



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2022

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 1 December 2022



# Legislative Assembly

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

## RECREATIONAL FISHING — BIRD ENTANGLEMENTS

### *Petition*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie)** [9.01 am]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Assembly. The petition has 330 signatures, and reads —

Stop the cruel entanglements with fishhooks and fishing lines killing our Pelicans, Cormorants, Darters, Swans and other waterbirds.

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, want our beautiful Pelicans, Cormorants, Darters, Swans and other waterbirds to live their lives free of cruel and frequently lethal entanglements with fishhooks and fishing lines used by recreational fishers.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to urge the State Government to use its powers to require that action be taken to stop the cruel entanglements with fishhooks and fishing lines.

I note that this follows a petition in similar terms, tabled by the member for Cockburn, bearing 440 signatures.

[See petition 37.]

## ANNUAL REPORT — TABLING

### *Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [9.02 am]: Notice is given under section 65 of the Financial Management Act 2006 by the Attorney General, advising the house of the late tabling of the 2021–22 annual report of the Corruption and Crime Commission.

[See paper [1730](#).]

## PAPERS TABLED

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

## TALISON LITHIUM — GREENBUSHES OPERATION

### *Statement by Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)** [9.03 am]: It is my pleasure to rise today to update the house on the Greenbushes lithium operation, which is delivering record production and creating local jobs in our state's south west. It was great to visit the Greenbushes lithium operation, run by Talison Lithium, as part of the McGowan government's community cabinet series in the Warren–Blackwood region, along with the Premier, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Energy and the local member, Jane Kelsbie, MLA.

The Greenbushes deposit is recognised as containing not only extremely high grade lithium, but also one of the largest hard rock deposits of spodumene—the concentrate from which lithium is derived—in the world. Its output accounts for approximately 22 per cent of the global lithium market. The Greenbushes lithium operation has experienced an increase in global demand, with its product used for various green energy applications, such as lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. In the September 2022 quarter, Greenbushes achieved record production of 361 227 tonnes of spodumene concentrate—an increase of seven per cent from the June 2022 quarter. This increase in demand has driven an uplift of 190 new jobs in the past year and brought the local operations workforce to over 900. Pleasingly, Talison has a policy of employing local workers whenever possible, further increasing the economic benefit to the local community. As the world continues to decarbonise, the demand for batteries and critical minerals will only grow. Through operations like Greenbushes, Western Australia is in a prime position to meet this demand. The McGowan government aims to grow WA's future battery industry and transform it into a significant source of economic development, diversification, jobs and skills. Subject to state approvals, Greenbushes has plans to expand its existing operations, which it is estimated will support an additional 680 permanent jobs over the next five years, in addition to the 450 to 550 construction jobs that will be created.

In a sign of Western Australia's diversification, we are also moving up the value supply chain by producing battery-grade lithium hydroxide at the newly built Kwinana and Kemerton processing plants, each having capacity to produce around 25 000 and 50 000 tonnes, respectively, of lithium hydroxide a year.

Congratulations to the Greenbushes lithium operation on its successful 2022. It is great to see a burgeoning industry making its home in WA, further reinforcing the McGowan government's diversification strategy and creating local jobs for all Western Australians.

### WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE AWARDS

*Statement by Minister for Heritage*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage)** [9.06 am]: I rise today to recognise the 13 individuals, organisations and projects that were honoured with a 2022 Western Australian Heritage Award. It was a privilege to attend the event, hosted by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, with my colleagues the member for Collie–Preston and the member for Churchlands at the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip last Friday evening, 25 November 2022.

This year was the thirtieth anniversary of the heritage awards, which celebrate best practice in conservation, interpretation and adaptive re-use of places on the state Register of Heritage Places. The volunteers and professionals who were recognised have demonstrated a remarkable and enthusiastic commitment to conserving and preserving Western Australia's unique heritage.

Philippa Rogers was awarded the voluntary individual contribution award for her work as an advocate for and educator on WA's rich railway heritage. She also accepted the award for contribution by a community-based organisation for Rail Heritage WA. Dr Ingrid Van Bremen was recognised for her professional contribution. The special judges' award, the Professor David Dolan Award, recognises a significant contribution to heritage. This year, historian Clare Menck was given posthumous recognition of her contribution throughout a 20-year career in history and heritage. Her last work, *A thematic history of Western Australia*, is an outstanding achievement and will guide the assessment and classification of WA's heritage places.

Local governments were recognised for their work to conserve heritage places and celebrate local stories. The Shire of Collie won the award for its enhancement of Throssell Street, which included building conservation, interpretation and murals, and the City of Bunbury was awarded a commendation for its work engaging with the community and advocating for heritage in the region. Other winners included the Vincent Street heritage walking trail in Beverley, the *Fremantle Then & Now: Historical Panoramas* exhibition, and the former Fremantle courthouse and police station complex.

We were joined at the awards ceremony by delegates from a meeting of the Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand, which provides national leadership on heritage matters and raises the profile of historic and cultural heritage in Australia and New Zealand. Each state takes its turn to host the meetings, and this year was Western Australia's turn. Delegates spent two days in Fremantle, meeting at the WA Maritime Museum and visiting Fremantle Prison.

I congratulate the professionals, volunteer groups, individuals and organisations that were recognised at this year's heritage awards and thank them sincerely for their contribution to conserving and sharing the stories of our state's precious heritage assets. Their efforts are important and highly valued.

### PERTH CULTURAL CENTRE PRECINCT

*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts)** [9.10 am]: As Minister for Culture and the Arts I am delighted to advise this house of a milestone moment in the Perth Cultural Centre rejuvenation with the appointment of lead consultant COX Architecture. This awarding of the lead consultant contract to COX Architecture is a major step forward in the \$35 million infrastructure project to transform Perth Cultural Centre into the cultural heart of the city. COX Architecture is a design-focused contemporary architectural practice with studios located in nearly every major Australian city, with a history spanning 60 years. COX is well placed to lead this fantastic opportunity to enliven and activate the Perth Cultural Centre precinct for residents and tourists.

The precinct is set to undergo a \$35 million revamp, thanks to a \$25 million state government contribution and a \$10 million Australian government contribution, which is part of the \$1.5 billion Perth City Deal. We are taking the project to the next stage after the master plan and fly-through were released earlier this year. Our overarching goal is to transform the Perth Cultural Centre into a connected, thriving and welcoming precinct for residents and tourists, connecting the major cultural and learning institutions in the area. Planning development of the precinct involves a family-friendly approach with a new focal point, the creation of a new children's play space, shaded areas, better lighting and security and accessibility. Works will include the demolition of the amphitheatre and the Art Gallery car park at the eastern end of the precinct to form better connections to Beaufort Street. Overall, the project will open up underused spaces and create a better environment for visitors. It will also lead to job creation and boost the local tourism and hospitality industries.

The Perth Cultural Centre, a prime location in the City of Perth next to a public transport interchange, has the potential to be an iconic culture and arts hub. It is, of course, home to several major cultural institutions such as the Western Australian Museum Boola Bardip, the Art Gallery of Western Australia, the State Library of

Western Australia and the State Theatre Centre of WA. The State Records Office of Western Australia, the Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts and the Blue Room Theatre are also in the precinct. The McGowan government has a clear vision for the Perth Cultural Centre to attract and retain visitors and meet the aspirations and expectations of Western Australians. I, like so many in this room and in the community, look forward to a safer, modernised precinct in the heart of the CBD and Northbridge. I acknowledge again the work of the steering committee that helped form the plans for this and I thank the now Minister for Local Government and the parliamentary secretary, the member for Swan Hills, for their wonderful leadership in the planning of that process.

### **ROBERT MEADOWS, KC — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Attorney General*

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [9.12 am]: I rise to pay tribute to the late Robert Meadows, KC, who passed away on Tuesday, 15 November 2022. Mr Meadows served as Solicitor-General of Western Australia from 1995 until his retirement in 2011. Mr Meadows was born in 1941 and completed his secondary schooling at Guildford Grammar School. He studied law at the University of Western Australia and graduated in 1964 before doing his articles at Muir and Williams and was admitted in 1966. He became a partner in the firm in 1968, practising exclusively in litigation and appearing regularly as counsel in all superior courts, including the High Court. Mr Meadows served as President of the Law Society of Western Australia from 1986 to 1987. He served as President of the Law Council of Australia in 1993. In 1995, Mr Meadows was appointed as the Solicitor-General of WA, being the first practitioner from a private law firm to be appointed to that position. He was previously a partner at Freehill, Hollingdale and Page. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 1996.

As Solicitor-General, Mr Meadows provided advice to the WA government at the highest level, in matters of the greatest sensitivity and/or legal complexity, and in areas of significant law reform. Not only was Mr Meadows involved in matters of constitutional and intergovernmental significance, he ensured that he made a substantive difference to the operation of the legal system for individuals. For example, Mr Meadows advised the then Attorney General, Hon Jim McGinty, to refer the matters of Beamish, Button, Mallard and Mickelberg to the Court of Criminal Appeal pursuant to a petition for the exercise of the royal prerogative of mercy. They each resulted in the correction of significant injustices that had occurred many years previously in notorious criminal cases. Mr Meadows also contributed to important law reform for Indigenous Australians. He was a member of the Australian delegation to the United Nations' Working Group on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for a period of 10 years. This working group laid the groundwork for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on Thursday, 13 September 2007. The Australian government announced its support for the declaration in 2009. Mr Meadows appeared in over 100 High Court cases on constitutional and state-related matters. He was instrumental in defending the constitutional rights of Western Australia over an extended period. On behalf of the government of Western Australia I would like to recognise the enduring contribution of Mr Robert Meadows, KC, to both the legal profession and to the public of Western Australia. I offer my condolences to his wife, Lyn; children, Sally, Jodie and Michael; and grandchildren.

Vale, Robert Meadows.

### **CARERS ADVISORY COUNCIL — COMPLIANCE REPORTING**

*Statement by Minister for Community Services*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services)** [9.15 am]: I rise today to update the house on the work of the Carers Advisory Council and its progress in compliance reporting for prescribed agencies as part of its responsibilities under the Carers Recognition Act 2004. The act recognises the role of carers in the community and includes the carers charter, which outlines how carers are to be treated and how they are to be involved in the delivery of services that affect them in their caring role. The act also requires the Department of Health, public hospitals and the Disability Services Commission, and non-government services funded by these agencies, to comply with the carers charter and involve carers or their representatives in developing policies or programs and in strategic or operational planning that might affect them. These state government agencies provide annual compliance reports to the Carers Advisory Council.

I have been advised by the chair of the Carers Advisory Council, Ms Esme Bowen, that a number of early indicators of success have been identified in this year's reporting process. Overall, the Carers Advisory Council has noted there has been an increased commitment to carers and consistent understanding of the intent of the charter across reporting agencies. The council also noted an increased commitment to true partnership with carers and recognition of the important role they play in supporting their loved ones in the health and disability systems. Although these early indicators of improvement are welcomed, I urge agencies to continue to create inclusive systems that recognise the vital role that carers play in supporting family members as they engage across the health and community services sector.

I look forward to tabling the 2022 compliance report early next year. I also acknowledge the work underway to progress the recommendations of the review of the Carers Recognition Act 2004. All 12 of the recommendations of the review are being progressed with work to be finalised next year. I thank the members of the Carers Advisory Council for their ongoing commitment to supporting and improving the lives of carers in Western Australia.

