

**Division 34: Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries — Service 1, Local Government; Services 3 to 16, Culture and the Arts, \$172 125 000 —**

Mr I.C. Blayney, Chair.

Mr D.A. Templeman, Minister for Local Government; Culture and the Arts.

Mr D.S. Ord, Director General.

Ms S. Sherdiwala, Chief Finance Officer.

Mr C. Walker, Executive Director, Culture and the Arts.

Ms L. Fanciulli, Executive Director, Infrastructure.

Mr G. MacMile, Director, Strategic Coordination and Delivery.

Ms N. Lethorn, Director, Industry and Sector Regulation.

Mr G. Hamley, Chief of Staff, Minister for Local Government; Culture and the Arts.

[Witnesses introduced.]

**The CHAIR:** This estimates committee will be reported by Hansard. The daily proof *Hansard* will be available the following day. It is the intention of the Chair to ensure that as many questions as possible are asked and answered and that both questions and answers are short and to the point. The estimates committee's consideration of the estimates will be restricted to discussion of those items for which a vote of money is proposed in the consolidated account. Questions must be clearly related to a page number, item, program or amount in the current division. Members should give these details in preface to their question. If a division or a service is the responsibility of more than one minister, a minister shall be examined only in relation to their portfolio responsibilities.

The minister may agree to provide supplementary information to the committee rather than asking that the question be put on notice for the next sitting week. I ask the minister to clearly indicate what supplementary information he agrees to provide and I will then allocate a reference number. If supplementary information is to be provided, I seek the minister's cooperation in ensuring that it is delivered to the principal clerk by Friday, 31 May 2019. I caution members that if a minister asks that a question be put on notice, it is up to the member to lodge the question on notice through the online questions system.

I give the call to the member for Carine.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** It is great to be here today to go through this process. I will start with page 467, obviously in budget paper No 2, volume 2, which is where we will be hanging around the whole time. I want to inquire about the City of Perth inquiry panel listed under "Spending Changes". I notice that in the 2019–20 budget estimate, the expense is \$1.9 million and there is nothing in the estimated actual for 2018–19 at all. Last year's budget shows that the 2019–20 forward estimate was about \$560 000, the budget estimate for 2018–19 was 1.59 million and for 2017–18 it was \$250 000. Can the minister please explain to me why there is still no allocation for the 2018–19 budget? What does the \$1.9 million comprise and how much does the minister expect all of this to cost at the end of the day?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for the question. I will answer the second part of the question first and then I will ask the director general to respond to the first part about why an amount does not appear in the budget of the previous year. As the member is aware, the panel inquiry was extended to January 2020. The reason behind that is that this is a significant panel inquiry into the issues around the governance of the City of Perth and the requirement to ensure it is resourced appropriately. The extension was needed because more time was required to ensure that the criteria and terms of reference could be satisfactorily addressed. Of course, that meant that there was a requirement for additional funding to ensure that the panel inquirer had the resources to deliver to the date and the terms of reference. It is important to note that some 2.5 million documents have been assessed and obviously multiple lines of inquiry have become apparent in the investigation by the inquirer; so, to ensure that the terms of reference are adhered to, more time was required. The extra appropriation to ensure that the commitment can be delivered appears in the budget papers and totals \$1.9 million. It is an appropriation to ensure that the inquiry has the capacity to deliver on the report date of 20 January 2020. I will ask the director general to address the reason that a figure does not appear in the previous budget.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** I thank the member for the question. The original \$2.4 million was appropriated during the 2017–18 budget year. There were carryovers for that into the 2018–19 budget year, and those costs were supplemented by the internal budgets within the departments. The reporting on actuals occurs at the end of the financial year, in June, so it will be in the annual report, which will be reported to the Parliament through the annual reporting process. The amount of \$1.9 million has now been requisitioned as new funding to the department

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 21 May 2019]

p120b-143a

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to complete the inquiry. We do not have a total for the entire inquiry at this point, but we will be able to provide an update for the Parliament through the annual reporting process.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Is the director general saying that he does not know how much has been spent to date on this inquiry—that he does not know that figure at the moment?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** I do not have a figure as of today of what the inquiry has cost us because we have absorbed some of the costs. There were a range of technology matters to help establish the inquiry. This was useful, given that we undertake quite a lot of inquiries and investigations ourselves, so we have absorbed some of the costs in setting up the inquiry because we will retain those assets in the agency to use for other work. As part of our finalisation of financial matters for this year, we will have to determine whether all those costs are accounted to the inquiry or through the agency.

[2.10 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Depending on the outcomes of the findings from the inquiry, is there an intention or a possibility that the cost of the inquiry could be passed on to the ratepayers of the City of Perth? How would the minister then determine that cost based on what the department is absorbing and what needs to be transferred?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That will be determined by the outcome of the inquiry itself if there are adverse findings et cetera, but of course we cannot predicate that until the report and findings have been made.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Will the City of Perth ratepayers have to bear the costs of the commissioners, which I assume is not included in the budget papers, through to January 2020?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That is correct. The remuneration of the commissioners is paid through the City of Perth budget, and of course that amount is ongoing, because they are currently in place.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Assuming the report is submitted on 20 January 2020, how much longer does the minister envisage it will take for the issues within the City of Perth from that date to be finalised; and does the minister envisage there being council elections in October 2021, or does he think there will be a special election sometime in between? Does the minister think it will take another two years before he finalises it?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Again, that is very much dependent on the outcome of the report. There is also, of course, the principle of procedural fairness. If there are adverse findings against individuals et cetera, a period is required for those individuals to respond to any report that is handed down. That said, my intention is to restore democracy to the City of Perth as soon as practicable. I envisage that when the report is handed down in January next year, and depending upon its outcome and whether the outcome is a dismissal of the council, I would seek to hold elections as soon as practicable. That would not necessarily be October of that year; it may be earlier.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Can the minister tell me the number of people who are currently employed in this inquiry? I know that Tony Power, Kim Lendich and a number of other people are involved in this inquiry. Can the minister tell me specifically whether Mr Power and Ms Lendich are working full time on this inquiry or are doing other case work and dealing with their own private clients while they are dealing with the City of Perth inquiry?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The inquiry certainly has an extensive demand upon the panel inquirer and his staff. I understand that there are 10 full-time equivalent positions currently within the panel inquiry numbers.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Does that 10 FTE include Mr Power and Ms Lendich as full time on the inquiry, or are they doing other case work as well?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The figure we have is that there are 10 FTE. We would expect that they were applying themselves full time.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Okay; so they are not doing other work. How are Mr Power, Ms Lendich and others paid? Are they paid on an hourly rate? Are they paid a wage, a salary or a fixed amount? Can the minister tell me that for Mr Power?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Again, as the member is aware, it is a judicial process, therefore I do not direct those elements of payment, but my understanding is that both of those deliverables are part of their payment. They could be paid on a part-time and/or full-time basis.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How exactly are they paid? Is it an hourly rate or are they paid on a salary?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I do not want to answer your question inappropriately. My understanding is that they are paid according to the establishment of the inquiry guided by the State Solicitor, but I am happy to provide as supplementary information the method of payment and whether it is hourly et cetera as requested. I will provide to the member an explanation about the method of payment, be it an hourly rate or other.

[*Supplementary Information No B12.*]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** There has only been one public hearing of the inquiry in 13 months. When will the ratepayers of the City of Perth see some external action on this inquiry and public hearings in which they will be able to participate? It is not long between now and January next year. I realise that a lot of work is going on behind the scenes, but when does the minister think further public hearings will be held, or will there be no public hearings at all?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** A number of private hearings have been and continue to be held. My understanding is that the inquiry will commence further public hearings in the second half of the year.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** My question refers to page 471 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, under the heading “Service Summary”. It lists “Regulation and Support of Local Government” as being allocated \$14.04 million in 2018–19, and the estimated actual decreases to \$10.583 million in the 2021 forward estimates, with similar funding for the 2021–22 and 2022–23 forward estimates. How will these savings be implemented? There is a big drop from the actual of \$16.7 million in 2017–18 to \$10.5 million by 2022–23. The reason I make the point is that the government is putting the Local Government Legislation Amendment Bill through Parliament at the moment, which could place a lot more pressure on the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, yet the funding is decreasing.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for the question, I will ask the director general to respond.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** These extrapolations around the forward estimates tend to be around our base funding. The actual budget year has the appropriations for particular activities that the government is doing at the time. If you like, that is the minimum base amount to sustain the staffing appropriation as agreed at this point in time, and the general outgoings for that part of my agency. We would normally see those numbers get adjusted as we get closer to the budget year. As the member noticed, they are essentially the same number going out to three years. It does not necessarily mean that we will not be seeking further appropriation in the 2020–21 budget for matters relating to the delivery of commitments. It might be that the minister has local government reforms underway, and, if they are supported, there are a range of outcomes from those reforms that might require additional appropriation, but, essentially, that is, if you like, the base case based on staff establishment and outgoings.

[2.20 pm]

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** In the minister’s travels around the state since taking on the portfolio, has a local government ever said to him that it thinks the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is under a bit of pressure and maybe could do with more funding? Some of the roles that traditionally the department has played in supporting local governments and councils—training and things like that—have now gone over to the Western Australian Local Government Association. What has happened here?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for the question. One of the important elements coming out of the consultation on the reform process has focused on what the sector considers to be the role of the department. That comes to your question. Traditionally, the department has had a particular regulatory function. The director general may want to add to this, but we obviously went through a machinery-of-government process. One of the positive aspects of the collaboration of the Department of Local Government and Communities; the Department of Culture and the Arts; the Department of Racing, Gaming and Liquor; and the Department of Sport and Recreation into the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is that, indeed—within the racing and gaming element, for example—there are investigative resources. One of the things that we have been able to do is consolidate that resource within the department and there will be further consolidation going forward, so that in the future, when inquiries and/or investigations need to be carried out, there will be experienced officers to deliver that. However, there will always be pressures; there is no doubt about that. Certainly, in my travels around the state, yes, that has been raised, but it essentially goes to the function and role of the department itself, and what the sector sees as the role of the department going forward. That information and feedback is being fed into the second phase of the review process and will be consolidated when we produce a green paper, which essentially will be a new Local Government Act for the state, later next year.

I hope that answers the member’s question about feedback. I will ask the director general to make a comment regarding the regulatory role issue and the resourcing.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** As the minister said, the machinery of government provided a range of opportunities to restructure the whole agency, and we have been working over the last two years to do that in such a way that we have a more flexible and agile department. Through the sport and recreation division, we inherited regional offices. None of the other previous departments had a regional presence. We have now been able to extend our engagement with local government in particular through the presence of regional offices, and by training the people in those offices to be able to represent a broader range of interests. With the local government reform consultation process, those

offices in our regions have played quite a critical role in facilitating public meetings, forums and the like. That is an added benefit that we did not have before.

