions!” The coroner is not even prepared to go that far. She said that consideration should be given, and that is fine. That is exactly what this government will do because we are a considerate government. We are a moderate and responsible government. Opposition members, so desperate to score political points out of this tragedy, are racing off and saying, “Do you know what we should do? We should not throw the staff under the bus”, which we have not done; we have only complied with our legal obligations. They are saying we should do all these crazy things that are not done in any other state in Australia. They have been done only in one state in the United States and no-one has considered what the ramifications might be. We are not going to do what opposition members want us to do, I am afraid. We are going to do what the people of Western Australia want us to do and we are going to do what is sensible, proportionate and appropriate.

I want to talk next about some of the other things that have already been actioned, not as a result of the tragic circumstances that happened in April 2021, but as a result of a systematic review of our health system that was undertaken by the McGowan government in our first term of office—the *Sustainable health review: Final report to the Western Australian government*. The coroner made recommendations on electronic medical records and the use of electronic medical records. I refer members opposite to recommendations 12 and 22 of the sustainable health review. This document was published in 2019. It is an area in which work is already being undertaken. It predates what happened in April 2021 by a number of years. The opposition says, “Look, we have discovered an issue! Let’s wave a magic wand and we’ll fix it immediately.” That reminds me. Opposition members then say, “Do you know what you need to do? You need to build more hospitals.” The member for Churchlands, who is an expert in procurement —

Ms M.M. Quirk: An international expert!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Sorry; I beg your pardon, member for Churchlands.

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: What was that, member for Roe? Did you say please build a hospital? Thank you. Yes, we will build a hospital, and we will build a hospital properly. We will build a hospital that does not have lead in the water and does not have asbestos in the ceilings because we will do the scope of work that is required. Before we undertake the construction of a new women’s and babies’ hospital, we will make sure that we will build the hospital properly. We will be responsible with the expenditure of government money. Because we have worked so hard—thank you for the compliment—to get this state into the best financial position of any state in the commonwealth, we will make sure that when it comes to spending money, we will spend the money properly, we will spend the money appropriately, we will spend the money cautiously and we will spend the money responsibly. That is precisely what you lot did not do. That is why members opposite say, “These are all the things we achieved”, but they could

not open Perth Children's Hospital. They were left Fiona Stanley Hospital, which we left them because of the investment in health infrastructure undertaken by the previous Gallop–Carpenter government. That did not stop you lot from taking credit for work that you had not done. We are doing the work on the women's and babies' hospital, and we will continue to do the work on that hospital. We will also use the shocking example of the opposition's mismanagement of the Perth Children's Hospital project as a template for what not to do.

I turn now to the Your Voice in Health survey. This was an incredible initiative brought in by the previous Minister for Health to make sure that this government would know what the attitudes and concerns of our health workforce have been and are. Our health workforce, together with the community of Western Australia, was instrumental, as the Premier said during question time today, in delivering the best outcomes of any jurisdiction in the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. We want to know what our health workforce has to say. We want to hear from them. We understand that it is not just the CEOs at the top of the tree but the workers on the front line who can help us improve, deliver and maintain our world-class health system. The Your Voice in Health survey was not something that the opposition team implemented. It was implemented by the previous Minister for Health. When we suspended that survey, in the midst of a global pandemic when we had 100 other priorities that we were trying to focus on, the opposition tried to run a scare campaign by saying that we were abandoning the Your Voice in Health survey. However, lo and behold, it is back, as we told the opposition it would be. That is because it was important to us then and it is important to us now. That is why the opposition's scare campaign fell flat on that, and it will fall flat on this as well, but that is all right.