## GENDER EQUALITY IN PROCUREMENT — WA PUBLIC SECTOR PILOT

*Statement by Minister for Community Services*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Community Services)** [9.17 am]: I rise to update the house on the Gender Equality in Procurement—WA Public Sector Pilot. In July this year, the Minister for Finance and I announced a 12-month procurement pilot to promote gender equality in the workplace. This pilot is a key initiative of *Stronger together: WA's plan for gender equality* and we are one of the first jurisdictions in Australia to introduce a gender equality clause into public sector procurement processes. This clause requires suppliers seeking to apply for a government procurement contract to demonstrate that they meet gender equality reporting requirements. Public sector procurement is a critical tool for government to leverage its role as a major capital investor, asset manager and purchaser of goods and services to raise awareness and create behaviour change to progress gender equality. Fifteen state government agencies are participating in the pilot, including major purchasers such as Main Roads Western Australia and the Public Transport Authority. As part of the pilot, larger suppliers with 100 or more employees are asked to provide proof of compliance with reporting requirements under the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012. Suppliers with fewer than 100 employees are asked to answer questions that focus on whether certain policies or initiatives are in place to support a gender equal workplace. Data provided by the Workplace Gender Equality Agency and the Australian Bureau of Statistics demonstrates that Western Australia continues to have one of the highest gender pay gaps in the country. The WA government is encouraging businesses and organisations of all sizes that participate in government procurement to play their part in creating gender equal workplaces in their everyday operations. More than \$52 million worth of contracts have been awarded under the pilot, with an additional 60 tenders that include the pilot clause with an estimated value of more than \$93 million in value currently in progress.

## WORLD AIDS DAY

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health)** [9.20 am]: World AIDS Day is held on 1 December each year to raise awareness globally and locally on the issues surrounding HIV–AIDS. Since its inception in 1988, it has been a day for people to show their support for people living with HIV, commemorate those who have died and highlight the current state of the epidemic. PrideFEST 2022 has recently ended. This event grew out of a community movement to protest laws that actively discriminated against members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual community. This community has historically shouldered the burden of the HIV epidemic, and the stigma and discrimination associated with it.

The LGBTQIA+ community created and has led the sustained partnership between people living with HIV, clinicians, public health authorities, government and researchers that characterises the Western Australian and Australian response to the HIV epidemic. Although HIV has not gone away, it is in large part due to this partnership that Western Australia's HIV notifications are at an all-time low. This downward trend is also attributed to the engagement and response of the community in minimising the risk of HIV acquisition and onwards transmission through the uptake of pre-exposure prophylaxis and proactive HIV testing. We continue to see high levels of treatment adherence and engagement with HIV services in WA, leading to high levels of viral suppression amongst those newly diagnosed, meaning the virus cannot be transmitted through sexual contact. This has contributed to our record low number of HIV notifications and, importantly, an improved quality of life for people living with HIV. WA is committed to meeting the UNAIDS target of virtual elimination of HIV by 2030. Recent epidemiological data from 2021 shows that WA has an estimated HIV treatment coverage of 89 per cent, with 90 per cent of newly diagnosed cases in 2021 having commenced treatment and having an undetectable viral load. This has been a consistent trend since collection of this data commenced five years ago, with 90 to 95 per cent of newly diagnosed people achieving an undetectable viral load over this period. However, there is still work to do in WA's HIV response. Australian-born heterosexual-identifying males who report acquiring HIV overseas make up a substantial proportion of new HIV cases in WA and are often diagnosed at a late stage. This signifies the need for an enhanced global response to HIV, as mobility and migration influence the global epidemic. HIV notifications are also disproportionately high in WA's Aboriginal population and, more recently, a number of cases among people who are experiencing homelessness have been notified.

Overall, the stigma of HIV and discrimination towards people living with HIV continue to detract from efforts to achieve the virtual elimination of HIV. Research has shown that stigma and discrimination is a barrier to accessing health care and engaging in HIV prevention strategies. We need to support strategies to reduce HIV stigma and continue to sustain high HIV testing and treatment rates if HIV is to no longer be a public health threat.

## HOUSING FIRST HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE

*Statement by Minister for Homelessness*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Homelessness)** [9.23 am]: I acknowledge the Minister for Health's great speech about people living with HIV and World AIDS Day.

I rise to inform the house of our government's homelessness reform package. I am very proud to have announced the \$24.2 million homelessness reform package that will drive the Housing First approach. The Housing First

approach seeks to get people into housing and provide the wraparound supports they need to overcome the deep trauma that is often associated with homelessness, whether it be mental health issues, family and domestic violence or other issues. This reform package will see 100 homes delivered for rough sleepers, as well as the wraparound supports they need to sustain their tenancies, consistent with the approach. The package will also deliver a boost to homelessness accommodation at St Bart's, with funding for 18 extra beds to enable it to offer specialist case management and wraparound supports. This funding also includes an extension of the Safe Perth City Initiative and funding to improve the quality of the data in the by-name list, driving better coordination and information sharing among service providers.

As part of these reforms, we have repurposed existing funding from certain programs when appropriate. This demonstrates that we are aligning our investment with key reform priorities. We are investing in programs and initiatives that deliver better outcomes and a greater impact for people experiencing homelessness. We must constantly reassess what we do to ensure that we are getting better bang for our buck. The remaining funding from the local government partnership fund has been reallocated to deliver homelessness reforms aligned with a Housing First approach. Local governments are welcome to lodge proposals with the Department of Communities for initiatives that demonstrate a Housing First approach. The fund attracted some proposals that were aligned with *All paths lead to a home: Western Australia's 10-year strategy on homelessness 2020–2030*, which were funded. However, the majority of the proposals were not aligned and, as such, this funding has been repurposed. This ensures that new funding efforts are aligned with the strategy going forward. Our government is committed to reducing homelessness and our reform package will do this, consistent with the Housing First approach.

### MIDLAND WORKSHOPS — DEVELOPMENT

*Statement by Minister for Local Government*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Local Government)** [9.26 am]: I rise to inform the house of the next phase of the Midland railway workshops transformation. This is exciting for the area and I know that the Speaker is happy that this will be delivered in her electorate.

Through this new phase, the remaining lots within the former railway workshop block 1 will be transformed into a health, education and medical research hub, generating hundreds of new jobs. We are proud to be partnering with Midland Health and Knowledge Precinct, a Western Australian company that will develop the community centre and medical and education hub. Proposed services will include specialist medical services to cater for chronic disease and preventive care, Aboriginal medical services and medical research, which will complement the adjoining GP super clinic. The facility will host health, education and workforce training opportunities that focus on developing a job-ready workforce for the local community. The precinct will also include an early learning centre that will provide much-needed early education facilities. The development will include a new hotel, which will provide improved access to tourist regions such as the Swan Valley and Perth Hills, while remaining close to public transport delivered through the exciting Metronet program.

The proposed development will preserve and celebrate the heritage of the iconic workshops and machinery, and provide a place for art projects and heritage exhibits. This hub will not only create hundreds of jobs in the construction period, but also provide 350 jobs for the local community. This is part of the \$1.5 billion investment into the urban renewal of Midland that is being delivered by our government in partnership with the private sector, to transform our eastern suburbs.

### COP27 AND MIDDLE EAST VISIT

*Statement by Minister for Environment*

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Environment)** [9.28 am]: I would like to inform the house that, in early November, I attended the 2022 Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, or COP27, held in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. While overseas, I visited five cities across three countries—namely, Riyadh in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Cairo and Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt and Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates.

In Riyadh, I held meetings with the Saudi Minister for Environment, Water and Agriculture, as well as the Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is the Saudi climate envoy. Kings Park has a longstanding relationship with the Saudi department of environment, advising it on greening initiatives in the kingdom. This not only showcases the world-class expertise held by staff at Kings Park, but also returns a commercial benefit to the state. With the Saudi Green Initiative, which aims to plant 10 billion trees across the kingdom by 2030, there is much opportunity for WA to harness our science and research capability in advising on world's best practice. In Saudi Arabia, I also took the opportunity to promote WA as an international study destination. I met with high school students looking to study abroad and education agents and advisers.

Being the first Western Australian minister to attend a COP conference, I took the opportunity to not only tell our state's own decarbonisation story, but showcase to the world how WA can partner with other jurisdictions to achieve their decarbonisation goals. In five bilateral meetings with ministers from Egypt and Canada, we discussed WA's capability in mining critical minerals and water and food security. In Dubai, I met with Masdar Clean Energy,

a green energy company that is investing in Western Australia through the \$500 million East Rockingham waste-to-energy project. We also held an invest and trade event focused on exploring collaboration between WA and the Persian Gulf in building a net zero economy.

We were well supported by our WA Trade and Investment team. I thank Nashid Chowdhury, the Trade and Investment Commissioner; Aziz Saba, director of the WA trade office in Dubai; Ania Tukalska; and Wilson Binil from the Dubai office. Thank you to those keen assistants. My consistent message throughout the mission was that Western Australia is determined to continue and even exceed its role as a major energy exporter by becoming a green energy superpower. In Egypt, Saudi Arabia and the UAE, I explained that WA's vastness enormous natural resources of sun, wind, green hydrogen, potential abundance of critical minerals and unparalleled mining expertise made us obvious partners in their push to diversify and decarbonise their own economies.

I now table my travel itinerary for the mission.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** You should have stayed on for the soccer!

**Mr R.R. WHITBY:** I should have!

[See paper [1735](#).]

## SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY

### *Grievance*

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [9.31 am]: My grievance is about South Coast Highway and is to the Minister for Transport. I thank the minister for taking my grievance. I rise to draw attention to concerns regarding South Coast Highway, specifically the eastern section between Ravensthorpe and Esperance. I would straightaway like to acknowledge that, as it is quick to tell us, Main Roads has completed significant work to improve safety on this road during recent years, but that work has not been enough to quiet the voices I hear—those people who use the road daily and can see the inherent dangers clearly. In the RAC's 2022 Risky Roads survey, the stretch of highway between Walpole and Esperance was voted the fifth-riskiest in regional WA, with issues including poor road surface quality; narrow roads, lanes and bridges; and a lack of opportunities to overtake. Despite work done, many stretches of the road are atrocious and downright dangerous. People like Freight Lines Group's managing director Michael Harding fear for the lives of road users. Mr Harding told the ABC this week that at the end of the day because of the state of the road we are putting property, ourselves and others at risk. However, at the end of the day, it is not Mr Harding or other road users who are putting anything at risk. It is the state government that is putting people and property at risk.

Even as I speak, there are potholes in many stretches of a road that is currently carrying harvest traffic and trucks hauling grain to Esperance receival points. It is also the route used by trucks carting material from the Ravensthorpe Nickel Mine and Galaxy Resources' Mt Cattlin operation and tourists heading to Esperance for holidays. At any point in time there are caravans, motorhomes, four-wheel drives loaded with families and surfboards, trucks with heavy loads of grain and containers all heading in and out of Esperance on a road that is not up to the job. Mr Harding says the road is not a pleasant working environment, describing it as an absolute joke and a disgrace. He is certainly not the only one in Esperance of that opinion.

As the Esperance harvest gets into full swing, truck movements are expected to increase, just as the school holidays arrive and more people are on the road. South Coast Highway from the west is one of only two major routes into Esperance. From the north is Coolgardie–Esperance Highway. Though the town is serviced by Transperth bus services and Regional Express flights, many choose to drive. The area is promoted by this government as a tourism destination, yet the major road from the west is in such a state of disrepair that getting to a place described as heaven can be hell on earth. In 2020, Infrastructure Australia listed road safety in regional WA as a high priority, calling for upgrades to 17 000 kilometres of roads across regional WA to reduce road trauma, deaths and injuries. South Coast Highway between Albany and Esperance was mentioned as a priority initiative. The report said the age, design and condition of the highway was causing significant safety issues.

In April 2021, my office dealt with concerns expressed by Shane Ballantyne from Ballantyne Earthmoving. His concerns related to an incident involving one of his trucks on South Coast Highway near Young River. During the interactions between the Ballantynes, Main Roads and my office with regard to this incident, Mr Ballantyne said the lack of appropriate signage, combined with the state of the road, made him fearful for the safety of other drivers. At the same time, the section of road that was the scene of this accident was described by a Main Roads employee as not having a surface forgiving of error and therein lies the real danger. The stretch of the highway between Ravensthorpe and Esperance is not forgiving of error. Its surface is treacherous when dry, worse so when wet. In places the edges are dangerous and potholes caused by the heavy traffic are currently signposted and correctly described by Main Roads as road hazards. It should be noted that there is so much road damage that all the potential hazards are not even signed.