Equally, as the minister said, with our regulatory activities, previously we had regulation in a range of areas—racing, gaming and liquor; obviously, local government; combat sports and sport; and state records, which is a favourite of the other member, in arts. We did not necessarily have a broad range of people highly experienced in regulation in those two other areas. With racing, gaming and liquor, and local government, we were able to bring a significant amount of expertise together; there is now 94 FTE in the regulatory division, which is quite significant. As the minister said, we are broadening the skills base, so investigative training is available. In fact, broadly across government, led by the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety, there is now a cross-government regulatory reform group of all agencies involved in regulation to try to find mechanisms to multi-skill staff and enable them to move around a bit, because it is often stressful work. In addition, the systems for managing complaints and all sorts of things could be done a lot better.

Although I do not think we are yet at the point at which I could say we have all the resources we need to hit the peak that we have encountered over the last couple of years—we have had a number of authorised inquiries to do, and gathering evidence from local governments in so many parts of the state is very taxing on my resources—we are now getting a significant team in place that can meet demands on a risk-managed basis across my whole portfolio. Recently, some matters in combat sports required a lot of effort to ensure that we got the right outcome. I am quite encouraged by the strong support from my staff in serving the community by tackling these matters in different areas, but in areas in which we can apply the same set of skills.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Can the minister reassure the sector that if there are greater requirements placed on the shoulders of the department as a result of the legislation that goes through with the new Local Government Act, which the minister has already spoken about, the government will provide the proper support for those changes or the necessities for that extra work?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Those will all be subject to budgetary consideration. Certainly, depending on what our new act looks like, and particularly whether there are significant changes in the purpose and function of the department, that will be a strong consideration of mine in future budget submissions.

Mr Chair, with the committee's understanding, people from the National Trust are here, and, of course, could be quizzed later on. If they are not required, I was wondering whether they could be released. It is up to the committee. We also have the local government, culture and the arts, and heritage divisions, so if there were no questions for the National Trust, I seek to perhaps let those people go.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I do have some questions, if we have enough time after the other divisions.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** In that case, we need them to stay.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I cannot give the minister a 100 per cent answer on that.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, minister. I am sorry we could not accommodate that.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I refer to significant issues impacting the agency on page 467 of budget paper No 2, volume 2. The first point refers to the critical reforms for local government, but I particularly want to make reference to councillor training. Can the minister let us know where that is at, what is the time frame, and what are the details of the training program for councillors?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for Perth for his question. As members will be aware, the process of reviewing the Local Government Act included a first phase that focused on what was considered to need immediate addressing. That included addressing the issues around gifts and transparency, and putting in requirements to ensure that councils in the future would be required to list on their websites a range of information that we believe any ratepayer, business or stakeholder should have ready and timely access to. Included in that is a regime of universal training.

The universal training concept has been widely talked about for many, many years, if not over a decade, and stakeholders, including representative stakeholders like the Western Australian Local Government Association, Local Government Professionals WA and others have been strong advocates in recent times for the need for a universal training regime. Through the consultation, the government also acknowledged—particularly because of a recent trend in somewhat abusive processes around social media in the lead-up to elections—that there was also a need for a simple but effective induction training regime for all candidates who might contest an election or seek to be elected as a councillor throughout the state.

[2.30 pm]

The government then, after extensive consultation and feedback, presented to Parliament an amendment bill, which has passed the lower house and is now in the upper house. I am increasingly concerned about the passing of this bill

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in the Legislative Council because of the critical time elements. I want the measures, particularly around universal training and transparency, in place before the council elections in October this year. To do that, the bill needs to pass the house, effectively, by the end of June, because the appropriate consultation and, indeed, the establishment of the regime, particularly for induction and universal training for elected members, would need to be in place for that election; otherwise, we will miss the opportunity and we will have to wait until 2022 for those measures to be put in place. I am asking for the support of the opposition in the Legislative Council to understand the time constraints that we face and to support the bill passing through the Council, obviously through appropriate scrutiny, for those measures to be put in place. I am increasingly concerned by some of the voices of Legislative Council members who are seeking to send that bill to a committee.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** Shameful.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, member!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I believe that would threaten the timing. I appeal to the opposition spokesperson to counsel his Council members to support the bill and not send it to a committee.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Does the minister have a cost associated with phase 1 of the process? How much did phase 1 of the consultation process cost to undertake?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Induction is a cost that is simply —

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I meant the consultation process that the government went through, community forums and things that it held, to come up with this bill. Does the minister have an idea of how much it cost to go through the entire process to get to this stage of this bill, which the minister introduced into Parliament?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The cost is borne by the department through its statutory obligations to me as minister. This is an election commitment. As the member is aware, the government came to power in 2017 with the commitment to review and reform the Local Government Act. That commenced with the first phase. Those costs were borne by the department through its operations. It included costs associated with workshops, travel for staff to some of the regional areas and the production of the normal departmental materials to support the review process, but a definite figure is not available, in my view, unless the director general has a figure in mind. It is part of the department's work because it was an election commitment and it was a request from me as minister in delivering the election commitment.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I know that the minister previously mentioned the cost to the department, but I want the minister's feedback on the level of engagement in that process. There were 243 submissions in the entire process; 44 were from local governments, 10 were from councillors and one was from a CEO, and I suppose a few ratepayers participated in that process. I think many people have mentioned that it is a very low level of engagement for such serious changes to the act when this affects councillors, CEOs and obviously ratepayers' ability to engage in conduct and behaviour. Can the minister tell us why there was such a low level of engagement by councillors, CEOs and even councils? Only 44 councils made a submission in the entire process. Was the process flawed or were people not informed or not engaged?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** As I said to the member, a number of the elements focused on in the first phase were priorities because they had not been fixed or addressed by the former government in power—particularly delivering a mandatory or universal training regime and dealing with the gifts issue. We prioritised the gifts issue. It needed and still needs to be fixed. When Parliament resumes in June, I hope that the member will go into his party room and ask his party's upper house members not to support sending the bill to a committee because that will delay it being passed in the Council and, therefore, threaten its capacity to be delivered in time for the elections. The process was not flawed. Universal training has been widely canvassed for many, many years. The key sector stakeholders universally support the measures, and we want to deliver on our election commitment. I hope that as spokesperson, the member will be true to his word, as he was in the Legislative Assembly, when he said that he did not oppose this legislation. In fact, the member supported a number of the key measures, including universal training. Please do not have the Liberal Party's upper house members block it or delay it because it will be on the member's head if that happens.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I was talking about the level of engagement. I am not disputing the importance of the issues in the bill. I am saying to the minister that these issues have been critical in bringing down many local governments, including the City of Perth and a number of other councils that have ended up at the Corruption and Crime Commission and under investigation by the minister's department. Is it not concerning that the level of engagement seems to be quite low in the first phase, considering the issues were so critical? Obviously, it was a lot bigger in the second phase. As the minister is aware, as I think Josh Zimmerman wrote in *The Sunday Times* recently, a number of councils now, including the City of Stirling, want to see a bill—I am not sure which bill because the motions are not specific—referred to a parliamentary committee. I am saying that the engagement

process must be flawed if councils are passing motions saying that they are not happy and they want it to go to a parliamentary committee. I have not spoken to them, so I do not know which bill they are referring to, but that has gone through. I am wondering about the engagement process and where it has fallen down, or whether the minister thinks it is perfect.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It has been a very robust process. It is universally supported because the member for Carine has supported it publicly and in Parliament, along with key sector stakeholders and a number of members of Parliament of all persuasions. The status now is that the bill is sitting in the Legislative Council and the opposition controls whether it proceeds to be debated or passed so that we can have universal training, and transparency for gift disclosures, reports and other information that ratepayers and residents have a right to see made publicly available. The member is responsible for that and he has said that he supports the bill. The member criticised me for not making it happen faster and now the opposition in the Legislative Council, it seems, is considering sending the bill to committee, which will delay its implementation. If that happens, we will not have in place, in time for the October elections, a universal training regime and an induction process that ensures that people who seek to put up their hand to run—I encourage them to do it—have a very clear understanding of the role and responsibilities that they are entering into. If they are successful in becoming an elected member, they will need to sign a code of conduct to ensure that there is a better and more transparent process for behaviour in carrying out their role and responsibilities. No-one seems to oppose this, but now we face a potential blockage.

It has been strongly supported by the local government sector, and I know that Liberal members of the upper house have been contacted by a range of people in the local government sector urging them not to block or delay this bill. If the member for Carine, as opposition spokesperson for local government, truly believes in the words that he used during the second reading debate, consideration in detail and the third reading debate, and if he truly believes in and supports this bill, he has a responsibility now to tell his upper house members why sending this bill to a committee is not in the best interests of the sector, of reform, and certainly of ratepayers, residents and businesses in local governments throughout Western Australia. It is up to the member. He is the spokesperson. He has some control over this, and understands the importance of this bill, and I ask him to talk to Liberal members of the upper house so that we can pass this bill by 30 June, get the training and induction regime in place, get the codes of conduct drafted, and deliver our first raft of important reform in local government in Western Australia.