The allegation that has been made against us is that we are only good at spin. Even if that were true, we are a lot better at spin than you lot. Opposition members do not know what they are talking about. They cherrypick data and present it as fact. What does ATS stand for? Anyone? Crickets. It stands for Australasian Triage Scale. The opposition says that under ATS 3, we rank the worst of every jurisdiction. Do members know where we rank under ATS 1 and ATS 2, which are the more important categories? We rank smack bang where we should be. We are doing exceptionally well given the challenges that the Western Australian health system is facing. Look it up. Under categories 1 and 2 of the Australasian Triage Scale, Western Australia is going great. Where we rank on categories 1 and 2 is a more accurate reflection of how well our health system is performing. Members opposite cherrypick the data to talk down our Western Australian health system and undermine our health workers. That is absolutely a shame on them. When they make arguments and present cases, they should make sure that they present the whole context. That is why I have to keep coming in here and telling opposition members about the context of the global pandemic. That is why I have to keep coming in here and telling them about how badly they ran the Perth Children's Hospital construction project. Opposition members need to present the whole picture. Anything less than that is disingenuous. It is just Liberal lies.

I now turn to the member for Central Wheatbelt. I find myself once again in agreement with the member. We are struggling with the problem of getting general practitioners into country areas. There is absolutely no doubt about that. Primary health is the responsibility of the federal government. I only wish that more had been done about this problem when Warren Truss, Michael McCormack and Barnaby Joyce were Deputy Prime Ministers of the Commonwealth of Australia and had responsibility for this area as members of the federal cabinet. Shame on them for doing so little.

Ms M.J. Davies: I actually acknowledge that it has been a perennial problem for both governments, but you are in charge now, and so, too, is the federal government.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I thank the member for the interjection. I appreciate that. The member referenced nurse practitioner Laura Black and the work that she is doing at the Shire of Westonia. She is doing an excellent job. We want more Laura Blacks and other nurse practitioners.

Ms M.J. Davies interjected.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I am not going to answer that. I will let the minister answer that in more detail, because this is a beautiful Dorothy Dixier from the member for Central Wheatbelt. On 20 February, the federal Minister for Health, Mark Butler, came to Western Australia and announced, along with the state Minister for Health, that we are going to launch a pilot program into rolling out nurse practitioners in regional Western Australia because of the crisis that those towns are facing in not being able to access general practitioners.

Ms M.J. Davies: Hear, hear! Do more!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: You say do more. You say here is the problem, and we say yes, we know, and you say put money on the table, and we say here is the money on the table, but that is still not good enough for you. We are an evidence-based government. We are doing the work that you did not do. You have one nurse practitioner. We are going to have plenty.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): Member for Mount Lawley, I am going to take a point of order if no-one else does. Hansard has a job to do, and that last exchange was extremely difficult for everyone. Although I allow a bit of latitude, particularly with the very passionate member for Mount Lawley, I would appreciate it if we tried to keep things orderly going forward.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Thank you, Acting Speaker. I am passionate about making sure that we deliver world-class health services for the people of Western Australia. That includes people in our country towns and regional and rural areas. I know that the member for Central Wheatbelt is passionate as well, and I would like to hear her applaud the government's efforts in that direction, but I will leave that for the minister to pick up.

I come finally to the Leader of the Opposition, who has had to leave the chamber on urgent parliamentary business. I will not be seeking an extension of time and will be sitting down shortly. The Leader of the Opposition came back again to the safe harbour provisions. Other opposition speakers have also spoken about that. I will restate my rebuttal of the arguments that have been made about those provisions, and the fact that no evidence was led and no substantive submissions were made. There is also no precedent for this sort of thing other than in the state of Texas. The unintended consequences of this sort of legislation could be incredibly significant, yet opposition members are rushing headlong into this recommendation without proper thought, consideration and planning.

The member for Moore talked about our investment in the Mullewa health system in the context of our investment in the Geraldton health system, as though he was advancing the argument that we should stop work on Geraldton and focus on Mullewa. Now that the National Party does not hold the seat of Geraldton, I cannot help but wonder whether its political priority is now also not the people of Geraldton. We are investing a significant amount of money into the delivery of health services in Geraldton. That will be beneficial for the people not just of Geraldton, but also the entire hinterland. It will put an excellent health facility into the significant regional city of Geraldton.