We are not talking about a minor backroad. South Coast Highway is a major freight route and it is also a major route for tourists visiting Esperance and surrounds. Esperance residents have called for more overtaking lanes, for work to make the road edges less treacherous and for the severely pitted ridged and routed sections of the road to be repaired

with longer term solutions. The narrow, winding road between Ravensthorpe and the First Quantum Minerals mine is seen as dangerous while bumps and dips in the road cause trucks to sway. Mr Harding is calling for immediate government action and for safety to be improved from the ground up. The minister responsible needs to listen to the concerns of those who risk their lives on a road that is not fit for purpose. People who live in the area have concerns based on experience and deserve to be listened to.

In answer to questions asked of the minister in the upper house, we have been advised that since 2017, 25 kilometres of highway between Munglinup and Esperance have been reconstructed. We have heard that no incidents have been reported to Main Roads that are attributable to the condition of the road, and that regular inspections and maintenance work is carried out. The reality is that what has been done is not good enough and that quick-fix solutions to damaged roads last only so long. The highway needs to be capable of safely carrying all those who use it. It is irresponsible of this government to watch on as the deteriorating road conditions combine with a high traffic load to create unsafe conditions. I call on the government to listen to what the road users, Infrastructure Australia and the RAC are saying, and to do a better job of making this highway a safer section of the National Highway.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport)** [9.38 am]: I thank the member for that grievance. I must say I am a little disappointed with the tone of the grievance because in one section he said how much we have done and there is no quick fix and then in another section he said that we have not done anything. I think even the grievance itself outlines the amount of work that we are undertaking. Another point I would like to say about the regional road program is that was our road safety program. That was our program that we developed and we submitted to the federal government and, of course, the RAC was very much onboard. Just to be given a bit of credit for securing hundreds of millions of dollars for the regional road safety program for around the state would be good occasionally.

I want to make another point: the previous government was there eight and a half years. It had the royalties for regions fund that it promoted everywhere, yet it did not fix any roads. It became obsessed with Perth Freight Link. It diverted all its attention and cash to Perth Freight Link and did not focus on roads. It was then Leader of the National Party Brendon Grylls who said RFR is not about fixing roads. I want to make that point. We are investing more in roads than ever before.

Let us go to some facts. In 2020–21, we spent \$143 million in the goldfields–Esperance region, compared with \$66 million in 2016–17. Also in 2020–21, we spent \$148 million in the great southern region, compared with \$56 million in 2016–17. In 2021–22—the year just completed—we estimate that we spent \$95 million in the goldfields–Esperance region, compared with \$66 million spent by the previous government in its last full financial year. In the great southern in 2021–22, we spent \$113 million compared with \$56 million in 2016–17. We are spending far more in those regions than the previous government did. We took up the cause of the regional road safety program; not the Nationals WA, which is meant to represent the regions—we did. We got funding and we continue to secure funding to roll out that program.

I agree with the member that South Coast Highway is one road amongst many that needs funding, and that continues to be a priority for us. In rolling out the regional road safety program, we continue to undertake works in that area. I have been down there a couple of times to deliver our election commitments; there has been some awful weather down there, particularly during the winter just gone and the previous winter, and that has made some of the reconstruction work very difficult. We have tried to do what we can within the windows of suitable weather. Nevertheless, only a couple of weeks ago, the member for Moore, Shane Love, questioned the fact that the government was undertaking road upgrades during the harvest period, even though that is the time when the weather is at its most suitable for upgrading roads.

I want to outline what we have been doing. Since coming to office in 2017, we have undertaken a number of improvements. As I said earlier, investment in roads in the goldfields–Esperance region increased from \$66 million to \$143 million between 2016–17 and 2020–21. Additionally, road shoulders have been sealed and widened by 10 metres on a 43 kilometre stretch of highway outside Munglinup as part of the regional road safety improvement program; that is a fair stretch. That was completed in 2021–22 at a cost of around \$4.5 million. Of that, 11 kilometres were resealed in 2021–22 and the remainder will be resealed this summer, after which audible edge lines will be applied at a further cost of \$2.7 million. In the 2017 election campaign, we committed \$30 million to the area between Albany and Jerramungup, and that work was completed in 2021. The government also completed 25 kilometres of pavement rehabilitation between Munglinup and Esperance between 2017–18 and 2020–21, at a cost of \$15 million. Two kilometres of pavement rehabilitation and seal widening was completed 10 kilometres west of Ravensthorpe in 2021–22, at a cost of \$1 million. Further pavement rehabilitation is planned for 2023–24, funded through the regional road safety program.

As members can see, over this summer and the next there will be further works undertaken on South Coast Highway, and we continue to do what we can to secure funds to improve the condition of that road. We have put forward submissions to Infrastructure Australia about the condition of that road, and we continue to work to secure further funding. The challenge of moving grain to port is massive throughout that area. We know the condition of that road; it is a very old seal and we need to continue to upgrade it. That is why we are doing all we can to improve safety.

Our immediate challenge is to improve those roads, and that is what we are doing through the regional road safety program and other specific projects to widen, reseal or install audible edge lining. Of course, a far bigger project will

be the full reconstruction of the highway, which will need significant funding from the commonwealth government. We are constantly working to improve that situation. As I said, I think some credit needs to be given for how much we are spending in regional WA. The facts are the facts. For the member to stand up and say, “Minister, you’re doing this” or “You’re not doing that”, is, I think, a little condescending given that we have fought for record investment in regional roads. We are continuing to work on these roads. I do not know where everyone was when the previous Liberal–National government was in power, but no-one seemed to be calling for work on roads, because it did not fix anything. We are now playing catch-up and dealing with the massive challenge of getting grain to port.

### ROAD SAFETY — NARRIKUP

#### *Grievance*

**MS E.J. KELSBIE (Warren–Blackwood)** [9.45 am]: I rise today to raise a grievance with the Minister for Transport concerning road safety in Narrikup, and I thank Minister Saffioti for taking my grievance. Narrikup is a small town in my electorate, in the Shire of Plantagenet. It is nestled off Albany Highway, south of Mt Barker. Narrikup is home to the famous giant Bradbury cricket bat, which was resurrected at the Narrikup Cricket Club earlier this year. The club is also famous for its picket fence made from old cricket bats. The community there is passionate about cricket, but, more importantly, it is passionate about road safety and keeping kids safe.

Earlier this year I met with the Narrikup road safety working group and the Shire of Plantagenet to hear their concerns and their advocacy for safety improvements along Albany Highway. The Narrikup road safety working group was formed in October last year following a well-attended special electors’ meeting at the Narrikup Hall. This important meeting was triggered by a community petition to improve road safety. The working group comprises Shire of Plantagenet CEO Cameron Woods; Shire of Plantagenet president Chris Pavlovich; Shire of Plantagenet deputy president Jon Oldfield; Shire of Plantagenet executive manager, works and services, David Lynch; and passionate community members Carolyn Porter, Kate Harriss, Tony Poad and Jeff Schneider.

I have had several discussions with the shire and Narrikup road safety working group representatives over the last year and I have advocated on the community’s behalf to the Minister for Transport regarding its concerns about road safety, along Albany Highway and more broadly. A comprehensive safety audit for this stretch of road was completed earlier this year. Following the audit, the minister announced a six-month speed reduction trial, reducing the speed from 110 kilometres an hour to 90 kilometres an hour between Spencer Road and Jackson Road, an approximately 1.7-kilometre stretch along Albany Highway. Other safety improvements, including a slip lane at the turn-off to Narrikup, are currently being evaluated.

Improving road safety is, I know, a key priority of the McGowan government. We have delivered several long-awaited road safety treatments in the Mt Barker region, with more planned for the future. We have widened, sealed shoulders and installed audible edge lines on Albany Highway between Mt Barker and Albany; sealed shoulders and installed audible edge lines on Muir Highway between Denmark–Mount Barker Road and Langton Road; and sealed shoulders and installed audible edge lines on Albany Highway between Frankland–Cranbrook Road and north of the Muir Highway roundabout, but I also know we can always do more.

My grievance today specifically relates to an existing school bus stop located on Albany Highway. Following my discussions with the Shire of Plantagenet and the Narrikup road safety working group, I have been advocating on behalf of the community for a change to the bus stop location, which would see it removed from Albany Highway. This is a matter I have raised with both the Minister for Transport and the Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery. Moving the bus stop from Albany Highway to an alternative, safer location was also identified as a recommendation in the 2022 audit. I have sought formal advice from Shire of Plantagenet CEO Cameron Woods that the shire will be able to accommodate the requirements for a 57-seater bus to enable the relocation of the bus stop from Albany Highway to a suitable location on Hannan Way.

Keeping kids safe on our roads is of the utmost importance. The Narrikup community, the working group and the Shire of Plantagenet, along with myself, are advocating for this change. The recent independent safety audit recommended moving the bus stop. I have had positive discussions on improving road safety outcomes for students and parents who use this bus stop, and on the issue of road safety in Narrikup more broadly. Today I am seeking an update on this issue to see whether we can offer Narrikup residents a positive resolution to their safety concerns. I thank the minister once again for taking my grievance.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport)** [9.50 am]: I thank the member for Warren–Blackwood for her grievance and I again commend her for her strong and continued advocacy for her region. We are all coming to learn just what an excellent member she is for that region. We hear from everyone that she is everywhere, delivering and actively supporting her region. It is really great to see, particularly for towns like that, which I know are very hard to get around because they are very different towns with different priorities and interests. The member is balancing very different views from across the area. The member is advocating for each town and each region and she is treating each of them as an entity on their own, which they are. That is very important, particularly in those towns in which the aspirations and views of many people in one town may be different from others. She is working really hard to represent their views.

On a more general note, how good were the Socceroos winning overnight? Incredible!

**Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski:** Very tired today.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Yes. They are down to the round of 16. Congratulations to the Socceroos with their incredible results from overseas.

I go back to the key point, which is regional road safety in Narrikup and also what the member has been advocating for. As the member said, we undertook a road safety review and she has been strongly advocating for road safety improvements in and around Narrikup. One of the issues the member raised is how much we have already spent on the road safety program that we are rolling out along Albany Highway. Throughout the member's electorate, over \$88 million has been invested in projects to specifically improve safety, such as the sealing of shoulders, the installation of audible verge lines and curb reconstruction. We will continue to roll out these types of programs across the state.

One of the key things the member raised with me is the location of the bus stop. She asked whether it could be shifted because of road safety concerns. We took this up and asked our agency to review the situation and look at relocating the bus stop from Albany Highway to a safer location in the vicinity of the Narrikup town hall. The good news is that the Public Transport Authority has confirmed that this would be a suitable location for that new bus stop. The PTA has also confirmed the new location with the Shire of Plantagenet and has advised the local school bus operators, of which there are three services—Yakamia–Highway, Yakamia–Willyung and Albany–Coodanup—of the changes. The bus services will operate to and from this new stop from the start of the 2023 school year. The agency will now advise affected families of the bus stop change prior to the end of this school year. That is very good news, member. We will be relocating that bus stop, which will make it safer for everyone. Again, I thank the member for her positive advocacy in this situation.

## CORONAVIRUS — STATE OF EMERGENCY — PLANNING

### *Grievance*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [9.52 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Planning. I thank the minister for taking my grievance. She is carrying the government this morning!

My grievance relates to the fact that local councils and their planning schemes have been completely bypassed on planning decisions due to the continuation of rules drafted during the previous state of emergency to ensure that the WA building industry did not collapse. As my honourable colleague in the upper house and shadow Minister for Planning, Hon Neil Thomson, also questions, why did the minister extend the rules crafted during the COVID pandemic, which enable the Western Australian Planning Commission to make decisions about developments that do not comply with the very rules that the Western Australian Planning Commission is entrusted to oversee? These powers are now completely unnecessary. I remind the minister that the emergency planning laws were brought in to accommodate shovel-ready projects when we feared the economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic would hit Western Australia's economy very hard. However, the economic calamity did not eventuate, making the need for these changes irrelevant. In fact, our building industry is now completely overheated. Furthermore, many of the approved projects have yet to begin construction, demonstrating that they were far from shovel-ready when they were originally approved.