[2.40 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** My understanding is that every single party in the Legislative Council, including the Greens, has raised issues with some parts of the bill. It is not just the Liberal Party that is raising questions about some small aspects of the bill; every single party has done so. The minister needs the Liberal Party to vote with the Labor Party to get the bill through. Even the Greens have an amendment, and I believe the minister is favourable towards some amendments and some review of the bill. It is a bit rich to say that Liberal members are the only ones causing an issue here, because every single party—there are a number of parties in the Council—has issues or concerns. If we work together to address those concerns of the Council—as the minister knows, it is a beast unto itself—we might have some success with those amendments. I also raised some questions in my second reading contribution and in consideration in detail about some things that could be refined. If the minister wants it to happen, it is about working collaboratively and understanding that it is more than just me and the Liberal Party who have issues.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will be speaking to some of the crossbenchers. We have been having ongoing conversations with a number of them, and I will have another conversation later this week. I remind the member that he said in the Legislative Assembly, “Get it into the upper house and we’ll support it so that it gets through.” I want him to stay true to his word, because this is more important than me or him. It is important for the sector and we have a tight time frame. I want it in place by October so that we can deliver to the October time line. If we miss that time line because his party supports the bill being referred to a committee, it will torpedo that opportunity. That would be wrong and unnecessary, and I plead with the member to do the right thing, as per his word in the Legislative Assembly, and support this bill. The debate can take place as required in the Legislative Council, and amendments can be put, debated and voted upon, but there is absolutely no reason for this bill to be referred to a committee. This bill can be debated on the floor of the Legislative Council. Issues can be raised and debated, but 30 June is a very important time line and I ask the member, as opposition spokesperson for local government, to recognise the overwhelming support that this bill has throughout the sector. It is needed for urgent reform. Please do not stand in the way.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I refer to page 468 of the *Budget Statements*. Paragraph 11 on that page refers to the contemporary music fund and enabling safer venues. I know from the media release on the contemporary music fund that was put out by the minister and the Minister for Women’s Interests in February 2019 that both ministers raised concerns about music venues being unsafe for women. I think the Minister for Women’s Interests indicated that she has frequently been spoken to about this issue. Is the contemporary music fund the key fund for dealing

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with the lack of safety of women in music venues; and why is that funding being allocated to that cause? How much of it is being allocated to the safety of women in venues; and what outcomes does the minister expect?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Before the 2017 election, we consulted with the sector. We talked to West Australian Music and to individual musicians. We talked to young, older and emerging musicians about what the state government can do to support a very important creative industry in Western Australia. The industry has a remarkable history. A remarkable number of individuals and bands have made, and continue to make, a significant contribution to contemporary music in Western Australia, in the nation and internationally. This is unlike the opposition, I am afraid. I did not see, in the lead-up to the 2017 election, a Liberal Party commitment to contemporary music.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** There was one.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I did not see it, and I certainly did not see any funding allocated to it. We did—we went to the election, having talked and consulted with the industry, with a \$3 million commitment. As a result of the election, and further consultation and discussion with a round table, including key representatives of the industry, about how to best deliver to the industry so that it can continue to create great contemporary music for the world, one component that came through very strongly was that if we are to continue to promote a vibrant live music industry, it must be a safe place for people to attend. For many women, in particular, a live music venue can be an experience that is not necessarily positive. A number of young women were members of the round table and were part of that consultation, and they highlighted this. Through that consultation, and with feedback from those participants, a range of initiatives were introduced and became part of the safer venues commitment. From memory, the commitment was \$60 000, which will do a range of things. It includes simple things such as signage in venues and upskilling of staff to make sure that they are aware of the environs of a contemporary live music space, so that if modifications, signage or other elements need to be implemented, this can be done to make the venue safe for all people, particularly women. We very proudly hold this up as part of the contemporary music fund.

The fund includes a \$1 million contemporary music fund grants program and a further \$2 million for targeted initiatives addressing the priorities identified at the industry round table. The industry has shaped this policy and how this money is best spent, because the industry knows best. That is a very consultative and effective commitment by this government. I am immensely proud of it. I note also that contemporary music attracted the attention of the federal government, and was the subject of an exciting national policy of the federal Labor opposition at the last election. Overall, we should not ignore the importance of contemporary music to Western Australia and the value of investing in it. We certainly should not ignore safety as one of the components of a vibrant contemporary music industry.

[2.50 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How many live music venues are there in Western Australia?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** They are numerous, and the number changes. One of the pressures on live music venues—the member for Perth would know this very well because he has advocated on their behalf—is land-use pressure that quite often emerges. It is a challenge when a venue is suddenly surrounded by residential development. The number varies. However, we want to see more live venues activated in metropolitan Western Australia, the suburban parts of Perth and, of course, in regional Western Australia. I do not have a defined number, but I want to see more of them. I agree with the comments of the member for Perth and others about this government's commitment to planning matters to make sure that support is given to venues to ensure that remedial action can be taken to double-glaze and deal with sound attenuation issues. I recently went to the opening of Freo.Social in Fremantle in the Artillery Drill Hall, which is a reactivated heritage building. It is a fantastic live venue for contemporary music and we want to see more of them. We will support those and we will also take into mind, of course, the concerns of residents and people who live near those venues, because I think they can coexist. I do not know an exact number. I do not know whether it is necessarily relevant, but the director general might be able to make some comment about what numbers we are potentially talking about.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** Thank you, minister and member. As the department does not generally fund commercial music venues, we do not have a reason to track how many there are per se, but from time to time we have undertaken industry studies. I think the last one was around 2016, in which we identified a quantum of venues across the Perth metropolitan area. We did not have the means at the time to do a major statewide study. I would imagine that the numbers are in excess of three figures. If the member would like, we can provide him with a copy of that study, which identified some of the issues confronting contemporary music live venues. As a result of the study, the previous government and this government have put in place a range of measures, which include changes to noise regulations and so on to keep venues viable. The question I think the member is heading towards is whether our funds will extend to support the venues. This program related to safer venues is educative and works with the sector. The sector realises that the responsibility for safer venues lies with the proprietors meeting not just good practice, but also a range of legal requirements. As director of Liquor Licensing, the department inspects a lot of venues to ensure compliance related to conditions of licensing, which are also intended to ensure that venues are safer for women and others. This educative kit will be available and will be disseminated across all venues through

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the industry associations that we are working with. I would be happy to provide the report. I am not sure whether we need to do it under supplementary information, but I am happy to provide it.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** That would be good.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Mr Chair, I will provide as supplementary information a copy of the 2016 report that Mr Ord has referred to.

[*Supplementary Information No B13.*]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am a big supporter of safer venues and Safer Venues WA. During his answer, the minister rattled off a very long list of expectations of Safer Venues WA and what it should deliver for its \$60 000. If we bear in mind that it is \$60 000 over three years, so it is \$20 000 a year, and that there are hundreds of venues, has the government given it enough money? Has it set that organisation up to fail? Why is Safer Venues WA responsible for making venues safer when the director general has just said that it is the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' responsibility? Why has the government not given it enough money to deliver a program? Was this just a token effort on the government's behalf?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No—no to all of them.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I do not know whether the minister is aware that Safer Venues WA recently advertised for a general manager to help with this program. It is looking for a general manager to work for eight hours a week for free. It is not a funded position. Safer Venues WA is looking for a general manager to work for free. I am assuming that it is because it is a new organisation that has just been set up. It has only recently been incorporated and registered its business name—in the last six or so months. Again, how does the government expect an organisation that is looking for volunteers, which the minister has now sanctioned as the key platform to make venues safer across WA, to do that with just \$20 000? That seems like a tokenistic disgrace, from the point of view of the Minister for Women's Interests and others. That organisation will not be able to deliver anything with that small amount of funding. I want to know on what basis the government determined that that was the right level of annual funding to make venues safer for women and for Safer Venues WA to deliver that program.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I did not see anything about the Liberal Party having a contemporary music fund or any support of a safer venues initiative. It is very interesting when somebody argues about amounts of money being provided when their party did not provide any. In fact, the previous government not only did not provide any money during its term of government, but also made no commitments to this initiative. As we have done all the way with this contemporary music fund, we will continue to consult with a range of key stakeholders, including those who feed information into and are part of Safer Venues WA. I am very confident that this money will be well spent. It will be focused and targeted. The measures are those that have come from those groups and we will continue to talk to those groups. I am confident that it is an important component of the \$3 million contemporary music fund, which was developed by the McGowan government. It now sounds as if it is not supported by the member.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** It is strongly supported by me. The whole \$3 million should go to Safer Venues WA.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** During the election campaign, I did not see any commitment to contemporary music at all. In my view, the member's premise is wrong. We want to see safer venues and have provided some resources for that to happen. We will, of course, continue to consult with and review Safer Venues WA on the impact of this initiative. It is a great initiative and part of a tremendous contribution by this government—one that the member's party did not make in government and did not commit to in the lead-up to the election in 2017.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** On the contemporary music fund, which has now been spoken about for over two years, how many grants have been issued in the under-\$15 000 category to musicians and how many have received those grants?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes. I would be very happy to name them. The recipients of grants from the contemporary music fund grants program in the under-\$15 000 category up to 30 April 2019 are: A. Axe and V.G. Thornton; Alison Flintoff; A.P. Pollard and L.E. Pollard; Daniel Susnjar; Decibel New Music Ensemble Inc; the Demon Days band; Dylan Ollivierre; Elise Reitze-Swensen; G.T. Gunson, N. Iliadis, H. Macarthur and P.A. Mazzulla; Hayley Jane Ayres; Jamie Oehlers; Juliana Vasconcellos Mendes; Kate Pass; Mathew Cammarano; Moana Lutton; Natasha Shanks; Phoebe Gunson; Tara Tiba; The Faim Touring Pty Ltd; The Southern River Band Pty Ltd; The Trustee for LCR Trust; The Trustee for PPC Trust; Thomas Langridge; and Tinashe Soko. I think there are at least 23 there. It is important to note, of course, that we have some important expertise on the panel. I will not go through those.

[3.00 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Who is on the panel? I am not after titles, just the names.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Okay. There are quite a few. I am happy to go through them. The appointed panel assessors, with expertise in the contemporary music sector, are: Gina McGill nee Williams, an Indigenous

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singer-songwriter; Graham Wood; Hayley Ayres; Kristy Brown from Record Label; Rachel Dease; Rhanda Khamis; Lucy Farley; Luke Rinaldi; Bridget Turner; Aaron Wyatt; David Hyams; Tristen Parr; Nigel Bird; Guy Ghouse; and Jessica Darlow. There is extensive experience there. We have a great contemporary music industry in Western Australia. I do not know why the member is criticising it.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Have all the funds been expended for this financial year now—\$500 000?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No, they have not, but I expect that they will.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How much of the \$500 000 has still not been expended?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** There is still \$250 000 to go. I will ask Mr Walker to respond further.

**Mr C. Walker:** We have received proposals, which have been finalised and assessed, ready for contracting from WA Music for its programs and also money to be allocated to the Perth Theatre Trust in partnership with West Australian Music.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Why has it taken so long to get this up and running? The Labor Party has been in government for more than two years now. I know that the funding has only recently started to trickle out.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Why does the member hate it so much?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Why did the minister not give the money earlier and why has it taken so long to get such —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member is the only one criticising this fund.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am not criticising it. I want to know why the —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member is the only bloke in Western Australia criticising this fund.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am not criticising it. Excuse me.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will answer the question.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The minister is misleading the house. I am not criticising the fund. I am asking why it took the government two years before it started handing out the money and why there is still \$250 000 to hand out when artists are struggling out there. They need support. The government just talks the talk but it has not delivered a cent to them yet. I am very supportive of the artists. I am very supportive of the contemporary music fund. Why has it taken so long to get the money out there? Is it just a PR exercise so the government can keep re-announcing the program over two years without anybody seeing a dollar until recently?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Goodness gracious; I hope the member never becomes Minister for Culture and the Arts, because he just does not support the sector. I will answer the question. The member has to understand that we introduced this fund. We are very proud of it. It will deliver high-quality outcomes for artists across Western Australia, including regional artists.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Give them the money.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member asked a question. He has already demonstrated that he does not support the fund. That is fine. I am going to tell the industry about the sorts of questions he asked and the comments he made.

