

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2017–18) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2018
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2017–18) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2018

Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from 18 November.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [12.43 pm]: I rise to continue the contribution that I commenced yesterday. I would like to begin by again thanking the people of Bunbury who elected me to this place. It has been a real pleasure to represent Bunbury and Dalyellup over the past three and a half—nearly four—years and to realise how much of a difference we can make in this place to the everyday lives of people who go about their business in the community, with not only the major projects that we deliver, but also the social reform that can be achieved through legislation as we continue.

I was part of a team that went to the 2017 election with an agenda that was clearly about fixing the state’s finances; an ambitious range of legislative reform and programs, particularly in relation to jobs, health, education and public infrastructure; and a clear agenda not to sell Western Power. I also went to the election with a commitment to be accessible and available to the community. I have thoroughly enjoyed, over this period, all the mobile offices, the town hall meetings, the Zoom meetings over the last six months, the events I have attended and the individual meetings I have had with constituents. I have learnt from every one of those processes and I think it makes me a better person to have had that experience. I have also been part of a very strong Labor team in the south west, with Mick Murray and his wealth of experience, and Robyn Clarke. Mick is about to leave us, but, hopefully, he will be replaced by an outstanding candidate in Jodie Hanns representing the seat of Collie–Preston. It will be great to have another strong and talented woman in this place.

Members would recall that back at the time of the March 2017 election, we faced some real challenges, not the least of which were issues around revenue and the GST, controlling expenses and managing the transition to fiscal discipline that could take the state forward. That was very important for my region because Bunbury sits at the top of a regional economy that is worth around \$15 billion in gross state product annually, which has grown each year. It makes a terrific contribution in the diversity of its economic base, whether that is in mineral processing, mining, tourism, hospitality, agriculture or small business. It is an incredibly vibrant region and the electorate of Bunbury is an incredibly vibrant part of that.

The plan for Bunbury that we went to the election with set out an agenda for the future growth of the city. It was really looking at taking forward a process that started in the mid-1980s with a Labor government, about what the future of Bunbury should be as a second capital of Western Australia. We had an agenda that looked at transport. I am very pleased to see things such as the Bunbury Outer Ring Road about to commence after many years of planning, and the dualling of Bussell Highway. I think both those projects will really put a backbone into the future road infrastructure for the south west as a whole, and cater for both its passenger and freight needs well into the future. They are very important projects. I am very pleased that we are replacing the *Australind*. The *Australind* was built in Bassendean by Western Australians and the replacement trains—not just a train—will be built in Western Australia by Western Australians. I think there is a bit of a wait to get to it, but it will be well worth the wait, because it will be a purpose-built train for the intercity journey between Bunbury and Perth. That particular piece of work will be accompanied by a lot of work around how we can improve journey times and the journey experience. I think that is a great step forward.

In health, we have had the construction of the step-up, step-down facility and the commitment to expand our hospital and to really look at its role as a teaching hospital for regional and remote area medicine. Very shortly, we will be seeing work commence on improvements to the emergency department, the mental health area, theatre space, general medical units and car parks, which is a major issue. The step-up, step-down facility is an amazing contribution to meet the needs of people who may be about to have an acute mental health experience or may be transitioning back out of hospital into the community.

The transformation of the Bunbury waterfront has been absolutely outstanding in not only reconnecting Bunbury to its waterfront, but also how people and locals view our city and its connection from the CBD to the waterfront—at the end of the day, Bunbury is a peninsula city—and how to engage in that and improve the quality of life for all locals.

In education, I worked very closely within Ian Harvey to see South Bunbury Primary School get its new preprimary and grade 1 classrooms, and what a delight it was to accompany the Premier to see the kids and teachers enjoying those new spaces. It was the same with Newton Moore Senior High School, which has embraced the science, technology, engineering and maths agenda with a new STEM facility that will take Newton Moore forward. Of course, Bunbury Senior High School is getting new facilities, particularly around the canteen, which I think was last addressed around 1940 or so.

I refer to sport and recreation, and the fantastic contribution by the Minister for Sport and Recreation, finally resolving the open drainage ditch in front of the Bunbury United Soccer Club. I commend local resident Marina Quain for her work in that area. Dalyellup Beach Surf Life Saving Club is a community organisation that had been living out of sea containers. We have been able to support the club in obtaining new facilities to store all its equipment, and the Forrest Park facility with new cricket nets, which is a great contribution on the sporting agenda. Then, of course, we have the private sector. Albemarle has made a significant investment in the Bunbury area, driving the jobs agenda that we on this side of the house hold so important. The actions under the plan are either completed, under contract or are funded. I am very pleased to be part of a government that does exactly what it says it is going to do, roll up its sleeves and get into it.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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