The proposed development at 120 and 122 Marine Parade is a perfect example of these failures. The project at 120 Marine Parade was approved as a shovel-ready project more than two years ago but is yet to start construction. Instead, the development is now the subject of dealings with neighbouring developers, who have their own plans to incorporate the application to include the neighbouring property, being 122 Marine Parade. The proposed development is two storeys higher than the permitted height for this location, which was defined by an approved local planning scheme and endorsed by the local community. I also understand that another two applications that do not comply with the government and community-approved local planning scheme on the beachfront are before the Town of Cottesloe as I speak. The community supported the LPS 3 scheme, which included increased development along the foreshore. It was a compromise between visible amenity impacts and shadowing the beach.

I can assure members in this house that the bypassing of local government and local communities' voices on planning decisions is occurring not only in Cottesloe, but also right across Western Australia, including Bayswater. The continuation of these powers now begs the question: does the minister see local governments and local communities as simply an inconvenience that must be bypassed in any planning decisions? Local planning schemes must be respected, and strategic planning policies must be adhered to, despite what the law now allows after these new provisions were rammed through Parliament on the back of COVID-19 and the previous state of emergency.

Development must be considered holistically with reference to transport, congestion, public amenity, view corridors, overlooking, noise mitigation, and, importantly, community expectations. Planning must be done with reference and respect to local communities. Ad hoc decisions through an uncertain process scrambled together under COVID is not the way forward. The McGowan government has even recently been forced to inject itself into individual developments due to these changes. The impact of this was demonstrated dramatically recently with the poor process around the proposed Charles Street upgrades, which the minister had to backflip on after community outrage, and

probably after pressure from her ministerial colleague Hon John Carey, the member for Perth, and rejection of the proposal by the City of Vincent. On top of this, after being steamrolled by the WAPC over the developments on Marine Parade that I previously mentioned, the Town of Cottesloe is now reviewing its local planning scheme and local planning strategy in order to play catch-up with a bevy of applications that rolled in under the COVID-inspired process. Sadly, I think, together with my upper house colleague Hon Neil Thomson, that the outcome of this review will be irrelevant for key locations such as Marine Parade when, at last count, four proposals under the COVID-19-initiated system have now been received. How can there be any confidence in the Town of Cottesloe's public consultation on its new scheme when we see how easily it can be swept aside? The current approach for the Cottesloe foreshore is certainly a far cry from the good work done under the Barnett government, when the Town of Cottesloe and the Department of Planning carried out an extensive inquiry by design process whereby everyone had a say and compromises were identified that most could live with. That included supporting increased height along the foreshore. I absolutely reject the contentions put forward by the minister in the past that somehow the council is against development. This town has medium and high-density development already at around 50 per cent, greater than almost any other area of Perth.

The WA Liberal Party has a fundamental belief that the community needs a say in the design of our suburbs. We also believe that the minister should focus on making rules that ensure individual development decisions take account of local planning decisions and local community views and concerns. This used to be a tradition with bipartisan support, but for some reason this is not the case under the McGowan government. What we see now is a lack of planning and a completely idiosyncratic process that does not follow orderly planning principles or take proper account of community concerns. Decisions are made that cause traffic chaos in suburban streets and ignore the capacity of services such as power, water and sewerage or the proximity of appropriate public transport. That was brought home forcefully at a public meeting that we conducted in Nedlands recently, when residents raised that they cannot access their own properties because of increased traffic density in their streets because of completely inappropriate high-rise development. Long-term considered planning has been abandoned for short-term political concerns. Consultation is occurring after decisions have been made, not before, when local concerns could have been accommodated. Consequently, I call on the minister to ensure that local government and local community voices are respected when planning decisions are made, and that we revert to the planning process as it was prior to the changes made in the name of the COVID-19 pandemic. Immature comments about nimbys ignore genuine community concerns. I urge the minister to replace ad hoc decision-making with considered, long-term planning, and make sure that new buildings comply with the approved local planning schemes. Thank you.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport)** [9.59 am]: I thank the member for that grievance, but I want to outline some of the comments made about name-calling and so forth in this grievance. First of all, the Liberal Party brought in the development assessment panel process and also changed the multi-unit design codes, basically, to allow all multi-units above, I think, R30 at the time. It made some big changes, which it now, obviously, is walking away from. It also appears that the Leader of the Liberal Party is asking for the right of veto for local government members. I think that the member is asking for third-party appeal rights, if that is what he is asking for.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** I am asking you to respect local planning schemes.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** No; the member is walking both sides of that fence.

The reality is we have a system in place in which councils are in charge of developing the schemes and strategies for their area. Those schemes have to be current and reflect modern thinking. I urge all councils to make sure their schemes and strategies are up to date. The other point I make is that it is currently very hard to work on long-term schemes or strategies with councils, because there is no commitment to keep going on a strategy that might have been endorsed a couple of years ago. Councils change course on matters all the time. I will take a couple of examples in my electorate of Swan. I am approached to update a scheme to reflect a new project. I ask, "Will you support this? Is this your proposal?" They say yes. We go through a metropolitan region scheme process and the council votes. Then, a couple of years later, after a few changes in the council's composition, they vote against the MRS. It has happened time and again. Currently, we cannot do long-term planning with councils because they change their mind every two years. It is really hard. I have public servants who go and consult with people; they come back saying that the council is right on board. I ask, "Are you sure they agree with it?" The response is, "Oh, yes, they agree with it." Then we go ahead with it and people say they were not consulted and they are not doing it.

I will give an example of the Ruah Community Services decision and the comments in the newspaper. The Leader of the Liberal Party asked about the role of the Minister for Planning and of government. We have a role to deliver good community. We have a role to deliver housing for the people of Western Australia. My role is to facilitate housing and developments for the state. That is what I have to do. I have to make sure we have enough land and zoning to allow people to buy homes and to live in good places. I know that some people believe their suburb is fine, so they do not want any change. I cannot have that view. If I had that view, we would not have new housing for people. Fundamentally, we are about creating new homes for people to live in.

I see examples from other states where, without the right infrastructure, without the right access, people are spending two hours every day to get to work. I do not want that in this state. Our job is to look above and say, "Where shall

we create the housing?" The council's obligation is to work with schemes. As I said, time and again I am in a situation in which I try to deliver a long-term strategy, the council says yes and then two years later it abandons it. I will talk about the Football West example. Members will remember that Football West was meant to be owned and controlled by the City of Perth, but two years later it said it did not want the new football centre. Football West is now looking at what to do and who will be its landlord. It happens again and again. We try long-term strategies.

I will give Ruah as an example. We have planning professionals. This is a situation in which everyone discounts the planners as if they do not exist. They think all decisions should be made by a group of people with no planning expertise whatsoever.

**Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Let us stay with Ruah and some comments made about me in the paper. I do not often take offence, but I take offence at this. The administration recommended that Ruah be allowed to operate from that new centre. The bunch of professionals who are trained in this job said that. The elected councillors called it in. Why did they call it in? It was because of the interests of a few. The elected representatives went against the recommendations of the professionals on behalf of the few—the vested interests—and the local government is the hero. I am the bad person because I am looking at the whole issue of homelessness. Is that right? As I said, if I went against the recommendation of my agency on behalf of a few land owners, what would the member be calling me? There is a stupid and ridiculous argument out there currently. We have planning professionals, and we have the idea that we cannot change. Yes, the pathway has some discretion built in. We have design review processes that never existed when the Liberal government brought in its DAPs; it had no design process. You allowed things in the suburbs that you did not care about. Members here—the member for Kingsley in particular—are aware of some of the things that came out of your rules with no design process. We have a design review process. We have mechanisms to allow for flexibility when there is a community benefit, and we have a better system of community benefit. I take my responsibility seriously; it is to create new homes and good places for people to live. It is not to ignore future generations. I am so tired of the approach the member is taking to divide and conquer. He went to the opening of ONE Subiaco, which is 24 storeys, when the local scheme said 16, and the member said that was a great result, yet when something is 20 centimetres higher than the scheme allows, he calls that a bad decision!

#### HOMELESSNESS — VICTORIA PARK ELECTORATE

##### *Grievance*

**MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park)** [10.06 am]: My grievance today is directed to the Minister for Housing and concerns homelessness in Victoria Park. Minister, like electorates across Australia, my electorate of Victoria Park is experiencing housing stress. I understand this is a nationwide phenomenon due to unexpected outcomes following the COVID pandemic. Third-party reports like that of Domain show that we have seen an increase in rents in WA and that rental vacancies remain very low. We know that the social housing waitlist is distinctly linked to the private market and that is why we are seeing high levels of demand for social housing. As the minister is aware, the complex economic circumstances currently facing the world have had a particular effect on some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Apart from rough sleepers, other cohorts are affected, including people living in overcrowded situations. Other significant cohorts in the homeless population are couch surfing, which makes their living situation very unstable. Victoria Park is an electorate that has rough sleepers. Victoria Park is an inner-city suburb connected to the Armadale train line, with major public facilities such as Bentley Hospital. My electorate is also well known as the home of a number of amazing community groups who do incredible work to support those experiencing housing vulnerability. These include the Haven Centre, Manna, Adira, Connect Victoria Park, Mission Australia, St Mary's Outreach Service, Uniting Care West and Sussex Street Community Law Service. Homelessness is an issue with many roots. It is often said that it requires a whole-of-community response. I know my constituents will agree with me when I say we have a fantastic and supportive community in Victoria Park.

When I speak to service providers within my electorate, they tell me the same thing: the current increase in rental fees, combined with local rental stock, has meant that housing stress is affecting broader demographics such as single women and the elderly. In fact, the University of Western Australia Centre for Social Impact released a report earlier this year in which it identified both housing affordability and housing supply as the top two driving factors behind homelessness. Other critical factors include poverty and unemployment, physical and mental health, alcohol and other drug use, and family and domestic violence. Given this last factor, it is somewhat fitting I make this grievance during the Department of Communities' 16 Days in WA to Stop Violence Against Women.

In my electorate office I have seen, as I am sure members in this place have seen, people from all walks of life who are experiencing housing stress due to the factors identified by the Centre for Social Impact. I would say that housing issues rate in the top three issues that my constituents bring to my attention. I would like to tell the house about one of these constituents, because his experience shows how vital access to stable housing is to our wellbeing.

I first met Rick when he was selling *The Big Issue* at the Victoria Park markets, and I was immediately drawn to his friendliness and decency. Rick has experienced intermittent homelessness for many years and in the past has been a rough sleeper. If you ask Rick, he will tell you that he made some friends for life while he lived on the

streets, but the experience also caused him to experience deep depression, unemployment and addiction. Starting work with The Big Issue Australia—I acknowledge what a wonderful organisation The Big Issue is—helped Rick to turn his life around. The extra money that Rick earned through magazine sales helped him to find shared accommodation in a private rental. He continued to work, selling *The Big Issue*, and he was able to find employment as a porter at a Perth hotel. Unfortunately, a rise in rental costs meant that Rick's roommate could no longer afford his share of the rent and he moved out of the tenancy. Rick was unable to pay the complete rent alone and a few months ago he was evicted. Rick struggled to find accommodation in the current rental market with a poor tenancy record and casual employment, and, without someone to share with, most private rentals were beyond his means.

I catch up with Rick often, and he told me that he started to experience depression and a deep fear that his life was derailing again and that he would lose everything he had worked for. Fortunately for Rick, one of his lifelong friends who he had made while living on the streets—his street daughter, as he says—now had a home of her own and invited Rick to rent out one of her bedrooms. Rick has stable housing for now, but the Centre for Social Impact report identified that most individual rough sleepers like Rick experience homelessness for four and a half years over their lives.