**The CHAIR:** Member, please do not interject; otherwise, I will call you to order.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** You cannot help.

**The CHAIR:** I call you to order for the first time, member for Carine.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I understand if the member does not support the fund. Maybe he is jealous because he did not put forward a fund. Maybe that is what he does.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** That is rubbish. The minister is talking rubbish.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The fact is that we have been consulting with the industry, including West Australian Music, about how best we deliver this. It is being delivered. It is in the hands of artists. We have artists who are experiencing tours and engaging with mentors and others. It is a great outcome for artists. It is a great story for contemporary music in Western Australia. I do not understand why the member is so negative. Maybe he should get out more to some of the music events and the live music venues to see some of the talent that we have in Western Australia. There are some fantastic emerging artists, both men and women, Indigenous, and people from multicultural backgrounds. That is what we are supporting. That is what we will keep supporting. We will get that money out to those people as soon as practicable. We will keep consulting with industry because it knows best. The member certainly does not. We will make sure that this contemporary music fund delivers high-quality outcomes for the creative industries in the contemporary music space into the future.

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** I would like to stay with creative industries but move across to screen. I refer to page 488 of budget paper No 2, and the line item “Arts Organisations, Projects and Programs” identified under

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“Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies”. Can the minister outline how this program will assist WA’s screen sector as the current powerhouse for production in Australia and continue to attract film production to the state, bringing new, creative employment opportunities?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for the question. It is an important one because I think we need to highlight even more broadly to the Western Australian community just how successful our screen industry currently is in Western Australia. Indeed, this is on the back of good government investment, both in the regions and of course to Screenwest. The member would be aware that there is now a growing list of successful screen enterprises, be they in documentary, feature film or series. The member is a busy person so she would not have been able to audition for a part in *The Heights*, a feature series filmed on location in the member for Perth’s electorate. It was a highly successful ABC series.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I am trying to go in for the next series.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am sure the member will get a job as the lift attendant or something of that nature.

This is very important. In Western Australia, productions like *The Heights* and other activities have now seen an increase in professionals in the creative industries area in screen returning to Western Australia to work because of the volume of activity that has taken place. In August, another feature film, *His for Happiness*, will be featured as part of the Melbourne International Film Festival, another film that was filmed in Albany. That is on top of *RAMS*, which was filmed in the great southern area around Mt Plantagenet and Mt Barker. It builds on the success of *Dirt Music*, which was filmed in the Kimberley. That does not include a number of documentaries that Western Australia has been successfully supporting and sharing with the world.

Our screen industry is doing really well. It obviously needs ongoing support. I am committed to ensuring that that happens, because more local actors and film professionals in production and filming are now actively engaged throughout the year. Indeed, the volume of proposed projects that come to Screenwest continues to increase. This underpins the capacity of the screen industry and, indeed, broader film content to tell the stories of Western Australia, with the backdrop being our country towns and cities such as Albany and Mt Barker, for example, or, indeed, the great landscapes of regional Western Australia. It is a very important investment in the creative industries and one that I will continue to strongly support going forward. I thank the member for her question.

[3.10 pm]

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** After one hour and 10 minutes of sitting here, it is good to get to ask a question. I refer to page 488 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, and the line item “Regional Arts and Cultural Investment Program”. The minister has stated that the program will be delivered through three streams: a state of creativity, strengthening Aboriginal arts, and empowered and employed communities. Will the minister detail how much funding each stream will get from the \$4.7 million allocated to the overall program this year?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for the question. As the member highlighted, this is a very important commitment by the McGowan government of just under \$20 million over four years to the regional arts and culture investment program. I acknowledge the success of the former government’s Creative Regions initiative, particularly the involvement of the Nationals WA. This new McGowan government program focuses on three key streams and I will give the member the figures for those. Broadly, the first stream is titled “a state of creativity” and will support the ongoing activation of regional performing arts centres. As the member knows, we have a very good network of regional performing arts centres throughout Western Australia, and this stream will assist by improving the ability to present and tour performances to regional Western Australia through those venues. It will also support training and business development. CircuitWest, which is the representative body of those venues, will be a key player in that.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Is that particular program directed to a limited pool of existing regional arts centres or is it accessed by application from any centre?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** As the member knows, we have standalone performing arts centres, such as the new centre in Karratha, obviously the Bunbury Regional Entertainment Centre and the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, and smaller entities such as the centre in Esperance. All centres will be eligible for support through this stream; it will not be confined to the big regional centres. To quickly answer the member’s question, the total funding over the four years for stream 1 is \$11.3 million, which is roughly broken up into about \$2.7 million each year over those four years.

Stream 2, titled “strengthening Aboriginal arts”, is very important. It will support the sustainability of our Western Australian Aboriginal art centres. I think 31 centres are dotted throughout the state. They produce some of the most outstanding Aboriginal art, but we believe that they need ongoing support to ensure that their product can be more widely exposed. That will be great for tourism and enterprise for those communities and particularly

those artists. That is an investment of \$2.64 million over four years, which starts with a commitment in this budget of \$1.11 million for this financial year, with the balance spread over the following three years.

The final stream, titled “empowered and employed communities”, will focus on aligning creative programs and local government planning. It will assist local governments, particularly those in regional WA, obviously, that have, or intend to embark upon, a cultural planning process. We already know that local governments that have embarked upon a cultural planning process, which ultimately arrives at a cultural plan, or cultural heritage plan as is the case in Mandurah, deliver outstanding ongoing culture and arts objectives and activity. So we are supporting that. Included in that program will be supporting activities that increase social inclusion and accessibility. We really want to see how we can grow employment opportunities through creative industries in regional WA, so that will be a key focus for this stream as well. The program also involves a fund to grow cultural tourism through regional festivals, and a funding component will be available to support cultural tourism through regional festivals. We want to see programs like the Stompem Ground festival, which was very successful in the Kimberley. The Nannup Music Festival is another example in the south west. That is where the focus of that program will be. I am very pleased that the government understands the importance of this regional arts and culture investment program going forward, because we know that every dollar put in by government levers several dollars and the outcomes are outstanding.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Further to that, how did the government decide the level of support for each of those streams?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** That is a good question. There was a rigorous review of the Creative Regions program, which was coming to an end. Informing that review was asking where there were gaps. As I said, Creative Regions was a very successful program and it was a very good lever for the review. Indeed, it convinced Treasury effectively why an ongoing program of this nature for regional Western Australia needed to continue in the out years. The review process assessed what Creative Regions achieved and then the rigorous assessment process to Treasury included areas that we needed to focus on. It was also fed by the McGowan government’s commitment to increasing the cultural tourism element of culture and the arts. In other words, that is why there is a significant commitment to Indigenous art. I encourage the member to go to the *Revealed* exhibition, which takes place every March at the Fremantle Arts Centre. Emerging Aboriginal artists from the Kimberley, Pilbara and remote areas, including artists from the art galleries I mentioned, have their work exposed to a metropolitan audience, including people who come from over east to engage in the *Revealed* exhibition. The exhibition has been going for 10 years this year and it has created significant dollars through sales, including through the market that takes place on the Saturday. I think the market sales were \$600 000 this year, and that money goes back to emerging artists. A lot of artists from the desert country galleries come to the exhibition to have their work exposed and purchased, with the financial benefit going back to them.

This stream will assist those galleries and artists to ensure that their product becomes even more marketable and has value added. The member for Kimberley highlighted the importance of value adding to Indigenous artists, because we also want to address the issue around authenticity. Unfortunately, in Australia, still, a lot of Indigenous art sold as souvenirs in some of our souvenir shops, for example, is made in China and is not authentic. We have to address that. The ministerial council is working on that issue as well, because Indigenous artists should get not only recognition and acknowledgement for their remarkable artworks, but also, of course, the economic benefit, and they should not be exploited.

[3.20 pm]

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** I refer to item 76 on page 466 of the *Budget Statements*, which relates to another great Liberal–National government project that the current government will no doubt deliver in fine style. The estimate for 2019–20 is \$24 million in round figures.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Is this the Museum?

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Yes, the Museum—item 76. The figures then jump in the forward estimates to \$35 million, \$37.6 million and \$38 million. Why is there an increase? Can the minister explain why the extra funding is required?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** To make sure that the member gets an exact, accurate response, I will ask Mr Ord to respond to the question.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** As the member will see, the budget is rising across 2019–20 and 2020–21. That takes into account two major factors. One is that part of the original business case for the new Museum was for an increase in staffing, given that the new Museum will be around four times bigger than the old one. There will be a lot of frontline officers engaged to ensure that the public has suitable guidance through the Museum and to ensure the safety of the collection. That is factored in. There are also adjustments that come into the budget by way of depreciation, so as the assets are realised onto the agency—we have already commissioned the central energy plant—we need to start depreciation of those assets. A portion of that rise is depreciation, because that is not factored in, and the rest is increased salary components for the operation of the new Museum.

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**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** With the number of full-time equivalents increasing for the new Museum, which will be four times larger than the old Museum, what sorts of numbers are we talking about?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** We are still working out a final number. As we complete the design of the Museum, both of building the functional areas and how the exhibitions will run, the Museum is adjusting its staffing establishment projections based on an operating model. There is essentially an operating model that has developed as part of the gateway process of preparation for the operations for the Museum. It is estimated that approximately an additional 40 FTEs will be engaged. Many of those are not high-waged positions, as the member would imagine, but there are a few key roles in the Museum around exhibition design. In fact, there will be a dedicated international-quality exhibitions gallery, so we expect the Museum to receive major international exhibitions that previously could not come to Western Australia, and we will have a bit of expertise around curating those. They will be exhibitions for which a fee will be charged, so it is of course important they are successful at every potential level. We report back to government on these numbers on a regular basis, and there will be a further update in the midyear review process to ensure that this budget figure is right to prepare for opening next year.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I do not know whether members of the opposition have been afforded an opportunity to tour the site. I am very happy to arrange that for anyone.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** The last time I went to a museum, I saw Phar Lap in the Melbourne Museum!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am sure the member would not be mistaken for an appropriate exhibit!