The member for Moore finished his contribution by making two important points. He wants us to invest in mental health, and he wants to know what the planning and investment will be going forward. With the appointment of Minister Sanderson, the portfolio of mental health has returned to the Minister for Health. That was not the case during the second McGowan ministry. The Deputy Premier had the portfolios of health and mental health in the fortieth Parliament, and health but not mental health in the forty-first Parliament. Under Minister Sanderson, mental health and health have been recombined. Minister Sanderson has worked tirelessly with the Mental Health Commission and the health service providers to frame the governance structures for mental health so that the proper architecture will be in place to make the necessary investments to prioritise mental health for Western Australians. I meet with many mental health stakeholders, and every mental health stakeholder that I have had the privilege of meeting with has been really impressed with how this government has elevated mental health to such a high priority and has done so much work to break down the taboo. I thought that the Leader of the Opposition's point on the stigma and taboo that people face when they seek mental health services was well made. This government, by prioritising and promoting access to mental health services, is doing everything it can to break down that stigma and taboo so that people will feel confident to go forward and seek the mental health services that they need. In fact, the demand for mental health services at the moment is testament to the fact that people who previously were not getting help are now stepping up and getting the help that they need. That will continue to grow, because there has been such a strong stigma associated with mental health for such a long time.

I am sure that the minister will have plenty to say about the investments and planning for the future. I thank the member for Moore for his Dorothy Dixier and I will sit down and wait to hear the minister's contribution.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [6.39 pm]: I rise to contribute to this motion. Of course the government will not support the motion. I thank my colleagues on this side of the chamber for addressing some of the more spurious and outrageous claims made by the opposition. In the time that I have available, I will confine my comments to the substance of the motion as put by the opposition. It really has been another display of wilful ignorance by the majority of those on the other side of the chamber about what is occurring in our health system.

Reform in our system, particularly at Perth Children's Hospital and the Child and Adolescent Health Service, or CAHS as we call it, is about creating enduring cultural and practical changes. It is happening across the whole system but is focused on PCH and CAHS. Those enduring cultural changes are the responsibility of every individual who works in the organisation, as well as management. They are everyone's responsibility. They are not a tick-box exercise. Members opposite do a great disservice to Aishwarya and her family by distilling those recommendations into a tick-box exercise. I will not treat them as such, and that is the commitment that I have given the family—that they will be treated with respect, diligence and urgency in the way that they are implemented. By no means will I compromise patient safety in order to turn this into a tick-box exercise.

Several members interjected.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Members, if you do not mind. Excuse me.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Sorry. Members!

Ms A. SANDERSON: I am finding it a bit difficult to concentrate.

By no means am I prepared to turn it into a tick-box exercise and compromise and rush to fulfil recommendations that may have unintended consequences. Many of them were easy to implement; others have been more challenging and require more time and thought. I am not going to endorse anything that would produce a shock to the system or have unintended consequences, because that is also not what the Aswath family want.

The coroner made some comments about the pace of the implementation of recommendations. From the three inquiries—of course, there is also the intervention—there have been 46 recommendations altogether, with the acknowledgement that there was some overlap in those recommendations. There was absolutely zero criticism from the coroner about the pace of the implementation of those recommendations. Is the opposition saying that it does not agree with the coroner, because that has not been the tone so far? There was zero finding from the coroner about the pace of the implementation of those recommendations. In fact, the coroner made a number of comments throughout the report about the enormous amount of work that had been put in, the enormous financial commitment made by the government and the commitment of staff working to implement many of those recommendations.

