

APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2017–18) SUPPLEMENTARY BILL 2018
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Second Reading — Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [4.11 pm]: This is episode three of my contribution. It is very appropriate that we have been talking about COVID-19 because up-front I want to acknowledge the community of Bunbury and Dalyellup for the way that they have responded to the pandemic right through this year. They have done everything that has been asked of them. I especially thank the volunteers who supported those who are most vulnerable and the many businesses that supported their workers when they had to close, adapt and reopen, and right through that period when they did their best to maintain people in work.

I acknowledge that the member for Dawesville thanked the government for keeping the state safe, but he neglected to mention that we are also keeping the state strong and that we have a very strong commitment based on the work of the best Treasurer in Australia, who has put us in a great financial position to give us the power to make sure that we can keep the economy strong, keep people in jobs for the future and provide the certainty and stability that this state needs so much during the most challenging period that we have ever faced.

Certainly in my community, we have a strong approach to economic recovery and supporting our community into the future. It is about a safe community and a strong community. I want to go through a list for the benefit of members. In the south west region alone, if we take into account the efforts of the McGowan Labor government right across Western Australia, we have a mammoth \$5.5 billion economic recovery plan. Once again, I say that it is down to the fantastic work of the Treasurer and his team in Treasury, and the discipline of the cabinet that has put us in that position. A total of \$252.3 million will be invested as part of the south west recovery plan. That is on top of the enormous contribution that this government has made as a legacy to the south west in its core infrastructure, such as the Bunbury Outer Ring Road, Bussell Highway and the redevelopment of many schools in my electorate.

I want to talk about projects outside my electorate—across the whole of the south west. On top of that \$252 million, residents will also benefit from \$32 million to expand the lower fees, local skills program, which will significantly reduce TAFE fees across 39 high priority courses. That is about the future. That is about training young people and training people who need to change their jobs and providing new career opportunities. That is the sort of investment that this government makes for the future. In addition, \$15 million will go to Australind Senior High School for new classrooms and \$6.27 million will go to Margaret River Senior High School. How many times have I sat in this chamber and listened to members opposite saying that we only look after our own electorates? These are not our electorates. These funds are for people in the south west. Also, \$3.1 million will go to Bunbury Senior High School for upgrades to performing arts areas, specialist classrooms and the indoor sports hall, along with \$2.5 million to Kingston Primary School. The great member for Murray–Wellington sits in this chamber week after week looking after her electorate. A total of \$1.2 million will go to Harvey Senior High School, again in the electorate of Murray–Wellington; with \$25 million allocated for free TAFE short courses right across our region; and \$4.8 million for the apprenticeship and traineeship re-engagement incentive program that provides employers with a one-off payment of \$6 000 for hiring a trainee whose training contract was terminated on or after 1 March 2020.

The government has revamped the Buy Local policy, which is what businesses in my electorate have been looking for—an absolute commitment to our Western Australian participation plans to local contracting. Also, \$38 million of additional funding will go to the Bunbury Hospital redevelopment, long neglected under the previous government, making it a \$60.8 million total investment, with priority on clinical areas. In addition, \$8 million will go towards building the new Dalyellup multipurpose community youth centre and \$5 million to rebuild Hands Oval—thank you very much, Minister for Sport and Recreation, that is a great contribution—and \$6 million will go to the Donnybrook and districts sporting and recreation precinct. Donnybrook was long overlooked by the previous government.

Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski: Shame!

Mr D.T. PUNCH: Yes; shame! The government has committed \$11.9 million towards the Bunbury water resource recovery scheme—a great project, bringing recycled water in to green the Bunbury and Dalyellup areas. Also, \$7 million has been allocated to upgrade level crossings on the south west train line in Cookernup, Coolup and Waroona, helping to ensure the efficiency of the train line into the future and providing a much-needed safety upgrade for locals. I know that the member for Murray–Wellington has been working hard on that.