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Can the minister tell me how much the contract with Canadian firm Cetacea to build the whale frame will cost? Why was a contract given to a Canadian firm? Is there no-one in Western Australia who can do this fabrication work to build something to house a whale carcass?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is a whale skeleton. It is a good question. Obviously, we would want any expertise to be delivered by an Australian company and/or individuals if possible. The blue whale has a long history and is held in affection by many, many generations of Western Australians. It was present in early forms of the WA Museum going back many, many years. It dates back to the late 1800s, when it was first brought to Perth from an area near Busselton. The basic answer is that expertise of this nature is extremely specialised. Because we will suspend the skeleton in the new Museum, it requires expertise in marine biology, bone condition analysis, conservation, and specialist engineering and fabrication skills, as well as consideration of how to suspend the whale in a heritage-listed building. As the member may or may not be aware, the blue whale skeleton will hang in Hackett Hall, which is one of the heritage elements of the new Museum project. The task is very highly specialised and the tender for the fabrication of the armature for the whale was advertised openly locally, nationally and internationally on the Tenders Western Australia website. The WA Museum received only two responses and both of them were from international companies. The successful tender was from the same specialist company engaged by the world-famous Natural History Museum in London to suspend its blue whale skeleton, so, in short, member, we have the best expertise in the world.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** What is the cost?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will refer the rest of the question to Mr Ord.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** We have a cost estimate for elements of it. There is multiparty involvement in bringing this together, including elements to be fabricated in Western Australia. Although it is a Canadian company, it is committed to a local transfer of technology, if you like. WA has some unique expertise in casting unusual things. The Anzac Bell is a recent example and it was something no-one thought WA could do, but we have proven to have done it very well. I could seek an estimate at this point, as is the case with all items in the new Museum until it is completed. As we are only through the design phase and are now entering into construction, we do not have a finite figure. Obviously, a budget sum has been allocated, but it is part of the global exhibitions content budget. I would be happy to provide the current estimates, but we will not be able to provide a finalised cost until we complete that element of the project and book that cost against it, which we will do in an update as part of our annual reporting process.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Just bear in mind that the job includes not only the company's work, but also local fabrication of the armature. I understand the preliminary figure is just over \$550 000.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Obviously, there is no fixed contract here. It has been left as an open contract and the Canadian company can set its own price depending on the costs it decides are necessary. That is what I got from the director general. He said, "We issued the contract to a Canadian company. We cannot tell you what the contract is for. It is a moving feast. It could be whatever it ends up being."

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** We know what it is for. It is for the armature and ultimate suspension of the skeleton; however, because the final cost will not be known until the skeleton is officially and finally installed, there may be additional costs that are unforeseen at this point but will become clear once the final suspension is done and the

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locking in, if you like, of the structure is finally in place. That is why there is no definitive figure at this time. The approximate cost is around the \$550 000 mark.

[3.30 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Will there be a fee to attend the new Museum? If so, what will that fee be and how will the categories be broken up?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The fee was determined last budget; I think the member asked the same question. Nothing has changed in that respect.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** If I remember correctly from the last budget, there was a discrepancy about children who were in year 10, 11 or 12. The minister set an age limit, and we talked about school groups having children in both age groups, and some having to pay and some having to pay more or less.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** All school-age children will be admitted free.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Everyone who comes with a school will be admitted free?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** School-age children will be admitted free.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How many visitors have been budgeted for in the first year of the Museum?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Lots! Obviously, the project is nearing functional completion later this year and then fit-out will commence. We will have a spectacular Museum. It will be the newest museum in the Southern Hemisphere. It is already attracting international interest because of the nature of the Museum. It will, of course, use modern interpretive technologies to tell a story of the state through a range of key themes or strands through the proposed seven galleries. In my understanding, between 300 000 and 500 000 people will be expected in the first year of operation. It is going to be spectacular.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The costing in the budget is \$390 million. When I asked a question on notice on 12 February, the answer was that the cost would be \$395 million, or nearly \$6 million more. Can the minister tell me where the \$6 million saving has happened between the answer on 12 February and the budget coming out? Have the savings been allocated elsewhere?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy to have the director general respond to that question.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** I will take that matter on notice, member. The \$390 million would be a Treasury adjusted number. Savings were returned from the original number of \$428 million related to the deletion of the basement and so on. I will get the exact details from Treasury of the reason there is an adjustment down from \$395 million previously released this year and have them passed on to the member.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will provide the member with an explanation of the difference in \$5 million as highlighted in the parliamentary question and the budget figures.

*[Supplementary Information No B14.]*

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Has the minister recorded in the budget the cost of storage of the Museum items in the interim and getting them from one to the other? How much is it costing to store the items?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy to ask Mr Ord to respond.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** The new Museum project includes approximately \$17.5 million for the Welshpool collection centre. This property is owned by my department and was acquired some time ago when part of the old Museum building had to be taken down due to asbestos issues. The government of the day acquired a significant site in Welshpool. That had a major upgrade as part of this project. That upgrade was completed two years ago. The upgrade included a new science centre, because the Museum obviously stores a significant state collection of natural history items that are used by the mining industry and all sorts of people to reference against potential environmental impacts and so on. Some nine million objects for the new Museum are stored at the Welshpool facility. Many of those obviously will come into the new building. It is intended that the area freed up for the new Museum will provide the opportunity for storage growth into the future. We will be retaining all our storage capacity so that the Museum is able to continue to grow the collection without a storage issue. As the member would be aware from issues around archives and the art collection, storage is always a challenge for the government for valuable items. In this case, the new Museum has been futureproofed with the provision of storage that should serve it well over another 25 years. It will also provide temporary storage for items that from time to time the state might need to store in appropriate and secure accommodation.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I will briefly go back to the contemporary music fund on page 488 of budget paper No 2, volume 2. How many regionally based artists have applied through that scheme and how many regionally based artists have been successful in securing grants through that scheme?

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**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Member, I do not have that information available in front of me. I have the names but not necessarily their location or addresses. I am happy to provide that. We will provide a breakdown of regionality of the applicants and successful applicants for the contemporary music fund.

[*Supplementary Information No B15.*]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Just to clarify, included in that answer may be West Australian Music on behalf of either a regional or a group of regional applicants—that may be included in that.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Working on the assumption that there may be some regional people—probably not too many—what is the total marketing budget for that program, and how much does the government spend on making regional musicians aware of the availability of that funding and their ability to apply for it?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** First of all, the peak body in Western Australia of course is WAM, and, as the member may be aware, WAM has on previous occasions conducted a range of activities, including the WAMAwards and other activities that rely on networks throughout Western Australia. One of the reasons that we have included some regional activity in this commitment is that some of that regional activity is delivered not solely, but certainly more primarily, in the regions themselves, in events that are within the regional context rather than artists travelling to Perth or whatever. We want to support those. I will ask the director general to make some comment on the marketing costs. But certainly, the program is inputted very significantly by the peak body, and the fund is essentially informed by the peak body in how we reach out to the regions. I will ask Mr Ord whether he can add to that answer.

[3.40 pm]

**Mr D.S. Ord:** I thank the minister, and I thank the member for the question. All the contemporary music funds have been directed as actual money out the door to contemporary artists and programs. With marketing, as the minister said, the department supports organisations that are engaged in promoting the scheme, including regional arts organisations like Country Arts WA, West Australian Music and so on. The appropriation and funding they get through us will include a certain amount for marketing activities. However, a portion of these funds is being spent through our grants program. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, in its main appropriation, has funds for a communications team. We are very active promoters of the availability of support for artists right across the state. We already support a lot of contemporary artists in regional Western Australia. In fact, regional applicants have been really advantaged by changes we made several years ago in the structure of our grants programs, under which people were able to apply for small grants at any time and have those assessed within four weeks. That has certainly advantaged regional artists who often find that opportunities come up at much shorter notice than would happen in the cities and so on.

We have had record numbers of applications over the last four years, so people certainly know where to come to seek funding, and it is well known in the regions. People in our more remote areas often seek support in marketing or knowledge of programs. Organisations like WAM, which runs very strong programs of direct country engagement in remote areas, often act as a proxy for helping particularly western desert rock bands or Kimberley rock bands, which may not necessarily have the technical literacy to follow the trail to our funding system. They are then supported by groups on the ground, or particularly by WAM, which has been running a terrific program of getting bands recorded and on the road and setting up touring circuits for them. In these cases, as the minister indicated, we might get a single application from WAM in support of a program that actually picks up a range of regional artists. The department operates a very good web presence; we do a lot of social media; we promote through regional newspapers and magazines; and we do a lot of stories. Generally, I think people are keen to find out about any money we provide for the arts; and, of course, they can contact the department directly and we are more than happy to provide them with further information. Support for marketing all these programs comes out of the general appropriation.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Very quickly, member, one initiative that was part of the contemporary music fund was the “Girls Rock!” initiative, which brought together young women and included some regional attendees. It was run in the school holidays, from memory. That initiative is an example of making sure that we are reaching young emerging artists and/or young people who are interested in contemporary music and are from the regions. There are some other networks and entities in the regions that support contemporary music within that area, and we are encouraging WAM to continue to liaise with those, too. For example, in my area, in Peel, Regional Development Australia has been actively involved in supporting the contemporary music industry, and I have been encouraging them to look at some of the emerging young people in particular to connect and make applications to the contemporary music fund.

**Mr Y. MUBARAKAI:** Minister, I refer to page 488 of budget paper No 2, volume 2, the table “Details of Controlled Grants and Subsidies” and the line item “Regional Collections Development Program”. How will this program increase access and appreciation for Western Australia’s unique cultural stories and collections by taking them to

the world, and invest in the skills of the volunteers who ensure the survival of these valuable museums and collections across regional WA?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I thank the member for the question. This is actually a very, very important initiative, which is essentially managed by the Western Australian Museum. It involves collecting through a digital platform, and ensures that those regional entities—be they a small museum in a small country town, which is invariably run and operated by a wonderful band of volunteers, through to the bigger collection places in some of our regional cities or larger regional towns—are captured through a digital platform called “Collections WA”. This will be managed and built by the Western Australian Museum. It will be a shared resource across entire collections. It includes museums, galleries, libraries, archives and historical societies. Quite often, some of the historical societies in our small towns have museums or collections. It is about making sure that we capture those digitally. We will essentially have a new digital platform capturing what is out there in the regions. It includes a training regime for the volunteers who stoically operate these little places, whether in Norseman, Jerramungup, or wherever it might be. It involves a training regime which essentially helps those volunteers to capture their archives, artefacts and photographs appropriately.