I will make some comments about the root cause analysis. They are not generally public documents. The intent of a root cause analysis is to have almost a no-faults disclosure. The way it has been put to me is that it is like what is done in the aerospace industry whereby essentially everyone just puts everything on the table and it is absolutely confidential in a genuine attempt to make sure it never happens again, and a root cause analysis is treated as such. It was conducted and was essentially completed and then it was leaked. I will say, and I have said before, that whoever leaked the root cause analysis needs to take a good hard look at themselves, because the damage that that has caused to the trust in that process and the trust from staff and from the family has been exceptionally difficult to repair. That was not the intent of those investigations. That has caused immense damage and cultural challenge. It has caused enormous distrust from the family. I do not resile from those comments. It was a very bad thing for that individual to do—to leak it to the media.

In terms of referral to the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, there is no discretion under the act in Western Australia. They have to act urgently to refer health practitioners. These provisions have been put in place to protect patients, and that always has to be our priority. If someone were to ask me whether there should be discretion in certain circumstances, I would say yes, there should be, because we do not want staff participating in a root cause analysis with the fear of deregistration hanging over them. They need to be part of that process. Lessons have been learnt. Some of those were well and truly outside the government's control, but lessons were certainly learnt about that process. I absolutely think that in certain circumstances there needs to be discretion about when referral might occur, and we are investigating that, as required by the coroner.

There were 30 recommendations alone from the independent inquiry. Eighteen of those have now been completed; recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 18, 21, 25, 27 and 28 are complete. On track to be completed this year are recommendations 7, 13, 14, 15, 17, 19, 23, 24 and 26. By the end of this year, we anticipate that the vast majority of those recommendations will be completed. In the longer term reform, recommendations 20, 22 and 29 will be completed. I am interested to see what kind of time frame the opposition might put on something like this, which is to review the organisation and progress its approach to the development, implementation and monitoring of culturally and linguistically diverse capability strategies, along with commensurate staff competence training, enlisting the support of external agencies and expertise. This is a technical way of addressing the cultural challenges and some of the issues that were highlighted not in the coroner's report, but in previous reports, about the cultural barriers experienced by people from non-English speaking backgrounds, the kind of respect they show for authority in government institutions and some of the signals of distress that may sometimes be lost by those who are of English-speaking backgrounds and possibly come from a more robust environment of exchange. They are not tick-box exercises; they are about root-and-branch cultural competency and cultural diversity. It is also about improving the diversity of our workforce.

I am comfortable with the pace. It is urgent but meaningful, without compromising the current staffing mix in the hospital and in the emergency department, because that is one of the most important things that keep our patients safe.

Despite the stalling from the Australian Nursing Federation on finalising the agreement—we still have not received its offer that it committed to provide us in December last year—the government has committed to implementing nurse-to-patient ratios. The audit is almost complete; it will be completed by the end of this month. It is an audit of every healthcare facility in the state. It is a huge piece of work that is almost complete. We are very committed to rolling out ratios across Western Australia. I have never heard opposition members state their policy position on ratios. I am confident that in many areas we will meet those ratios, while in others there may be work to do, but that work is already absolutely underway.

We have already referred to the safe harbour legislation and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency being a national body. It is a complex noodle nation of registration and regulation. Work is being done nationally at health ministers meetings around clarifying and streamlining, and ensuring that patients and clinicians are protected appropriately under regulation. That is a balance that has to be struck. On the one hand, it has to protect clinicians from egregious complaints, while, on the other hand, it has to protect the public and provide some transparency. That will be the priority work that I do nationally to ensure that.

We are prioritising funding for the electronic medical record program. A digital medical record will be rolled out by the middle of this year. The majority of health facilities will have the digital medical record this year. Our investment is clear on this, and we are starting the process for the electronic medical record, noting that some areas

of Fiona Stanley Hospital already have it. It is worth asking the question about whether Perth Children's Hospital, built by the former government, was built to have an EMR. It was built to have an EMR, but the former Liberal-National government refused to fund it. The case was put and the business case was written. It was a clear requirement of a hospital; the IT is as important as the building now. The former government refused to fund it. The opposition has to take some responsibility for that. That is a brand new building that should absolutely have an EMR and it does not. Fiona Stanley Hospital was intended to be a paperless hospital, but it is not. We now have to retrofit these brand new hospitals finalised under the former government in order to deliver the IT infrastructure.