I recognise the complexity of an issue like homelessness and that it requires a multifaceted approach. I ask the minister what the state government is doing to support those experiencing housing stress, particularly rough sleepers like Rick, because four and a half years is too long.

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing)** [10.11 am]: I thank the member for her grievance and for her advocacy in the housing and homelessness space. As the member knows, we are genuinely using every lever we can to reduce homelessness and accelerate social housing. I note that recently, the new CEO of Shelter WA recognised the efforts of the government when we announced our latest round of community housing grants. In fact, I think she herself said that we are using every lever we can.

Our government understands that homelessness is a complex issue and it intersects with a range of issues such as deep trauma. As the member described with that particular resident and his story, the issues can range from family and domestic violence to mental health issues, drug and alcohol addiction or other issues. We acknowledge that family and domestic violence is a significant contributor of homelessness for women, and that is why our government, led by Minister McGurk, is investing heavily in FDV prevention and support. We know that we need to provide long-term, sustainable housing—as the member described, secure housing—if we wish to reduce homelessness.

Our government has embraced a strategy that has been co-designed with the community housing and homelessness sectors and informed by the Housing First approach, and that is the proposition that we need to provide people with not only a roof over their head and long-term accommodation, but also intensive wraparound support so that they are able to sustain their tenancy. We need to get them into accommodation and provide access to mental health and other support services that are needed to assist them to sustain long-term housing.

In this financial year, we are investing \$225 million. That is an extraordinary investment. We are developing a range of infrastructure. We are building East Perth Common Ground, which will assist the member's community in Victoria Park. I have said on the record that we have hit construction issues. We have the hottest construction market on record, but we are back out to the market and we are working through that. We are also building three Aboriginal short-stay accommodation facilities in the regions, in Geraldton and Kununurra, and of course in Perth. That will provide some support accommodation. Last year, we actually added 102 crisis accommodation places for people who need critical and immediate assistance, and, of course, in the last two years we have opened Boorloo Bidee Mia, which has been an outstanding success as transitional accommodation.

Last week, I announced major reforms in the homelessness space. These are big reforms that are about consolidating our efforts and focusing on the Housing First approach. We are bringing together all these advisory groups into one group to advise the minister called the Housing First Homelessness Advisory Group. This group will meet regularly to provide strategic advice about policy implementation.

I also announced a \$24.2 million homelessness reform package. That will create rough sleeper coordination groups that will assess rough sleepers in Fremantle, Bunbury, Geraldton and Perth. We are also integrating outreach services in the CBD so that, ultimately, we will have one clear integrated service. Critically, we announced the 100 homes project, which is a supportive landlord model. We will spot purchase 50 properties, Housing Choices will bring 50 properties, we will provide the money for supported tenancy, and they will run those homes and provide the supportive landlord model, which is about having a landlord who understands the tenants' needs and works with them to stay in that housing. Those tenants can then also access Housing First support services—those wraparound support services. We also announced that we are expanding short to medium-term or transitional-term accommodation by providing an additional \$2.3 million to St Bart's for 18 additional beds. We also announced that we are extending the Safe Perth City initiative, particularly the Homeless Engagement Assessment Response Team. We have boosted that assertive outreach team so that it can now operate seven days a week with two mobile teams. We have also provided \$500 000 to continue to support the by-name list and improve data collection. We know that we need accurate data to inform our decisions. Of course, all those homelessness reforms are in addition to our ongoing package for social housing under which, since our new program, we have delivered 806 social houses and have 900 more under contract or construction. These are big changes and big reforms.

I note that only last week, Hon Steve Martin, a member of the opposition, said —

The homelessness numbers have come down in the last couple of years, which is good ...

He then continued. It is interesting that what Hon Steve Martin said is contradicted by what the opposition says in its social media. Members opposite have been out there saying that homelessness is going up, but we have the member in the upper house saying that—I quoted him—it is actually going down. We know that homelessness numbers fluctuate with winter and summer seasons. Member, I am very confident that the reforms that we are doing will deliver real results for the most vulnerable people in Western Australia.

### EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

*Fourth Report — Report of the inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities —  
Tabling*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie)** [10.18 am]: I rise to present for tabling the fourth report of the Education and Health Standing Committee, titled *Report of the inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities*, and the tabled submissions.

[See papers [1736](#) and [1737](#).]

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** It could happen to any one of us. It could be a family member; it could be one of us. Mental health problems and drug and alcohol dependency can strike anywhere. A sense of vulnerability can strike anywhere. There is no question: we need services to help people turn their lives around, but these services must be high quality and properly regulated. The report of the inquiry into the Esther Foundation, an unregulated private health facility, is the second inquiry by the Education and Health Standing Committee in this forty-first Parliament. The inquiry and its terms of reference were referred to the committee by the Legislative Assembly back in April this year. The inquiry was conducted in a spirit of looking forward. We took evidence to assess the current regulatory failings relating to facilities that are not covered by existing legislative definitions or frameworks. The committee's aim was to provide recommendations to government so that vulnerable people can access the help they need without the risk of unprofessional or unqualified operators making promises that they cannot deliver on or causing them further harm. Many witnesses expressed feelings ranging from disappointment and betrayal to sadness and anger. They entered the Esther Foundation when they were in a state of extreme vulnerability and many reported leaving with more problems than they went in with. I acknowledge in the public gallery the presence of some affected former residents.

The committee was very clear that we were not investigating criminal behaviour and that any matters of a criminal nature should be reported to WA police. However, witnesses recognised that by sharing their negative experiences, there was an opportunity to drive change to prevent others from having similar experiences in the future. During our inquiry it became evident that, among the wide range of stakeholders we heard from, there was no consensus about what sort of facility the Esther Foundation really was. The Esther Foundation promoted itself as providing a diverse range of support services for individuals with very different needs—among these there was consistent mention of alcohol and other drug treatment, mental health and health services. Services to help people overcome these sorts of problems and afflictions are desperately needed. They are desperately sought by families and individuals in the clutches of particular conditions. It is a duty of government to ensure that quality services are available and regulatory systems are in place to maintain quality. This will enable transparency so that potential clients can make informed choices and, when there is failure, there is a mechanism for complaints to be heard.

Prior to ceasing operations earlier this year, the Esther Foundation's website gave its most up-to-date description of the facility. It read —

The holistic recovery program aims to educate, empower and enrich young women with self-worth, employment skills and confidence to lead successful lives within the community. The Foundation is currently providing residential accommodation for approximately 30 young women, mothers and their children.

...The broadly structured program facilitates specific group and individual counselling to help manage socially prevalent issues and concerns faced by young women including substance abuse, sexual and emotional abuse, domestic violence, mental health, pregnancy and self-harm, family breakdown, depression and eating disorders...

When we go to the nature of the complaints, they varied in gravity but all had a traumatic air about them. These people had suffered trauma and were then further traumatised by their experiences. I will quote from our report some of these experiences. On the Esther Foundation's religious practices, one former resident said —

*I wasn't Christian nor was I opposed to becoming Christian however religion should have been something I came to on my terms, I should not have been forced to do it, pressured into it, told I was going to hell if I didn't and coerced into becoming a Christian.*

Witnesses told us that certain Christian practices at the Esther Foundation were often traumatic, including prayer meetings late into the night, being held down forcibly for exorcism or “deliverance” of demons, and faith healing. Although many people involved with the Esther Foundation identified as Christian, some of them described CEO Ms Lavater's religious practices as “more extreme than I would like”, “controversial” and “cultish”.

On LGBTQIA+ matters, a former resident told us —

*I would try to act and be 'straight', because I knew that I had to be accepted by them. I was at a point in my life where I needed love and acceptance and support, and I would only get that if I were 'straight'.*

Another former resident said —

*During the times I realised the conversion tactics weren't working I would become suicidal as I believed I was a bad person and deserved to be in hell.*

On the cultural heritage of residents, one Aboriginal resident reported that she was asked to perform Aboriginal dances in church to “shake off ancestral spirits”, which was “humiliating” and she felt like she was being made fun of.

On the educational opportunities while young people were residents at the Esther Foundation, several witnesses reported that their education was neglected and that the compulsory education program for school-age residents was not delivered as promised. One witness told us —

The girls would sit there in front of a computer screen with no help; there was no one there... They were so far behind. There were no tutors... It was the secretary who would come in and yell at them and say, “Be quiet.” That was the tutor.

Other residents reported that they were made to feel that they were self-pitying because they had an emotional bout of crying because they were upset. There was a whole host of unfortunate, sad stories in the evidence that we heard.

Our role was also to look at the regulatory failings that led to this situation in which an institution fell through the regulatory gaps because it was not properly regulated. We gave a lot of our attention to how we can improve the current regulatory framework. Systems for the regulation of professionally qualified people are relatively easy for government to establish, but some institutions have a lot of staff who are former residents and there is merit in that. There is no doubt there is merit in having people who have been on a certain journey and can have that degree of empathy. They can help but we have to ensure we have evidenced-based practices in place. Systems for regulating unqualified workers and institutions are more complex, but from the findings of our inquiry, they are very much needed. Although there are many benefits to offering holistic and innovative services to meet people’s diverse and complex needs, regulatory systems need to be modernised to be able to keep pace with these emerging trends.

There have also been longstanding calls within the alcohol and other drug treatment sector to regulate private services to ensure accountability. That was something highlighted to us by WANADA, the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies. There is an opportunity now for action to take place to progress this. Coupled with this is the need for transparency so that people can make informed choices while choosing a potential care provider. Finding 34, which goes to this, reads —

Full implementation of the National Quality Framework for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services requires the establishment of a regulatory process for AOD treatment providers that do not receive government funding.

That is a key point here. Organisations that do not receive government funding are out there doing this sort of work. They can be under the radar and not visible, and therefore not subject to regulation. We have to develop a regulatory framework that can capture that. Our recommendation 2 goes to this —

That the Minister for Health and Mental Health ensures that a regulatory process for AOD treatment services is established, to give full effect to the National Quality Framework for Drug and Alcohol Treatment Services. This should involve consideration of a licensing scheme for AOD treatment providers.

Self-regulatory models are not enough to safeguard vulnerable people. Expert consultant Professor Nicole Lee highlighted that the findings and recommendations of this inquiry have implications beyond the Esther Foundation in Western Australia, because these problems are experienced nationally. WA has a chance to be a leader in this regard. We recognise that other facilities in WA are operating with a similar absence of external oversight. Some are small and attached to other organisations. Future regulation must cover all such centres.

Turning now to the nature of various regulatory frameworks, we learnt of the potential for the positive regulatory approach, whereby there is a licensing scheme—that is, an operator of a facility must hold a licence. Finding 26 goes to this and states —

Unmet demand in mental health and AOD treatment services has created a gap which is being filled by private service providers.

Finding 27 states —

Private service providers can enhance diversity in the mental health and AOD treatment sectors. However, there is a need to ensure they provide quality services that meet the needs of vulnerable consumers.

Unmet demand has created a significant not-for-profit market in AOD treatment services in other Australian jurisdictions and overseas. Media reporting has highlighted some extreme examples of financial exploitation,

poor-quality service provision and predatory behaviour by for-profit service providers. A Victorian magistrate has noted that, as an alternative to jail, residential rehabilitation is the easiest way to get bail, or at least the hardest to refuse. This creates difficulties when judicial officers are asked to grant defendants bail to go to private residential rehabilitation facilities when little is known about the quality of service provided. In 2016, Victorian Supreme Court Justice Paul Coghlan described for-profit rehabilitation clinics as a parasitical industry that had developed on the edge of drug addiction.

Recommendation 1 states —

That the Minister for Health and Mental Health direct that a statutory review of the *Private Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927* be conducted, with particular consideration given to:

I will highlight just one point —

- expanding the regulator’s investigatory and enforcement powers

The minister also needs to make sure that the definitions within the Private Hospitals and Health Services Act are up to date and cover these institutions so that there is no question that they need a licence to operate. That is one first step that we really have to take.