Last year and into this year, to my understanding, we rolled out a range of training provided by the Australian Museums and Galleries Association Western Australia to volunteers and museum staff at regional museums across the state. These were held in places like Bunbury, Mandurah, Geraldton, Albany and York. Workshops are proposed for Kalgoorlie, and, later this year, the Wheatlands Chapter meeting in Southern Cross. This is really important. Essentially, the funding is \$1 million, I think, which is significant, but it demonstrates how a relatively small amount of money is going towards the capture of something very important. We know that there are some remarkable collections in our country towns in Western Australia, but they have to be protected in terms of being captured digitally, and they need to be shared. This platform will allow people to use the portal to get an understanding of what is in some of the collections in Kalgoorlie, for example, or the goldfields or some of our wheatbelt towns. Some of these collections are remarkable. When I was in Albany earlier this year, I met with a number of volunteers who had come to Albany for that workshop. They were from little towns around the great southern district and were very excited because, for the first time, there was some real excitement about their collections. Some of those collections are very localised, but they are very important. We are capturing them under the masthead of the Western Australian Museum. I think it is a great initiative. When this is completed, it means that no matter where someone might be in WA, they will be able to use the portal to access photographic and digitalised information about what is in the collections in some of our small towns. I think that is exciting. It is an exciting opportunity for them because they will be able to share more broadly the stories of their local region, their Indigenous history et cetera.

[3.50 pm]

**Mr Y. MUBARAKAI:** On the same page in budget paper No 2, volume 2, the line item below is “Regional Exhibition Touring Boost”. Does that play a vital role?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I have a point of order. That is an additional question.

**Mr Y. MUBARAKAI:** Is it additional or is it supplementary to the question I just asked?

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, member for Jandakot. I will determine that. Thank you, member for Carine. It is not a point of order.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC** interjected.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will be very quick. I refer to page 488. This is a commitment of \$8 million over six years. Essentially, it is a touring boost for regional exhibitions. The aim is to get more of our Western Australian state art collection out to the regions, as well as other important exhibitions that we want to share with regional audiences. It is an \$8 million commitment over six years. Art on the Move is a key deliverer of this initiative. Exhibitions will go through a range of regional towns and cities, including Bunbury, Carnarvon, Collie, Exmouth, Geraldton et cetera. It is a very, very significant commitment to visual arts in particular in regional WA.

**The CHAIR:** Member for Carine, before you start, I heard you say, “This is a disgrace.” Will you withdraw that, please.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I withdraw.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, member for Carine.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Finally! I refer to “Regulation and Support of Local Government: Employees (Full-Time Equivalents)” on page 474. Within the regulation component, how many investigator positions does the department have and what levels are they?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** We are in the process of doing a structural change, which is a formal process we have to do under our industrial agreement, as I referred to earlier, around bringing together all the regulators and investigators into

a new team. We are in the transition phase of doing that at the moment. I am happy to provide the member with the structure that we have put up. Currently, we have three dedicated investigators in the local government team. A pool appointment process is underway to bring on an additional two investigators. That will be done in the next month or so. Then we have a team of approximately 10 who will be joining that as part of the broader skilling up base of other investigators we have across the portfolio who could be deployed on investigations as and when needed. I am happy to provide, as I said, the proposed structure, but, of course, it has to go through. It has been agreed to from a budget perspective; we just have to complete the industrial relations component.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am happy to be provided that.

**The CHAIR:** Sorry; I will ask the minister whether he is prepared to provide it.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The director general has given some detail of ultimate numbers once the restructure has been provided. I am wondering what else the member wanted.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The director general said that he would give me the current structure chart.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is the proposed structure because some elements in an industrial sense still have to be complied with and delivered on. I would not want to give the member something that may change, depending upon industrial matters, because that could change between the current and ultimate versions. That is the only worry I have about providing that structure.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** That is fine. The minister said that there are three investigator positions within the regulation team. Has there always been three positions in the regulation team or has that changed over the last two years?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy for the director general to respond.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** There are three investigators in roles at the moment. We have a vacancy, so there are four. In the past, there were eight.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** In the past, we had eight. We now have four and the department is saying that there is a vacancy in only one, so are the other three filled?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** Yes.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How long have they been filled? Have they been permanently filled for the entire period of this government or have they been vacant at any point; and, if so, for what periods?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** I am not across that level of detail; I am sorry, member. I would have to get that information for the member.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I would be happy to take supplementary information.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** To summarise, Mr Ord has highlighted the existing number and the proposed number. Given that we have been through a structural reform process through machinery-of-government changes, the important point is that coming into the broader department are a range of officers with investigative expertise who will be upskilled, and that will provide a greater capacity within the department to address investigative issues. In terms of the additional information, can we just get a bit of clarification of what the member is after?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I would like to know how many investigators there have been in the regulation section since the government has taken power. How many positions were there and how many actual FTE investigators have there been during that period up to now?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Does the member mean positions?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Not positions, actual people—I want to know how many FTE investigators there have been.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** People come and go.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Of course. I know that. The government has a budget. The department pays salaries for investigators, so I assume —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy to provide the information, but I am getting some understanding. Bearing in mind that the structural changes that have happened through the MOG changes are proposed to ensure appropriate resourcing for investigations and other duties that will allow the department to utilise and upskill expertise, we have given those figures. But the member is asking for —

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Full-time equivalent positions.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The answer is four.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** There are four positions, but have they been filled the entire time? The department may have four positions, but they may have been vacant for 12 months, 18 months or 24 months.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Leave may have been taken. Some of them have gone on leave. It depends.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How many FTEs for investigators were available during that period?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** My understanding is four.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Four. Was there always someone in those positions? Was there always a worker?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member has an FTE of two in his office, but there are times when the member's office staff may be on leave and they are not covered. The answer is four. To the best of my ability, I can give the member an answer of four.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** At this time, are any positions vacant?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** As I said, member, we came up with a structure for the new agency and as a consequence of that structure, we have new positions. We needed to restructure the agency with line management and so on. We have new positions and they are being advertised for filling. Yes, there are vacant positions and they are —

[4.00 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How many?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** We are recruiting for a pool, to fill up to two positions at this moment, or more. In fact, I am reviewing resourcing and workloads, and we may recruit more than two.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Over the past two years, have there been enough investigators to do the work that is required by that area?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I believe there have, but I acknowledge the pressure of the volume that is required. The reason is that investigations vary in complexity and human resources. An investigation into a regional entity, for example, will require travel, and periods when the investigating officer may not necessarily be in Perth, because they are carrying out investigative duties elsewhere. It varies according to volume and time, and the number of investigations currently underway. That cannot be predicted, because, as the member knows, in local government there are times when a particular circumstance suddenly becomes a priority, and the department will be expected to prioritise according to the nature of that circumstance.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** How have the machinery-of-government changes affected the current structure of the local government regulation component, compared with what it was previously? Has the structure of the regulation section—the manager, the director and all the inspectors et cetera—changed at all under the machinery-of-government changes at that lower level, within both the local government department and, obviously, racing, gaming and liquor?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** To answer the question, I refer to a question earlier this afternoon from the member for South Perth. The nature of the work of the department is being looked at as part of the review process. The review process will inform what the department will ultimately need to look like when a modern piece of legislation is prepared. However, as we currently speak, I believe that the assessment of the demands has been monitored and is now being adjusted to address the demand, and that is why additional supports, if you like, are coming onstream. The amalgamation of the departments and the configuration of the department has allowed additional expertise to be available through, for example, the liquor assessment and investigation resource. Some upskilling will still need to take place, but there is that opportunity and, as the director general has highlighted, there is the capacity to create a pool of resources that will be able to be called upon, depending upon the volume of work. If five councils suddenly come onto the radar as needing investigation because of severe breaches of the Local Government Act, then obviously they will be prioritised, and resources would need to be allocated. I cannot say how many that would be, because that occurs from time to time, and we need to adjust and respond.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Am I gathering from what the minister and the director general are saying that they do not have enough investigators; they have not had enough investigators, but they are looking to restructure to fix that problem, so that there will be enough investigators in the future; and vacant positions have not been filled, which is why the department has struggled under the workload it has had, with investigations, the reform process and everything else that is going on?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The workload will always be strong, and we will adjust and use the expertise that is now available through the amalgamation process to deliver to that demand. I am confident that we are looking at the issue very closely, and the way we respond, so that we can ensure a quality response.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The minister is saying that nothing has happened to date. He is looking to amalgamate and change the structure at some point in the future to bring those two sections together, but at this time, he has been working two separate structures, as was the case previously, with racing, gaming and liquor, and local government regulation.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No, I do not think that premise is correct, and I am happy for the director general to respond.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** It is an iterative process, but when we came together as a single agency, we immediately deployed officers. I set up the regulatory division, as I explained earlier, under the deputy director general of regulation. A number of staff from across the whole department, who were previously in various parts of the department, have given support to local government. The total capacity available to local government, compared with where it was before, has been supplemented because it has been a high-needs area for us, needing time and resources from a range of senior officers and other officers of the department. A lot of things have been progressed, including, obviously, significant legislative reform with all the work on the act.

Also, although there have been significant numbers of inquiries, when we receive a complaint, we often have to issue notices. The notices have statutory time frames around the provision of information. Although we have had a number of inquiries, we have been able to deploy our investigators to seek the information required. It takes quite a long time through the processes of getting information from local government authorities back to us, and then the investigation picks up and we start reviewing the information provided to us. In that regard, I have not had cause to believe that I have not had adequate resources to meet the demand. It may mean that we do not complete all reports as quickly as we could if we were doing fewer investigations, but I do not believe that that in any way compromises the fact that we are undertaking investigations diligently. We also have to refer a lot of matters to other agencies, when our investigators come across matters that are not related to the Local Government Act, but may be related to other pieces of legislation. We also have to seek the support of the State Solicitor's Office in assessing evidence. All those factors mean that there is a range of stop-the-clock exercises consequently, so although it may appear that if we had more people, all these things could happen in a very short period, in reality, given due process, and the fact that we want to undertake all these investigations with proper due diligence, there is quite a long time frame to do it properly, and that is what we are experiencing. We are closing off many investigations, and, in fact, a number of reports will be issued quite soon, and the number of matters under investigation will drop quite significantly. I am confident that we have been able to deploy our resources.