Mr S.A. Millman: Building nineteenth-century hospitals for twenty-first century doctors.

Ms A. SANDERSON: That is exactly right.

Mr S.A. Millman: Lead, asbestos and paper records.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes.

The procedures of observations at triage are operational and in place, and I understand they are being rolled out for appropriately triaged patients. Without question, there has been a fundamental misunderstanding of the health system by the opposition—a wilful ignorance and sometimes just ignorance. I refer to a comment from the member for Roe about why we cannot get people out of hospital if they are ready to be discharged. I mean, wow! What about the National Disability Insurance Scheme patient who does not have appropriate disability accommodation?

Mr S.A. Millman: Aged care.

Ms A. SANDERSON: What about the aged-care patient who does not have the home supports in place because the commonwealth system is not keeping up with demand or the mental health patient who is struggling to find appropriate accommodation? Shall we just kick them out to keep the hospitals flowing? What a ridiculously ignorant comment, and how offensive to the staff who support our community. But I will make some comments. There are patients who could be discharged who are not discharged quickly enough, and that is why we put in place the mandatory policy that when someone has an aged-care facility in their top-three requirement, they are discharged into that facility, particularly in respite, while they are waiting to make more permanent plans for the future and how they will receive care.

I have to make some comments before we close. I will talk a bit more about some of the investment into the women's and newborns' hospital before we close. I will make some comments about some of the conduct that we have seen from the opposition with regard to the health system, particularly from the now Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Vasse. I do not step back or resile from any of my comments about some of that conduct—an unwillingness to acknowledge some of the trauma and pain inflicted by jumping on an issue without showing due diligence and courtesy to those involved by furnishing yourselves with the facts and getting across the facts of a case before jumping in front of a camera and making some outrageous comments. I have learnt in this life, and in particular in this role, that often the first presented facts are very rarely what happened. We owe everyone involved the courtesy of understanding the whole picture before making sweeping remarks and offensive comments that inflict more pain and trauma on individuals.

Let me give some examples. I turn to the case of the Rockingham General Hospital palliative care patient in which a junior doctor made clear he had some concerns that a patient may have been transferred to the morgue before being life extinct. Less than two hours after that report had hit the media, the member for Vasse was in front of a camera. She had not talked to the family or furnished herself with the facts. She said —

Today's reports about an alleged cover-up at Rockingham Hospital, associated with a patient who has allegedly been put in a body bag alive, also support and warrant a complete investigation, and also back those calls and justification for the Royal Commission ...

She also said it—

... raises the question, what more needs to happen in this health system before the McGowan government take the crisis across our health system seriously?"

She did not speak to the family or any staff. The reality was that a very experienced palliative care nurse had to take stress leave from work and the junior doctor took stress leave due to ending up in this absolute storm because the member for Vasse jumped on the media bandwagon but did not wait to find out and understand exactly what happened. There has been an internal review, and an independent expert has determined that it was very unlikely that that had occurred and that the palliative care nurse had called it right. Also, today a Corruption and Crime Commission report was tabled that cleared them of any wrongdoing. Despite that fact, the member for Vasse jumped up and talked about these reports of an alleged cover-up being absolutely outrageous. She jumped in front of a camera—"I have to get my face in the news." I called the family and apologised on your behalf, so do not worry; I apologised on your behalf. I rang the brother —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse! The minister has the call.

Ms A. SANDERSON: You are still doing it!

She is using families and using trauma as a political shield. That is exactly what has happened here. I do not resilie from that.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members!

Ms A. SANDERSON: I spoke to the brother of the gentleman who was recently deceased. The family had just been through nursing their loved one. He had an elderly mother whom they were trying to keep at bay. Going out in front of the camera keeps the story going; that is the point I am making. It feeds the story and therefore feeds the pain of the family. It feeds the pain.