I will switch now from the positive to the negative form of regulatory regimes. This is about health complaints entities. This year in this chamber, we discussed the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office. We have seen the need here and it goes to recommendation 2, which highlights the need to expand the powers of HADSCO so that complaints procedures are in place and there is a mechanism for people to voice their concerns and that that not be done in a way that makes them afraid to do so, as happened at the Esther Foundation, where the only complaint mechanism was to the managing director, who often was the subject of the complaint. That is hardly a satisfactory complaints procedure.

Recommendation 4 states —

That the Minister for Health and Mental Health amends the *Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995* to provide HaDSCO with greater powers to handle complaints and concerns about organisations that provide health services. These powers should be comparable to the powers that HaDSCO will have in relation to individual healthcare workers through the implementation of the National Code of Conduct for Health Care Workers—including the ability to receive complaints, initiate own-motion investigations and issue prohibition orders.

I want to bring my remarks to a conclusion by saying that, at times, this was an emotionally draining inquiry. The committee was working to a very tight time line, while seeking to accommodate witnesses in a way that was fair to them. This made it a challenge for our deliberations, but the outstanding quality of work done by our principal research officer, Catie Parsons, and our research officer, Sylvia Wolf, made all this possible. I am very grateful for the support and work of my fellow committee members: deputy chair, the member for Maylands; the member for Dawesville; the member for Hillarys; the member for Pilbara; and our co-opted member, the member for Scarborough, who joined us from 16 June.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the sincerity with which all participants in this inquiry contributed, and I trust that Western Australia can soon have the necessary regulation in place across all health services.

**MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands)** [10.35 am]: I would just like to start by iterating the same comments. Thank you to our fantastic chair, the member for Thornlie, and my committee colleagues, the members for Dawesville, Hillarys, Pilbara and Scarborough. There was astonishing intellectual input and organisational capacity from Catie Parsons and Sylvia Wolf, and originally Rachel Wells, who was there at the beginning of the inquiry.

Certainly, this was a piece of research and an inquiry that I never looked forward to. The testimony given by witnesses about some truly awful practices that were undertaken at these premises was harrowing to say the least. During the course of the inquiry, we heard so many heartbreaking stories from people subjected to many forms of abuse, often when they were young and vulnerable—in fact, I would argue, because they were young and vulnerable. To these people, I say thank you for your courage in sharing your stories.

The committee received submissions from a range of witnesses about their trauma and suffering at the hands of an organisation that considered them broken, not normal and wrong because of their sexuality, among other things. I am talking about the practice that has come to be known as gay conversion therapy, which emerged in Australia in the conservative Christian communities in the early 1970s and has been practised in these and other communities ever since. It attempts to change the sexual orientation of homosexual and bisexual people to heterosexuality. It is grounded in the belief that all people are born with the potential to be and should develop into heterosexual people whose gender identity accords with that assigned to them at birth. It views me as broken, abnormal and needing fixing. It views lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people as suffering from an illness that can be cured. During the inquiry, doctors, lawyers, psychologists, social workers, community groups and representatives of the LGBTQIA+ community spoke about their experiences in helping people who have been exposed to this form of

abuse. One of them told the inquiry that this therapy is not at all a therapy; it is an abuse. They said that it is a way to exercise control over a group of people who are often young and extremely vulnerable and that it is a tool of domination that leads to pain, suffering and despair for those subjected to it and their families.

During the inquiry, so many people bravely shared their personal stories about gay conversion therapy, and I think some of them might be here with us today. Thank you for coming yet again. Often their stories followed the same tragic pattern: they were young and vulnerable teenagers either in trouble at school or battling problems with drugs and alcohol, and their parents turned to people and organisations that they thought they could trust. This organisation in particular claimed to offer treatment and pastoral care for teenagers experiencing behavioural issues, but the reality was appalling. The people at this organisation would abuse their position of authority to subject these teenagers to psychologically damaging and abusive treatments, and often replaced drug and alcohol treatments in doing so. Tragically for many of these people and their families, this has led to lifelong consequences, with poor mental, physical and emotional health common. Many of the people subjected to this have repressed their identities, which has led to further serious mental health issues. Many of the parents who trusted their children to these organisations blame themselves for what occurred. It was shattering to see mothers come in with their daughters and give evidence to this committee and to see the guilt that they felt for the trust they placed in people who professed to be doing the right thing by their children.

Thankfully, there is a growing recognition in Australia that this so-called gay conversion therapy has no place in our society. The Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, and the Royal Australasian College of Physicians all oppose these practices. Some medical associations have also suggested that psychiatrists or psychologists who engage in practices that attempt to change sexual orientation may be in breach of their professional code of conduct and ethics. In 2018, the Human Rights Law Centre and La Trobe University put out a report called *Preventing harm, promoting justice: Responding to LGBT conversion therapy in Australia*. It recommended that states should prohibit conduct by people and organisations aimed to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation. Thankfully, some states have already moved to do this.

Unfortunately, there are people who continue to defend these practices and argue that any ban on these practices is religious discrimination. This argument is totally disingenuous and an insult to me and the many Western Australians who have been subjected to these horrific practices over the years. If I have parliamentary colleagues who think that these practices are okay and continue to support them, I sincerely hope that you burn in whatever hell your philosophy allows you to imagine. Thankfully, many major religious groups and denominations, and charities have now seen that this therapy does not do what it is meant to do and have spoken out against it. They do not view LGBTI people as needing to be fixed and are rightly ashamed of the harm associated with past therapies. The Christian Counsellors Association of Australia is strongly opposed to these practices, and I applaud its strong public comments on this issue. It takes bravery; thank you. I am heartened to see the increasing numbers of religious organisations that seek to create communities that are safe and inclusive for everyone.

I am also proud and thankful to say that the modern-day Australian Labor Party has taken a strong stance to outlaw these practices. In 2021, the Andrews Labor government—just re-elected last weekend and often a leader on these issues—outlawed gay conversion therapy in Victoria. Here in Western Australia, the WA Labor Party platform says that we oppose this therapy as a cruel and misinformed practice and will work towards ending it. The state Premier has made it clear that he views this therapy as cruel and misinformed, and it has no place in Western Australian society. He committed to ban conversion therapy through the implementation of the national code of conduct for unregulated healthcare workers and pledged to introduce legislation or regulations necessary to give effect to the code.

I want to read a list of names of people who have been in my office over the last 15 years, arguing against gay conversion therapy. I mention Paul Benson, Misty Farquhar and Jaime Page from Rainbow Futures and Rainbow Labor; Avery Wright from the United Workers Union; the amazing Mark Fallows, for all his passion and commitment over many years; and Brian Greig from Just.Equal Australia. Thank you for your approaches over the years.

I hope, and pray in my own belief system, that we will stand in this place and see the passage of legislation that will ban this practice once and for all from Western Australia. I urge anyone seeking to better understand these issues to read finding 42 and recommendation 5 of this report, in particular; these go directly to these issues. To the many people who so bravely shared their stories, once again, I say thank you. I promise I will never stop fighting to ensure that future generations never have to suffer as you have done.

**MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys)** [10.43 am]: I rise today, also as a member of the Education and Health Standing Committee, to speak about our inquiry into the Esther Foundation and other unregulated private health facilities. I would like to start by acknowledging and extending my sincere gratitude to the very brave people who came forward earlier this year to share their very traumatic experiences. Some of them are in the gallery today. It is because of their courage that, hopefully, the necessary changes will take place.

Earlier this year, the media reported on very alarming allegations concerning the Esther Foundation, which was a faith-based residential treatment facility for women and teenagers. These allegations of abuse and inappropriate behaviours at the foundation were also brought to the attention of the Minister for Community Services. From our chair, we heard that vulnerable people must be able to access the help they need without the risk of unprofessional

and unqualified operators making promises they cannot deliver. The stories that came out of the Esther Foundation that we heard this year showed that this was often not the case—not always, but often. As the chair mentioned, it was a place of rehabilitation, but many people came out with more problems than they went in with.

It became very clear that existing legislative and regulatory frameworks do not capture the Esther Foundation to allow oversight of its operations. It was in this context that the Minister for Community Services tasked our committee with examining current frameworks to understand whether we could somehow improve those provisions and address any gaps that might exist. In total, we received 111 written submissions. We heard evidence from a very wide range of people, from former residents, staff, volunteers and board members, as well as government agencies, sector stakeholders and advocacy groups. We have heard some of the prevalent and consistent themes already, but I think it is important to repeat them.

Our report and media reports earlier this year uncovered complaints and allegations, including emotional and psychological abuse, coercive and extreme religious practices, LGBTQIA+ suppression and conversion practices, culturally harmful practices, medical complaints, family alienation, restraints and assaults, and sexual assaults. An ABC article published in March this year states —

The women say they did not receive any psychological or psychiatric care from a qualified medical specialist during their time at the residential centre for young women from crisis backgrounds, which claims to provide counselling for issues including addictions, sexual abuse and mental health.

It is important to note that although not everyone had a negative experience, if it was even just one person, that is enough for the necessary changes to occur. We read through so many submissions of despair and frustration at the manipulation and violations that they encountered while staying in this institution. It was truly gut-wrenching to hear these stories. These were vulnerable girls and women who had wideranging traumas before they entered Esther House and needed professional support. This is obviously incredibly concerning, and it is vital that we make sure that what we heard does not happen again in any other facility. We recognise that facilities in Western Australia are operating with a similar absence of external oversight, so it is up to government to make the legislative changes required to make sure that organisations do not go unchecked.

Our committee focused its work primarily on the legislative and regulatory frameworks for private health, alcohol and other drug treatment, mental health services, and health complaints entities. I will briefly discuss some of our findings and recommendations about those key areas.

As I already mentioned, through our inquiry it became very clear that existing legislative frameworks do not give sufficient powers for oversight of entities such as Esther House. The Department of Health's licensing and accreditation regulatory unit administers the relevant legislation—that is, the Private Hospitals and Health Services Act 1927. The Mental Health Commission is not a regulator in these fields. The lack of oversight was not exclusive to Esther House but could be argued for other private organisations that provide health care, and mental health and AOD treatment services. Under the existing rules, licences are required, which expire annually. Generally, high-risk facilities are inspected more regularly. The review found that there are no specific provisions under the current act to refer to a health service. Bizarrely, this means that, although Esther House was claiming to be a health service, one would be quite hard-pressed to argue that point using the applicable laws.

It is clear that reform is required to regulate accommodation-based mental health services that meet the definition of a private psychiatric hostel. Regulation requires powers for qualified officers to inspect or audit unlicensed facilities to check whether they meet the definitions and require a licence. Currently, the legislation seems to advocate for a self-regulatory model for mental health services. I think many Western Australians would have deep concerns about this *laissez-faire* approach in a field as serious and complex as mental health. Self-regulation in this field is now very much out of date and needs to be changed.

The situation is different in the regulation of alcohol and other drug treatment services in WA. There is, potentially, a comparative lack of government oversight there as well; however, the AOD sector is very successfully managed and engaged by the Western Australian Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies. Nationally, Australians have also benefited from the creation of the national quality framework for drug and alcohol treatment services. WANADA has been rigorous in communicating and applying a high standard to sector services. The lack of strong powers effectively leaves the civil servants within the licensing and accreditation regulatory unit with limited opportunities to respond to a concerning situation. There are questions about duty of care.

In terms of the regulation of private mental health and AOD support services, there is no doubt a real need for privately funded services in our state, and we are very thankful for many of the organisations that exist. We welcome new services to meet the needs of our communities, but all services, be they private or public, need to be based on a foundation of evidence-based, high-quality programs that are open and accountable. Privately funded service providers need to be highly cognisant of the damage to public trust caused by profiteering. In a 2016 editorial, *The Age* reported that there are many desperate people—thousands of alcoholics and drug addicts—who need intensive, therapeutic and behavioural care and who, together with their families, are potentially easy prey for profiteers because of this lack of oversight and regulation.