When I referred to the restructuring, I was really referring to the finalisation of people in permanent positions, as opposed to acting positions, and with appropriate line management, who will be signed off and agreed industrially by the Public Sector Commission and so on. I think that many of our state agencies are still finalising that change-management process. As a consequence, we will be able to deploy more investigators, but I am committed to making sure that the staff are appropriately trained to do that at the highest possible level, which is why it is taking a little time for those additional resources. We are really doing that only to ensure that we have more resilience in the team, because I have been working my investigators extremely hard. I am aware that I need to try to lessen the workload.

[4.10 pm]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I think this also underpins the importance in the sector, from a structural level, of ongoing universal training of elected members. I believe that better trained councillors with more understanding of their role and responsibility will help mitigate against councils getting into difficulties. There is a structural issue and there is the resourcing of the department, but there is also the focus on appropriate ongoing training for elected members; hence, the importance of that initiative.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** On the racing, gaming and liquor inspectorate, how many FTEs are currently deployed to assist the local government section.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am not the minister for that.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The minister is using some of those staff to help him.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Some expertise is available, but I cannot give the member —

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I believe some of them are seconded to the minister's department, or at least working full-time on local government investigations.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I suggest that the member put that question on notice.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Can the minister provide it as supplementary information?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No. I would prefer the member —

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Because the minister is using these staff.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I prefer that the member finalise that as a question on notice to the appropriate minister.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Is the minister using any staff from racing, gaming and liquor to do investigations? He must be making use of someone.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** All the staff are now deployed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, which is the employing authority. They are not the old departments as they used to be. I deploy those staff

appropriate to the needs of the whole agency. It means that staff are supporting the areas of racing, gaming and liquor from different parts of the agency, as they are for arts and sport. That is what the machinery-of-government changes were about—that is, a more efficient and effective use of public resources to meet the needs of delivery. It does not mean that we are not meeting our key performance indicators. The member will see from the KPI section of the budget papers that we are meeting our KPIs in all the required areas. That is essentially how I have structured the agency to do that. If I had kept people in departmental boxes, we would have had a series of silos within a single department, which would not have been an efficient or effective use of those resources.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Since all the resources are under the director general's control, how many inspectors and investigators are collectively working on local government investigations or complaints? How many FTEs are working on that section out of those who would normally work in the liquor, gaming and racing section?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** As part of the new structure we are going to train staff who also do liquor and other investigations to be able to do local government investigations. I am not currently deploying those staff on that task. We are preparing universal training, which is being done at a national level, for investigators of government regulatory functions. At the end of the day, they are investigations related to pieces of legislation and their effectiveness and so on. We are creating a multi-skilled investigative team, as other government departments are doing, but I am not deploying them unskilled on this work.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** On the subject of pressure on the department, we have seen in recent times that the relationship between local government and the community in certain areas has become almost toxic and unhealthy. It has had a lot of publicity, it is very strained out there, and there are a lot of complaints. Who knows what sort of results we will see from the upcoming elections? Does that place extra pressure on the department, given that, as I said earlier, people I talk to in local government believe that the department has always been there for them and that is where they go for advice? Does this atmosphere, which the minister sees, place extra pressure on people in the department or require more time?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The short answer is yes. We are now dealing with a very difficult to control environment—that is, social media. Elected members and potential elected members use social media to target individuals, councils, mayors, shire presidents and council staff. As the member knows, it can be very toxic. We saw numerous examples at the last council elections and we have another round coming in October. The central focus of the local government legislation, which is currently sitting in the Legislative Council, is making sure that anybody who seeks to be elected at the next election understands their role and responsibility through the induction process. They will also understand that they will be required to undertake universal training if they are successfully elected. They will understand that greater transparency measures will be required of them as an individual councillor, such as gift recipient declarations and declarations of interest et cetera. There will also be greater transparency of the information and elements that the council uses and receives to make decisions. That is why, as part of the local government legislation that is currently before the Legislative Council, we are requiring that a range of reports and information be easily available in a timely way. In the current legislation that sits before the Legislative Council are measures that indicate the sorts of things that will be required to go on the website and the time in which that information will need to be made available on the website. We are past the times when, if a ratepayer wanted information that they should have basic access to, they had to front up at the council office and ask for it. They could not even take it away; they had to view it there. We think that sort of thing is archaic, which is why we want to get that legislation in place before October.

I am not convinced that the code of conduct will address all the nasty stuff that goes on, but at least people who put their hands up to become elected members will understand that they will be required to sign up to a code of conduct. It will be a template code of conduct, which will give a basic overview of the expectations of an elected member. We will also allow local councils to finesse that. We believe that if we put all this up-front, people will be able to make an informed decision about whether being an elected member is for them. If they are successful, there will be a regime of universal training, because things change and elected members need to know that they are making the best possible decisions based upon the best possible information available.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** There needs to be protection for those people putting their names forward.

[4.20 pm]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I agree. There are some issues that drift into the Electoral Act. One of the things that I did after the last council elections was bring together a number of key players—this issue came up very strongly—including the Electoral Commissioner, the Western Australian Local Government Association and LGPro, to talk about this emerging problem and challenge. From those conversations came this focus on a universal code of conduct. That is why I am again so eager and pleading that we get it through by June so we have it in place, and then the first raft of newly elected members will come in under that regime in October 2019. We cannot possibly miss that opportunity. That is why I am so strong on it.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Based on the fact that it has taken so long to answer questions, officials from the National Trust of Western Australia can go home, because we will obviously not get through anywhere near as many questions as I would like to.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Just for the sake of the National Trust officials, you will not be required. We will need to deal with that division at the end.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I want to clarify the point that the director general made. Currently, no inspectors are working on local government investigations. Three investigators are currently employed by the department, who I assume are dealing with investigations. In summary, I understand that the department is not employing any inspectors because they are not trained, and there are three investigators and positions are being filled. I want to clarify that that is correct.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** Yes, that is correct.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Has that been the case since the machinery-of-government changes?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** We have had varying staff levels since the changes. As the minister said, we get people who move on and do other things and so on. Some people have left the agency recently, and we are recruiting to replace them as we speak. Essentially, we have been working with a relatively small team—around four or five.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I refer to page 467 of budget paper No 2, under the heading “Spending Changes” and the line item “Voluntary Targeted Severance Scheme”. How many of the redundancies fall within the arts section of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, and how many of those redundancies were positions based in regional Western Australia?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am happy for the director general to respond.

**Mr D.S. Ord:** The voluntary separations are not recorded in this budget paper. They were done under the last budget, so the details are in the last budget. There were no regional positions in culture and the arts. They were in sport and recreation. There were no separations in regional jobs from my agency. In total, I believe there were 44 voluntary separations across the whole agency. There would have been a number in the culture and arts area. I could get that number. They were recorded last year.

**The CHAIR:** Minister, will you provide supplementary information?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I think it refers to the last budget.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** If I can clarify it, the line item appears as a saving because of the ongoing nature of the saving from that separation that took place last year. Is that true?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes, I understand that is correct.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** So no new redundancies have taken place?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I refer to page 467, “Significant Issues Impacting the Agency” and the first paragraph, which relates to what the minister has spoken about for most of the afternoon—legislation and the issues going through. I wanted to ask a question about the reference group. In the answer to question on notice 4960 on 7 May, the minister indicated to me that there was representation. I was given a list of the people on the reference group. The minister indicated that there was representation from members of the public and councillors. I have the list in front of me. Which one of the members on that reference group is representing members of the public?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** My reaction is that they all are. They are all still members of the public.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Of course.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** There were representatives from stakeholder groups, including multicultural advisory representation. I would assume that we could say that they were members of the public.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** It is a very broad interpretation.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I would consider them all to be.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** From the point of view of councillors represented, I know that WALGA has two regional councillors on the reference group. Apart from the two councillors representing WALGA, why were no other councillors or mayors asked to be part of the reference group?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Because the review of the Local Government Act is a review of the role and responsibility of local government broadly. This is not just about councillors and elected members; this is about

a range of representatives. I wish to highlight the fact that the reference group is an advisory body. It was established to provide feedback. It is not a decision-making body. I think this is where the confusion has come about; there has perhaps been a misunderstanding by some in the broader public, including some interest groups. This is not a decision-making body; it is an advisory body. Therefore, I believed that in establishing this reference group to provide input into what a modern piece of legislation should look like and what local government should look like into the future, we needed to not be narrow and just have elected members from bodies such as WALGA and LGPro. We needed to hear from business representatives because they have a direct interest in the function of their community, and that is directly influenced by the activities of local government. We wanted to make sure that those who administer some of the other duties of local government, like rangers who respond to dog attacks, cat issues and other issues, were represented. Then we wanted to ensure that from a social perspective, because local government impacts daily on the social nature of a community, organisations such as the Western Australian Council of Social Service be included. I think the Western Australian Electoral Commission had a representative on the reference group, because there are matters relating to elections and democratic processes, and of course multicultural groups and the department. A range of people and a range of bodies were represented. All of them in their own right are members of the public. All of them in their own right are also representative of that body. The WALGA representatives were but one component of that advisory body. It was very, very well chaired by the member for Balcatta, an ex-deputy mayor and councillor of the City of Stirling.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Does the minister think it would have been appropriate to have at least one mayor or councillor on the reference group to represent the metropolitan councils and, effectively, mayors, I suppose? The minister has indicated that a lot of people are on the reference group, and there are people from many different sectors. The sector that seems least represented is the councils themselves and the mayors in the metropolitan area.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Before he was spectacularly elected to this place, the chair of the reference group was a deputy mayor of a large metropolitan council, so I think we had good representation.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** That was in phase 2, not phase 1.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** We are inputting into this reference group. If the member is referring again to the legislation that now sits before this house, it is widely, universally supported. As the member would know, I attended the WA ratepayers' association meeting, which the member also attended. One of its requests was to include a member from that organisation. We have done that. We invited a representative from that body and I am sure that they will make a contribution to that group going forward. I am very confident and comfortable with the representation of the group because it is not only local government that is represented.

[4.30 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** In question on notice 4959 of 2 April 2019 I asked the minister how many written submissions had been made on the second phase of the review. The minister answered that over 3 000 written submissions had been received on 2 April 2019. Only a few months earlier, on 19 February 2019, I also asked the minister how many written submissions had been received, and the minister answered 62. I am trying to work out how 62 written submissions had been received on 19 February 2019 and over 3 000 had been received on 2 April 2019. I am happy for the minister to look at the answers he provided.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The key question here is when the public submission closed for the review. It closed on 31 March.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Let me rephrase that. How many actual written submissions were received? I know that the survey was done; I did the survey as well. I am getting feedback that a problem with the survey was that people could only tick a box. People could agree or disagree with a question for different reasons but they could not give their rationale for that; they could only tick a box. In the end, the surveys are counted as written submissions, but they are not a written submission that someone has typed out in detail; they are ticking boxes. I want to know how many written submissions were received.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** If the member is going to be critical of the online survey —

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am not critical. I am just saying that people have raised this issue with me.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Who are they? Who raised those issues?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Let me just finish. I did the survey as well. I wanted to get out of the survey as I was going through it, but I could not get out of it.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Maybe the member needs some training.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I actually had to finish the survey.