Several members interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members! Minister for Community Services, you do not have the call. The Minister for Health is more than capable.

Ms A. SANDERSON: I have respect for those families and I respect the patients.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse!

Ms A. SANDERSON: I spoke to the brother and apologised for the fact that his family had been caught up in this horrible media storm and had been used politically. This is the quote from the man's brother. He said —

... given the political situation around the state of the health system in Western Australia, the case had been used to highlight concerns ...

“Unfortunately, it doesn't take into account the people involved. And not necessarily understanding all this the full situation ...

That was a member of that gentleman's family.

I go to the next example of Mr Arora. Mr Arora's case was disclosed by someone purporting to be a member of the family. That man was a former One Nation adviser and a mayoral candidate and he had totally misrepresented the situation. In fact, the Arora family was so distressed that they released a statement that said —

... information was released and reported about Mr Darshan Arora in relation to his condition and care at FSH. The information was not factually correct in its entirety and was not substantiated with either Mr. Arora or his daughter Shelley, for the purposes of being provided to the media.

About two weeks later, the member for Vasse complained that I had not called back that gentleman who had purported to be representing the family. She said it was outrageous that I had not called that man. No, I had not because I know that he was not an authorised carer. I will not just talk to anyone who rings up and purports to represent the family.

There are still unanswered questions about what happened in that meeting with the woman who was accidentally sent very confidential data of close contacts —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, I do not need this any longer.

Ms L. Mettam: You won't have it!

The ACTING SPEAKER: Do not argue with me, member for Vasse.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The recipient of that dataset —

The ACTING SPEAKER: Minister for Health, take a seat. Member for Vasse, you do not interject on the Acting Speaker—you know that—when I am talking to you, and you certainly do not invite to be kicked out. You are the Leader of the Liberal Party and I expect a higher standard of behaviour in that respect. In the future, I will consider naming you if that kind of behaviour is engaged in again.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The recipient of that data said herself on ABC radio that the person she went to was a person in the community with authority, the member for Vasse, the Leader of the Liberal Party. After that meeting, confidential information was subsequently provided to a major news outlet. What happened in that conversation? There are still questions to answer. I will undertake my work diligently and with urgency because I know that families absolutely want to see these recommendations implemented.

Ms L. Mettam: What a grub!

Ms A. SANDERSON: The coroner did not make one single finding —

Withdrawal of Remark

Ms M.M. QUIRK: The member for Vasse just called the minister a grub. She said, “What a grub.”

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife): My understanding is that there is a vexed history about whether the word “grub” is parliamentary. I will not rule on that point of order. Minister for Health, with five seconds to go.

Debate Resumed

Ms A. SANDERSON: I conclude this debate. We do not support this motion. It is a pathetic motion. It fails to understand the system and it does no service to Aishwarya or her family.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRESPASS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 7.00 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

DUMAS HOUSE — CYBERSECURITY OFFICE FIT-OUT

668. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier:

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

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

Mr M. McGowan replied:

- (a)–(g) Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 669.

SERVICEWA APP

671. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Mid Year Review 2022–23 and the funding of \$2.9 million for the Department of Transport to invest, expand and improve the ServiceWA app and ask:

- (a) What services will the Department of Transport be adding to the application (the module/s);
- (b) What internal processes have determined these services should be added to the application;
- (c) How many staff are working on the ServiceWA app module/s for the Department by Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) and headcount; and
- (d) What is the timeline to implement the module/s and will the Minister please provide detail for each additional module?

Ms R. Saffioti replied:

- (a)–(d) The Department of Transport is looking to allow digital driver’s licences, and provide the ability to add one’s Recreational Skippers Ticket and Recreational Fishing Licence to the App.

Discussions across the Department’s Business Units, together with other government agencies including the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, have determined that there is value in the Department leveraging its capability as a state individual Identity Provider.