The lack of regulation or awareness of private AOD providers creates a challenge for our justice system when judicial officers need to make important decisions about the provision of a service that they cannot comfortably vouch for. A spokesperson for WANADA, Jill Rundle, has warned that community literacy is not sufficiently developed to refer to a service and navigate the system, and transparency is a must. Full implementation of the national quality framework requires us to establish regulatory processes for AOD treatment providers that do not receive government funding. This will open the door to some desirable policy outcomes, which will go a long way towards increasing public confidence.

In Western Australia, health consumers benefit from the services of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office. Currently, HADSCO is restricted when managing complaints about unregulated health service providers. It can only make recommendations to such providers and has no powers to enforce. HADSCO can pursue individual workers.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member, for your contribution.

**MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough)** [10.54 am]: I rise to add my contribution to the tabling of the Education and Health Standing Committee's fourth report, *Report of the inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities*, alongside my parliamentary colleagues. I am not a standing member of the Education and Health Standing Committee. Under the Legislative Assembly standing orders, I was voluntarily co-opted onto that committee to participate in the inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities. On Thursday, 16 June, the Leader of the House moved the motion under standing order 249(4) —

That the member for Scarborough be co-opted to participate in the Education and Health Standing Committee's inquiry into the Esther Foundation and unregulated private health facilities.

Before the question was put and passed, he gave a brief speech, in which he said —

I will speak very briefly to this motion. The member for Scarborough has indicated a deep interest in the inquiry that is currently underway on the Esther Foundation, and his co-option is supported.

The motion to co-opt me to the committee is also noted under paragraph 1.4 of the report. My contribution will be brief as I am limited to 10 minutes as a co-opted member, although I could speak for hours on this matter. As the Leader of the House stated in the motion, I have a deep interest in this inquiry. It would have been hard, as an empathetic human being, to have seen the media reports on the Esther Foundation prior to the inquiry and not have had a deep interest in investigating how the abuse came to pass and how to ensure it does not occur again. The report contains 42 findings and five recommendations to prevent the abuse that occurred at the Esther Foundation from happening again at current or future institutions that use regulatory gaps to escape government scrutiny.

People need only watch my contribution to the debate on the Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Amendment Bill in April this year to see why I am passionate about and have a deep interest in supporting this inquiry, its findings and its recommendations. In that speech, I spoke of the importance of the HADSCO bill in protecting the vulnerable and others in our society from unregulated healthcare practitioners who either intentionally or through ignorance and bigotry cause them significant harm. When making a contribution to the second reading debate on that bill, I shared my personal story—my struggles with my sexuality and mental health and my history of suicidal ideation. This was to help others in the house understand the pain that members of my community and other vulnerable or marginalised groups experience. My story was painful to share and painful to hear, but let me tell the members of this house who listened that my story is far from the worst that has been experienced by LGBTQIA+ community members and members of other minority groups in our society, and especially the victims of the Esther Foundation.

When I joined the committee to participate in this inquiry, I knew that I would hear from victims who had experienced severe abuse and that it would be incredibly difficult to hear, but we owed it to the victims to listen and do the work required to ensure the abuse they suffered could be stopped from happening to others, now and into the future. These experiences included emotional and psychological abuse, coercive and extreme religious practices, LGBTQIA+ suppression and conversion practices, culturally harmful practices, medical complaints, family alienation, physical restraints and assaults, and sexual assaults. I had some concerns about the personal toll the inquiry might take on my mental health and whether I could cope, but as horrible as the abuses were to hear, I was prepared to hear them, I was expecting to hear them and I knew the importance of hearing them and giving the victims a chance to have their stories heard.

What hit me like a tonne of bricks and what truly had an impact on me was the strength, courage and resilience of the victims. Many of the women who experienced abuse have turned their lives around. Some are now advocates fighting for the vulnerable in our society. Some are raising families. Others are moving from homelessness to their first job and first home, all the while carrying the trauma caused by the Esther Foundation.

I would like to deliver a message to the victims, some of whom are here today in the public gallery. I say both to the victims who came forward and to those who remained silent out of fear or trauma that although the abuses you experienced were not by my hand—they were before my time as an MP and before the current government's time in office—I offer you my apology as a fellow human being. I am sorry that this occurred. I am sorry that you were

not protected by the laws of this state and this country. You have my sincerest admiration for your resilience and courage. You are an inspiration for all who stand in this place. The McGowan Labor government and everyone who contributed to this committee inquiry and its report—the staff, the committee, the victims, the government departments, the peak bodies and the advocacy groups—will together ensure that vulnerable people can no longer be abused by institutions that use regulatory gaps to avoid government scrutiny and that substitute evidence-based treatment for faith-based practices. We will ensure that no more members of the LGBTQIA+ community can be subjected to suppression or conversion practices in Western Australia.

I will end my contribution in the same way I finished my contribution to the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office bill debate. I say to anyone who experiences discrimination for their sexuality, sex, race, creed, disability, cultural heritage or faith or lack of faith, you define who you are, you determine your future, and if you respect the basic human rights of others and follow the rule of law, you have the right to live your life free from persecution and prejudice. I stand here as a member of the Western Australian government defending not just your right to equity but everyone's right. I hold the baton, along with my colleagues and allies in the Labor Party. We are standing our ground and we will advance the protection of the vulnerable, the marginalised and the oppressed. We fight for true equity in our society, forever and always. It is the Australian way, it is the Labor way, and it is our way.

Members: Hear, hear!

### JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

#### *Seventh Report — Annual report 2021–22 — Tabling*

**MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda)** [11.00 am]: I am pleased to present for tabling the seventh report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled *Annual report 2021–22*.

[See paper [1738](#).]

**Mr M. HUGHES:** This report is much more mundane than the report that was just tabled in this house. As members may be aware, the role of the committee is to monitor and report on the exercise of the functions of the Corruption and Crime Commission and Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission; to commence own-motion inquiries relating to the means by which corruption prevention practices may be enhanced within the public sector; and to carry out functions under the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003. The 2021–22 year was a busy one for the committee. We held 17 deliberative meetings and five formal evidence hearings with 22 witnesses, tabled six reports with a combined total of 56 findings and 16 recommendations, and initiated one own-motion inquiry. I will not canvass each of the six reports we tabled this year, but note the following.

The third report, tabled in February 2022, discussed the work of Matthew Zilko, SC, the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission, including the increase in investigations by his office, his views on the potential need for legislative change to ensure that the Corruption and Crime Commission provides sufficient information to complainants, and the usefulness of police body-worn camera footage to integrity investigations. The work of the office of the parliamentary inspector is vital to ensuring public confidence in the integrity of our public sector.

The fourth report, tabled in March 2022, highlighted flaws in the definition of “public officer” in the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003. The scope and clarity of the definition of “public officer” is of great importance because the commission, parliamentary inspector and agencies may only deal with an allegation of serious misconduct, or corruption, against a public officer as that term is defined. The parliamentary inspector raised concerns about this definition and Commissioner Hon John McKechnie, KC, noted that legislation had not evolved to recognise the public sector's increasing use of varying employment arrangements, including contractual arrangements. Just as a reminder to members, the question of when a contractor is a public officer came to the attention of the parliamentary inspector when investigating a complaint about a decision of the commission. This case exemplified the difficulties and resources expended in determining when a contractor is a public officer.

The situation investigated by the commission was that of an 84-year-old complainant who alleged that he was assaulted and deprived of his liberty by two security guards at Albany Health Campus, where he was a voluntary patient. The security guards were employed by a company contracted by the WA Country Health Service. The problem in this case was that some evidence pointed towards the security guards being employees of the WA Country Health Service, such as staff at Albany Health Campus being entitled to give instructions to security guards and expecting them to be obeyed, while other evidence did not, such as the public sector not paying the guards or being able to terminate their employment. In this case, the parliamentary inspector concluded that it was more likely than not that the security guards were not public officers. The commission came to the same conclusion. The committee recommended that the Attorney General direct the Department of Justice to review the definition of “public officer” as part of its current project to modernise the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003. The committee is pleased the government accepted its recommendation.

More broadly, I eagerly look forward to seeing the outcomes of the Department of Justice's project to reform the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003 and a new bill to modernise that act in light of the substantial body

of opinion accumulated over the past 15 years or so and reiterated in the seventeenth report of the JSCCCC of the fortieth Parliament, titled *Meaningful reform overdue: The Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003*, that pointed to a need for substantial revision, if not a complete rewriting, of the act.

In the committee's sixth report, *The Corruption and Crime Commission's unexplained wealth function: The review by the Honourable Peter Martino*, tabled in March 2022, the committee tabled the report by Hon Peter Martino on his review of the commission's use of its unexplained wealth powers. Members may be aware that since September 2018, the commission has had the power to investigate unexplained wealth and criminal benefits and initiate and conduct confiscation proceedings. The law seeks to deter crime, particularly organised crime, by reducing the profitability of illegal activities. As Hon Peter Martino observed, the effective use of unexplained wealth and criminal benefit powers requires significant resources and involves a range of expertise and specialised skills. However, until this year, the commission had undertaken its unexplained wealth function within current resourcing levels. It is not difficult to appreciate that this could affect resources available to allocate to its other functions, including its serious misconduct or corruption function.

In February 2022, Commissioner Hon John McKechnie, KC, told the committee that the commission could not continue to undertake this function and properly fulfil its other functions within current resourcing. The commission sought funding just short of \$5 million to undertake its unexplained wealth function over the next five years. Although I was pleased to note that the 2021–22 state budget allocated additional funding of \$2.8 million, plus \$480 000 for capital works, to the commission to continue the operation of its unexplained wealth function in 2022–23, I hope and anticipate that funding for this function will continue beyond this financial year. As the committee said in its sixth report, the commission should be appropriately funded to undertake all its functions.

Finally, this year the committee also commenced an own-motion inquiry, called "What happens next? Beyond a finding of serious misconduct". We are inquiring into what happens after a public officer is found to have engaged in serious misconduct, including disciplinary and other sanctions imposed by government agencies, criminal prosecutions arising from serious misconduct investigations, and the roles and systemic response of various agencies. Limited public information is available about the personal outcomes and institutional responses that follow a finding of serious misconduct. Instances of serious misconduct can shine a light on action needed at an agency or sector-wide level to prevent serious misconduct and enhance the public sector's capacity to prevent misconduct. The committee will continue to conduct hearings and gather evidence and intends to report on this inquiry by 30 November 2023.

I take this opportunity to thank the parliamentary inspector, Matthew Zilko, SC, and his principal adviser, Sarah Burnside; and the Corruption and Crime Commission Commissioner, Hon John McKechnie, KC, and his staff for assisting the committee to effectively carry out its oversight role.

I also thank my colleagues on the committee, Deputy Chair Hon Dr Steve Thomas, MLC, member for South West Region; Mr Shane Love, MLA, member for Moore; and Hon Klara Andric, MLC, member for South Metropolitan Region. In closing my remarks, on behalf of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, I extend our sincere thanks to the committee staff, our principal research officer Ms Suzanne Veletta and research officer Ms Jovita Hogan, for their outstanding support of the work of the committee throughout the year.

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [11.11 am]: I would like to join the chair, the member for Kalamunda, in thanking the members of the committee and also the staff. The chair has given a good report and breakdown of the activities of the committee, so I will not go into that, but I would like to also put on the record my thanks to Suzanne Veletta and Jovita Hogan for their outstanding work in supporting the activities of the committee. It is the second committee on which I have worked with Jovita and she is always a very professional staff member and I thank them both for their service.

## **CRIMINAL LAW (MENTAL IMPAIRMENT) BILL 2022**

### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Attorney General)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the Attorney General.

### *Second Reading*

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [11.14 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am incredibly pleased and proud to be standing before the chamber today introducing the Criminal Law (Mental Impairment) Bill 2022. My colleagues in this place will know that reforming the state's unfair and outdated mental impairment framework has long been a matter of importance to me, and it gives me great pleasure to see those reforms come to fruition today with the introduction of this very important and complex bill.