**Mr J.E. McGRATH:** Entrapment!

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** It was entrapment, especially because I was not seriously answering the questions; I was just going through the survey to get an idea of what it was.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** That is shameful.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I wanted to see what was in the survey, so I was not giving it an extreme amount of thought, although I did answer the questions as closely as I could. I wanted to give detailed answers for some of the questions, but the survey had no option to give that detail. I agreed with some parts but disagreed with other parts of some questions, and I could not reflect that in my answer. All I want to know, putting the surveys aside, is how many actual written submissions were received in which someone went to the effort of typing it out, saying, “here is some detail”, and sending it in to the department? As I said, on 19 February, there were 62 submissions. How many of those submissions were actual written submissions, putting aside the surveys and the people who attended the forums and gave information verbally?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** On the premise that all submissions are valid and no submission has any greater weight than any other, over 3 000 submissions were received, comprising 2 201 online surveys, 817 written submissions and 129 submissions using the postcard method. Of those submissions, 1 738 came from members of the public, which would have been a mix of written, postcard and online submissions. Of those total submissions, 59 individual local governments made submissions and some groupings of local governments decided to make submissions. Of course, that is on top of the 110 workshops held in various places that attracted local government staff, elected members, community members and other stakeholder groups. It was a very rigorous process and I am very confident that we have a very good cross-section of feedback from a broad cross-section of the community in response to that process.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I refer to page 471 and the first line item “Regulation and Support of Local Government”. I see that funding for that line item goes from \$13 million down to \$10 million in the forward estimates.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Member, we have answered that question. The member for South Perth asked that question.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I am sorry. Can the minister explain very quickly in five seconds or less —

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Then do not accuse me of wasting time.

**The CHAIR:** Member, I thought you had many questions to ask.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I have.

**The CHAIR:** Do you have another question or would you like a bit of time?

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** No; that is okay.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member for South Perth was much more thorough than the member.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I ask about the funding side of it because, as we know, these inquiries are taking a long time to complete. I think the director general said that some of them will start to wind up. I am concerned that there is not enough funding for the department to do the job that it is tasked with. We know, for example, that the City of Melville inquiry has taken more than 18 months to get to this point, and I am not sure how much longer that will take. Obviously, a number of other seemingly simple inquiries are taking a long time.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I will ask the director general to repeat his answer to that question first asked by the member for South Perth about the discrepancy in those figures.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** The question is more about whether the department has the resources to get the job done.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The member has changed his question.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** It is the same question about the reduction in funding.

**The CHAIR:** Thank you, members. Member for Carine, can you just clarify your question, please.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Does the department have enough resources to do the work in a timely manner to support the sector? Will the department be funded appropriately into the future to make sure that inquiries and investigations do not take 18 months to two years to complete, so people in the sector can have some surety and confidence that either they will be cleared or mediation will take place?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes, I do. I will highlight that my answer adds to the answer that I gave to the member for South Perth; that is, further focus on the department’s role and what that means in terms of resourcing will be influenced by the current review of the Local Government Act, which, at the end of that process, will deliver a modern and agile Local Government Act; a consolidated focus on, for example, the role the department will play in the future of local government; and the landscape in which local government will operate in the modern era. That is why we are doing this review, why we are focused on this issue and why we are consulting widely.

**Extract from Hansard**

[ASSEMBLY ESTIMATES COMMITTEE B — Tuesday, 21 May 2019]

p120b-143a

Chair; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski;  
Mr Shane Love; Mr Yaz Mubarakai

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The process is not being rushed, because we want to get it right. It is the first time in 20-plus years that the Local Government Act has been thoroughly reviewed and we want to make sure that we deliver to the people of Western Australia legislation that delivers high-quality local government going forward.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I have a further question on regulation. Can the minister tell me whether it was the department and/or the minister that commissioned Ron Yuryevich to investigate what was going on in the Town of Port Hedland?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Mr Yuryevich was engaged by the council.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** What involvement did the department or the minister have with Mr Yuryevich during the process of his engagement with the council—were there meetings or were any reports given to the department during that period of engagement?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Mr Yuryevich was engaged by the council and his report is ultimately owned by the council.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Did Mr Yuryevich contact anybody in the department or the minister's office at any stage to talk about the issues in Port Hedland during his term of engagement; and, if he did, with whom did he meet and how often did he report?

[4.40 pm]

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Again, regarding all of those details, I do not have those dates and times.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** No, but did he report back?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The reality is that he is carrying out an investigation or mentoring. He was engaged to be a mentor—in other words, to look at the function, particularly from a governance perspective, of the council by the council, and he made a report. Mr Yuryevich is a very able man. He is very experienced in local government. He has been a commissioner previously, the last time in the Shire of Wyndham–East Kimberley, and he carried out his duties very effectively. His report was to the council. Indeed, he may have made calls to a whole variety of people to seek advice. If the member wants details, it is more appropriate that he ask a question on notice and we will be able to give him times, dates, who and when.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Yes, that is fine.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I remind the member that that was an initiative of the Port Hedland council and the nature of the engagement was from the council itself. It owns it.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Has a report on the town been submitted to the department or the minister's office?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** The council has been engaged with the department over some time in seeking our support. As the member for South Perth and other members have noted, local governments seek the support of the department when they are having some difficulties making decisions and so on. Mr Yuryevich agreed to provide some mentoring to the council and at the end provided us with feedback on how it had gone by way of a report that indicated how he had been able to support the council at that time.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Is the department comfortable that the Town of Port Hedland is functioning properly and that all of the issues have been dealt with, or is further support being given to the town? I believe there have been recent media articles written that state that the mayor has called for the suspension or dismissal of councillors.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** There have been some public utterances and issues circulated in local media up there. I remain of the view that the Town of Port Hedland needs to look very closely at its governance processes and should assess very closely whether it is delivering quality decision-making to its community. At the end of the day, it is an autonomous entity, and as with any autonomous democratic entity, along with all of our local governments, I urge all elected members always to focus on providing quality decisions to their communities. Again, I have to say that there are a number of examples around the state, both past and present, in which quality training and high-quality understanding of roles and responsibilities will assist in militating against councils getting into trouble or experiencing difficulties. That is why I urge the member to support the bill before the chamber. It is really important.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Have the Western Australian Local Government Association or Local Government Professionals raised any concerns with the minister about councils struggling and in need of support; and, if they have, which councils have asked the minister for support?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** WALGA is an entity that represents local governments; I cannot direct it. I talk to Lynne Craigie and the deputy regularly, and a whole range of matters are raised. Ultimately, those conversations take place from time to time and I am sure they will continue.

Chair; Mr Tony Krsticevic; Mr David Templeman; Mr John McGrath; Mr John Carey; Mrs Jessica Stojkovski;  
Mr Shane Love; Mr Yaz Mubarakai

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**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I want to ask about the Art Gallery of Western Australia and its funding. I noticed the funding has again stayed stagnant. I refer to division 34, on page 466 of the *Budget Statements*, and funding listed in “Item 72 Art Gallery of Western Australia”. I want to ask a question about that funding. As the minister is aware, the Auditor General identified \$300 million worth of art at risk of damage. What money has been set aside and what has been done to stop that \$300 million collection identified by the Auditor General getting damaged and destroyed in the future?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** The Auditor General’s report looked at the state art collection, which is held entirely in the Art Gallery of Western Australia. At the time of its construction it had a purpose-built art storage area. That reached capacity around 20 years ago and, subsequently, as the collection has grown, other parts of the building have been used. The building is secured and air-conditioned at full gallery specifications, so whether the art is in storage, in the gallery or in the art storage facility in the building, requirements are still being met. The Auditor General’s comments were that storage needed to be addressed as a sustainability issue. The recognition that the art storage matters were critical was identified under the last government, and it began a process for a business case to be developed for an art storage solution. That is reaching a conclusion and has involved looking at a whole range of options, cost modelling and so on, and will be brought to the government midyear for consideration in the next budget.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** Okay, so there is no money in the budget for it. Are there plans to amalgamate the Art Gallery, the State Library and the Museum under one structure, as was indicated in *The Australian* of 9 May 2019?

**Mr D.S. Ord:** The government publicly announced the arts portfolio would be part of machinery-of-government changes too, and it would essentially be a look at statutory authorities. Regarding the member’s question about amalgamation, machinery of government is looking at the most effective legislation for the purpose and how to structure the organisation’s needs to ensure the best outcomes for the investment of taxpayer dollars. We are going through a range of options of what modern legislation for the cultural institutions could look like. We are not contemplating a single institution, if you like, but we are working on options. They have not been brought back to government for consideration, but they are being developed, and I am sure once we have completed the development, we will enter into a consultation phase with the sector.

[4.50 pm]

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** What does the minister make of the Chamber of Arts and Culture Western Australia media release about the lack of support that cultural industries have received in the 2019–20 budget and that there are slim pickings for arts and culture? I am sure the minister has read the article dated 10 May 2019 after the budget was released saying that funding for the culture and the arts has never been lower than under this budget. That is its words not mine.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The Chamber of Arts and Culture is a very important organisation. I have a great deal of respect for it, and I of course have met with its members on numerous occasions, including on budget day, from memory, to discuss the budget. Some excellent outcomes for culture and arts are being delivered by this government, including the new Museum project, the regional arts focus, and of course support for a range of ongoing culture and arts activity. I am now in charge of, if you like, or oversee, the Sunset precinct, which we are working on to deliver culture and arts outcomes and are actively engaging in community to deliver to that. If the previous government had not left us in such a diabolical financial situation, I am sure that we would be able to have looked even more closely at what we need to provide and want to provide into the future, but the previous government could not balance the books let alone deliver quality financial oversight to the state for eight and a half years. We are dealing with that through budget repair. I remain focused on making sure that culture and the arts plays a critical role in the story of Western Australia and delivers high-quality opportunities to Western Australians going forward. I believe very strongly that cultural and arts activity and the creative industries have an even greater role to play in determining who we are as Western Australians and how we sell ourselves to the world when we are looking at enticing visitors from interstate and overseas to share in our stories.

**The appropriation was recommended.**