7 FTEs are currently working on these modules, with 10 staff contributing in various capacities and at various stages.

TRANSPORT — DRIVER’S LICENCE APPLICATION

682. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:

I refer to the Drivers Licence Application form through the Department of Transport and ask:

- (a) When was the Driver Licence Application form last updated? Please detail the changes made;
- (b) Please identify if the changes were made due to the *Transport Legislation Amendment (Identity Matching Services) Act 2021* or not;
- (c) Was the general public notified of the changes? If yes, on what dates and in what form;
- (d) Has the Department sought advice on whether the inclusion of ‘multiple birth details’ can be removed off the form;
- (e) Has the Department sought advice on whether the inclusion of ‘hair colour’, ‘body build’ and ‘eye colour’ can be removed off the form;

- (f) Do any other Australian jurisdictions still include ‘multiple birth details’ or ‘hair colour’, ‘body build’ and ‘eye colour’? If yes please detail;
- (g) Has the Department updated their address portal to allow post office boxes to be included on drivers licences, learners permits and probational licences? If not why not; and
- (h) Has the Minister been briefed on drivers licence costs and what actions are underway to reduce drivers licence costs to everyday Western Australians where possible?

Ms R. Saffioti replied:

- (a) 14 December 2022 – minor wording and layout changes to improve readability and flow of the form.
- (b)–(c) N/A.
- (d)–(e) The collection of this information is to support the biometric integrity of the driver licensing system and to try and eliminate the requirement to investigate facial recognition matches where twin or multiple birth siblings exist.
- (f) Yes. South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory include eye colour.
- (g) No. The Road Traffic (Authorisation to Drive) Regulations 2014 requires a residential address, which is consistent with other Australian licensing jurisdictions.
- (h) The driver’s licence fee is calculated on a cost recovery fee for service arrangement, in line with the Department of Treasury’s guidelines on costing and pricing.

THORNLIE–COCKBURN LINK — NICHOLSON ROAD TRAIN STATION**683. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:**

I refer to Nicholson Road Train Station on the new Thornlie–Cockburn Link line:

- (a) Is the Minister aware of any engineering issues such as bowing tracks in either the freight or passenger lines passing the Nicholson Road Station site? If yes, please detail the issue(s) and in which set of rail tracks the issue(s) have occurred;
- (b) When did the Minister become aware;
- (c) Have local residents and businesses been notified of the issues;
- (d) Have these engineering issues contributed to the project completion date being pushed back to late 2024;
- (e) Have solutions to the engineering issues been identified and implemented; and
- (f) If solutions have not yet been implemented, will this lead to further delays for the project’s completion?

Ms R. Saffioti replied:

- (a)–(f) No engineering issues have been identified with the rail.

COMMUNITIES — STAFF — GASCOYNE REGION**687. Ms M. Beard to the Minister for Housing; Lands; Homelessness; Local Government:**

- (1) In reference to staff in the Department of Communities, who are based in the Gascoyne Region:
 - (a) How many Department of Communities staff live and work in Carnarvon; and
 - (b) What are their position levels and do any hold senior departmental positions?
- (2) In reference to staff in the Department of Communities:
 - (a) How many staff who hold senior departmental positions are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander ancestry:
 - (i) Of these, how many are regionally based and what are their roles; and
 - (b) How many staff who hold senior departmental positions are of Maori ancestry:
 - (i) Of these, how many are regionally based and what are their roles?
- (3) In reference to training of frontline staff in the Department of Communities:
 - (a) Are staff formally trained in de-escalation tactics:
 - (i) If yes, please table the procedures and lessons provided and detail if this is in person or online only;
 - (b) How many Full-Time Equivalent staff (FTE) are currently trained in de-escalation tactics;

- (c) How many staff (headcount actual) are currently trained in de-escalation tactics; and
- (d) For (b) and (c) please detail how many of those staff are currently based in the following regions:
 - (i) MidWest;
 - (ii) Gascoyne; and
 - (iii) Pilbara?