The government has fast-tracked the \$852 million Bunbury Outer Ring Road, with construction expected to begin three months early. How many times have members opposite said that we do not get projects off the ground? We have the hardworking Minister for Transport on the job day in and day out. I have seen her come into this place with her safety boots on. We know exactly what this government is about. A total of \$15 million will go to the regional road safety program to upgrade 240 kilometres of south west roads. The list goes on. It includes \$1.5 million for upgrades and maintenance at Collie Police Station; \$1 million for upgrades and maintenance at Donnybrook Police

Station; \$690 000 for upgrades at Augusta volunteer fire and rescue; \$230 000 for upgrades at Boyup Brook volunteer fire and rescue; \$15 000 for upgrades to the Allanson bush fire brigade, which is a very hardworking group; \$44 000 for upgrades at Wellington Mills bush fire brigade station; \$2 million to provide water tanks to volunteer bush fire brigades across WA; \$80 million for targeted maintenance programs for regional social and government workers' housing, including approximately 200 homes in the south west region; \$141.7 million to refurbish social housing across WA's ageing housing stock, with houses in the south west set to benefit; and \$6 million for installation of rooftop solar photovoltaic panels on social housing, including properties in the south west region. These are significant investments.

Then we have \$1.19 million for the Bibbulmun Track and Munda Biddi Trail upgrades; and \$1.5 million for the Wellington Dam mural—I have seen the cars lining up to see it. Also, \$3.08 million has been allocated to fast-track the third and final stage of the Margaret River main street development project, which includes a festival precinct, safer intersections and outdoor seating, helping Margaret River become the true tourism destination that it is. In addition, there is \$775 000 to expand and upgrade the car park and provide new facilities at Redgate Beach, another Labor electorate, I might add, but we are right there for the people of Western Australia; and \$411 000 for the development of the Blackwood River foreshore. I am starting to get a sore throat reading out all these projects. There is also \$231 000 for the Bridgetown hall and civic centre; \$50 000 to replace the jetty on the Donnelly River in Manjimup; \$450 000 for Pemberton attraction projects; \$40 000 for mountain bike trails; \$15.5 million for the Bunbury port inner harbour access road and bridge; \$3 million for upgrades at Bunbury port; \$3.8 million for a feasibility study to look at new infrastructure at the port of Bunbury and Kwinana, which includes planning; \$7.5 million towards the Kemerton strategic industrial area for waterworks; \$600 000 towards a business case for new industry at Collie; and \$6 million towards continuation of the food industry innovation program, including programs through the Premium Food Centre in Manjimup.

That is about a strong economy. That is about jobs. That is about training. More importantly, it is about diversity for the economy. The south west has one of the most diverse regional economies in Australia, and, internationally, it would be right up there also. It has strong export links. It has a great future. That is thanks to the investment of the McGowan Labor government.

I want to acknowledge Mick Murray, who is leaving this Parliament. He has been a great member for Collie–Preston. He has also been a great support for me and the member for Murray–Wellington. Well done, Mick. You have left a real legacy. I thank all the people who have supported us as “Team Labor” in the south west. I certainly thank the Premier and all the cabinet ministers for not only their commitment to the safety, strength and future of Western Australia, but also their absolute commitment to regional Western Australia and to making sure that Western Australia as a state prospers in this new world of dealing with COVID-19. Thank you, Treasurer. Thank you, Premier. Thank you, ministers.

MR B.S. WYATT (Victoria Park — Treasurer) [4.20 pm] — in reply: I never thought that the Appropriation (Recurrent 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018 would make it through its passage in the lower house, just to have to come back again next year, because no doubt the prorogation of the Parliament will mean that we will have to deal with this all over again. There is a range of appropriation and supplementary bills to deal with. There is a bit of a backlog, actually. Hopefully, in due course the amendments to the Financial Management Act will provide us with an alternative way of dealing with these bills so that they do not clog up the parliamentary system. Nonetheless, I thank all my colleagues for their contributions. I am delighted that this will be my last bill to be passed in the Parliament. It is a very significant bill. I think everyone appreciates the significance of this bill, which acknowledges money spent in the financial year 2017–18.

Because this is a cognate debate with the Appropriation (Capital 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018, I have to deal with a couple of things. I am reading from my notes—obviously, as I referred to last night, the parliamentary staff are the only people who know the arcane rules in this place. I thank all my colleagues for their very important contributions to this bill.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Inspirational. Thank you.

Question put and passed.

Bill (Appropriation (Recurrent 2017–18) Supplementary Bill 2018) read a second time.

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr B.S. Wyatt (Treasurer)**, and transmitted to the Council.