Mr J.N. Carey replied:

The Department of Communities (Communities) advise that as at 1 February 2023:

- (1) 21 employees work in Carnarvon, ranging from Level 2 to Specified Calling 3.
- (2)
 - (a) The Department of Communities is unable to disclose this information as it is supplied by employees in confidence and cannot be released in a manner that could make those employees working in regional towns identifiable.
 - (b) Communities does not record this information.
- (3)
 - (a) Four training courses are provided in Therapeutic Crisis Intervention, Responding to Aggression, Understand and Diffuse Aggression and MAYBO Training – Positive Approaches to Behaviour and Managing Conflict. Training is delivered in person and online.
 - (b) 586.2 Full-Time Equivalent employees have completed one or more of the courses .
 - (c) 673 employees have attended the courses .
 - (d)
 - (i)–(ii) For the Mid-West Gascoyne Region, 88.
 - (iii) 47.

TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE — EVENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT

688. Ms M. Beard to the Deputy Premier; Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade; Hydrogen Industry; Tourism; Science:

- (1) I refer to evidence provided at Budget Estimates 2022–23 and the \$1.1 million for the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for event and waste management during the 2023 Total Solar Eclipse and I ask, please provide a breakdown and detailed description and amounts allocated for each expected location and management service?
- (2) I refer to evidence provided at Budget Estimates 2022–23 and the senior officers working group for the Total Solar Eclipse and I ask:
 - (a) Has modelling on visitor numbers been undertaken, if yes please detail the modelling;
 - (b) Has modelling on the overall impact on the eclipse across the regions for this event been undertaken, if yes please detail;
 - (c) What was the cost for consultation undertaken by Riskwest associated with this event; and
 - (d) Please detail the membership of the senior officers working group and their usual office location?

Mr R.H. Cook replied:

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions advises:

- (1) Funding of \$1.1 million to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions (DBCA) comprises:
 - \$150,000 for additional track and road maintenance in DBCA-managed lands to support increased local traffic during the event, as well as to ensure visitor and public safety, with \$70,000 for spur road maintenance within Cape Range National Park and \$80,000 for post maintenance on an as needs basis across Cape Range National Park and Nyngalaraa National Park.
 - \$300,000 for additional temporary staff to support and manage increased public visitation, safety and emergency response.
 - \$150,000 to install one dump point at Milyering Discovery Centre at Cape Range National Park, four additional dump points within Nyngalaraa National Park, and three septic tanks for Giraliala ex-pastoral lease.
 - \$100,000 to support running costs of vessels to support on-water compliance and patrols within the marine park.
 - \$203,000 for hire equipment, including toilets, road barriers and variable message boards to support the additional visitor numbers.

- (2) The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation advises:
- (a)–(b) Planning for the Total Solar Eclipse commenced on assumptions and recommendations outlined in two reports commissioned in 2020 by Tourism WA, and included an outline of visitation and infrastructure capacity considerations for the TSE. The range of visitor numbers assumed for the Total Solar Eclipse was: low range 11,856, medium 20,500, high 40,935. Based on its analysis of the region’s capacity, the recommended optimal number of visitors would be in the medium visitor range of 20,500.
 - (c) \$19,912
 - (d) The senior officers working group are not based in a single office location. It comprises of senior decision making officers from the following departments:
 - Department of Jobs, Tourism Science and Innovation (Lead agency)
 - Department of Fire and Emergency Services
 - Department of Biodiversity, Conversation and Attractions
 - Department of Planning, Land and Heritage
 - WA Police
 - Department of Health / WA Country Health
 - Main Roads
 - Road Safety Commission
 - Department of Transport
 - Department of Treasury
 - Gascoyne Development Commission
 - Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
 - Department of Education
 - Australian Department of Defence
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