In 2017, the McGowan government committed to this reform. Since then, the bill has been subject to extensive consultation with more than forty stakeholders both within and outside government. I would like to thank those stakeholders who contributed to the development of the bill.

The bill will completely repeal the existing Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act 1996—hereafter referred to as the CLMIA act—and establishes a new scheme in its place. It has been an extraordinary effort and I take this opportunity to express my thanks to the officers of the Department of Justice. They have persevered over several years to develop an outstanding bill. I also want to thank Parliamentary Counsel's Office, and the State Solicitor's Office for the significant work they have done to assist the Department of Justice in getting us to this point.

Members will be familiar with the sad tale of a gentleman by the name of Marlon Noble, whose unjust treatment under the CLMIA act rightly drew adverse comment from around the world, including a finding by the United Nations that the state had violated Mr Noble's human rights. I might, with the indulgence of the house, speak a little bit about what happened to Mr Noble, and how this new bill will ensure that such a travesty will not happen again.

Mr Noble came before the District Court in 2002 on two indictments, and during those proceedings, questions were raised about his fitness to stand trial. He was subsequently found unfit to stand trial on 11 March 2003, and the District Court found itself in a position in which it was required to quash the indictments and either release Mr Noble unconditionally or make a custody order against him. As we all know, the court made a custody order in respect of Mr Noble, and he languished in prison for over 10 years as a result. The evidence against him was never evaluated. Indeed, the complainants in Mr Noble's matters came forward after the fact to indicate that they did not want charges to proceed against Mr Noble and they had no idea that he had been languishing in prison under a custody order for far longer than he would have been had he been convicted of the offence.

That custody order was subject to annual review by the Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board; however, that board, despite its expert membership and excellent discharge of its duties, has never had the powers that it should and has been limited in its abilities as a result. The board currently has no authority to release, or even grant leave of absence to, people in Mr Noble's predicament without first making a recommendation to the responsible minister, who in turn may advise the Governor to grant leaves of absence or make a conditional release order. Worse still, custody orders under the CLMIA act are indefinite, leaving a person with mental impairment who may not even have been found to have committed the offence with which they were charged in custody until the Governor determines otherwise, with no end date in sight. With that, I now turn to the key features of this bill.

This bill implements a commitment taken to the 2017 state election to reform WA's mentally impaired accused laws, together with recommendations from a review report that was tabled in the other place on 7 April 2016, and further recommendations from an expert stakeholder working group chaired by His Honour Peter Blaxell, which was established out of that 2016 review.

I will now take the house through the key features of the bill. The first reform introduced by this bill is a special proceeding to test the evidence against an accused person who has been found unfit to stand trial. The purpose of a special proceeding is to decide the charge against the accused on the available evidence. A special proceeding must be ordered by the court if the charge is to be dealt with on indictment. Special proceedings are to be conducted as closely as possible to a criminal trial, despite the accused having been found unfit. Although this might sound like a difficult concept for the courts, I assure the house that it is achievable; special proceedings are in place in almost every other Australian jurisdiction's mental impairment legislation and have been for over 20 years.

Regulations will allow the court to modify the application of the Criminal Procedure Act 2004, and the rules of evidence may also be modified to allow for flexibility in how special proceedings are conducted. The findings coming out of a special proceeding will determine how an unfit accused person is to be dealt with. At a special proceeding, an accused may be found not guilty, not guilty on the basis of mental impairment—otherwise known as the “insanity or unsoundness of mind defence” under section 27 of the Criminal Code—or it can be found that, on the evidence available, the accused committed the offence or another offence which, on the charge, they could have been found to have committed. Following those findings, the court may make a community supervision order or a custody order or may, in certain limited circumstances, order unconditional release. This will open the disposition options available to the courts for unfit accused persons for the first time, providing an intermediate step between unconditional release and a custody order, in the form of a community supervision order. When the court makes a custody order, which will only be available when the statutory penalty for the offence is or includes imprisonment, it must set a limiting term on that order, being the best estimate of the sentence that the court would have considered appropriate in all the circumstances if it had been sentencing the person. That limiting term will be the maximum period an accused can be held in custody under the original order. Following the making of a custody order, the court's ongoing involvement will end, and the accused will become a supervised person under the management of the new Mental Impairment Review Tribunal.

The Mental Impairment Review Tribunal will be, at least transitionally, a continuation of the existing Mentally Impaired Accused Review Board, with significant enhancements. It will be presided over by a retired judge of the Supreme or District Court, and the tribunal will have a specialist membership of experts including psychiatrists and psychologists; community members with knowledge and understanding of relevant issues including the criminal justice system, Aboriginal cultural considerations, victim's interests, and forensic mental health and disability; and members from the Department of Communities disability and the Department of Justice corrective services divisions. This mix of members ensures the tribunal will be well placed to manage supervised persons, both in custody and in the

community. The tribunal will be responsible for the day-to-day administration and management of custody, leave of absence and community supervision orders. That means the tribunal could vary conditions on community supervision orders, which could be completely tailored to an individual's requirements. The tribunal will also have the power to grant leaves of absence to supervised persons in custody on such conditions and for such periods as it thinks fit, although never longer than the custody order itself. Conditions placed on leave of absence orders could be similarly tailored to the individual. The tribunal will be guided in all its decisions by the overriding consideration of community protection. To that end, it will be a statutory condition of all community supervision and leave of absence orders that the person be under the supervision of a supervising officer, including complying with the lawful directions of that officer.

Extensive procedural fairness provisions have been built into the bill. All supervision orders will be subject to annual review; however, a supervised person could also apply to the tribunal for a review at any time. The tribunal must provide reasons for its decisions, and those decisions will be open to internal review by the president and on an appeal to the Supreme Court. Supervised persons will have a right to appear before the tribunal and may be accompanied by a representative and a legal practitioner.

I want to assure the house that I remain committed to ensuring the safety of the community. The paramount consideration for any person performing a function under the bill is the protection of the community, including when a person is a member of a court or tribunal. As a safeguard, the bill provides for extended custody orders to be made in certain limited circumstances, when there is an unacceptable risk that a supervised person will commit a serious offence if not subject to an extended custody order. Extended custody orders can be made only by the Supreme Court on application by the minister and will be subject to annual review by that court. Extended community supervision orders will also be available, again made by the Supreme Court.

Approximately 50 people are currently, under the Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act, subject to indefinite custody orders. This bill contains transitional provisions that will require these people to be brought before the court for a limiting term to be placed on their custody order as soon as practicable after commencement of the new act. This will ensure that none of the existing "mentally impaired accused"—as they are currently known—slip through the cracks and remain subject to indefinite orders.

A significant amount of work will be required across government to prepare to implement the reforms provided by the bill. The Department of Justice has been coordinating this work in collaboration with impacted agencies in parallel to the drafting of the bill. Although implementation planning is well progressed, adequate time is required between the passage and commencement of the bill to allow for a number of matters, including the establishment of the new Mental Impairment Review Tribunal and preparation for its commencement as a new body; establishment of new court hearing types for special proceedings and transitional limiting term matters; expansion of the Mental Health Advocacy Service's functions; and the drafting of subsidiary legislation to support the new framework.

The Department of Justice and impacted agencies must also put in place new and updated administrative arrangements such as policies, procedures, information sharing and notification processes. Information and communications technology changes must be put in place, as well as the recruitment and training of staff. At this stage, it is anticipated that this implementation work will take approximately 12 months and, therefore, the new bill will commence approximately 12 months after it has been passed by Parliament.

Madam Acting Speaker, I will close with a few final remarks. Firstly, it is important to note that we do not know how many people will come within the framework of this bill in the future because there is a longstanding practice of people likely to be found unfit to stand trial choosing instead to go through the justice system without raising the question of their fitness for fear of coming under the Criminal Law (Mentally Impaired Accused) Act and never being released. Many vulnerable people would rather cop a finite sentence of a few years' duration than risk being found unfit to stand trial. Of course, this means that many people with mental impairment are not identified in their contact with the justice system, do not get the appropriate treatment and care to address either their needs or their offending behaviours, and may leave custody in a worse position than when they entered. This serves no-one—not the person, nor the community. It is critical that people with mental impairment who are found to have committed offences are appropriately managed in the justice system.

Secondly, I urge members to take a good look at this bill. I have just scratched the surface of what the bill proposes, linked to the commitments we took to the 2017 state election. Aside from those key features, the bill includes extensive objects and principles, provides a legislated right to access the Mental Health Advocacy Service for all unfit accused and supervised persons regardless of their place of custody, enshrines victims' rights to be notified of proceedings and make victim impact statements and submissions to the courts and the tribunal, and provides for interstate transfers with participating jurisdictions. None of these matters have previously been addressed in the CLMIA act.

In addition to all these improvements, the bill will update pejorative terminology across the statute book. Many will note my use of the terms "unfit accused" and "supervised person" throughout this speech and see that these terms are also used in the bill to replace the previous descriptor "mentally impaired accused". Similarly, the phrase

“acquittal on the basis of unsoundness of mind” will be replaced with “acquittal on the basis of mental impairment”. These are small but significant improvements to the language used in the justice system to describe people with mental impairment.

Finally, Madam Acting Speaker, I note that the CLMIA act has been in operation for more than 25 years without significant amendment. It has operated under successive governments of both persuasions and has been subject to justifiable criticism since it began operation. I recognise that the intersection of mental impairment and the criminal justice system is complex and difficult, and a careful balancing of protecting the community and protecting a vulnerable cohort of people is required, and that the challenges inherent in this area have stymied numerous attempts at reform by governments past. That is why it has been so important to me to right these wrongs. Fixing this ongoing injustice is imperative; it is urgent, and it is not a partisan issue.

I urge members to support this bill, and I commend the bill to the house.

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

## ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRESPASS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

### *Second Reading*

Resumed from 30 November.

**MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont)** [11.34 am]: I rise to today to make a brief contribution on the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I made a contribution to debate on this bill when it first came to our house two years ago. I would like to again put on the record my views on animal welfare and the reasons I feel this is a really important bill. I want to especially highlight the elements of the bill that deal with animal welfare.

I took my first steps in activism when I was 10 years old. I read a newspaper article about battery hen farming, and was adequately outraged. I cut out the article and wrote a letter to a federal member of Parliament. I am a child of the eighties, so this was well before the internet and it was very difficult for a 10-year-old living in country Victoria to hunt down a federal member of Parliament’s address. Nonetheless, I wrote a letter asking that this practice I thought was incredibly cruel be outlawed. Indeed, it is incredibly frustrating that I stand here more than 30 years later and we are still no closer to achieving that goal.

It should be noted that the RSPCA estimates 11 million hens—that is, 70 per cent of Australian hens—live out their days confined to cages that are the size of an A4 sheet of paper. The hens are in such a confined space that they are unable to do any of their natural activities like perching, foraging and things like that. The confinement also restricts their growth and can be crippling painful. Often, the hens’ feet grow into the wires of the cage. It is absolutely appalling.

I was really surprised that my community wanted to see this change come about. It is something that not only I am passionate about; I have been inundated by people who want to see changes from the review of the poultry code, which I think was about two years ago, brought into effect. I feel the community wants us to be more progressive than we are presently.

Globally, there are around 7.6 billion hens laying eggs each and every day in cages with a base no bigger than an iPad. An independent body has suggested that battery hen farming be phased out in the coming decade. Of course, industry thinks that it should be closer to 24 years before this practice is banned. I am not sure why. It is high time that we do this. Many jurisdictions globally have already done so. It has been phased out in the UK, New Zealand, Canada, Austria, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece and I could go on. There are 10 million egg-laying hens in Australia that are still in confined, cruel cages. I think it is time to move on and phase out those cages as well.

**Ms J.L. Hanns**: You can invite some of the chickens to come and view my chicken coop. It is called “Cluckingham Palace”. It is purpose-built for our eight chooks.

**Ms C.M. ROWE**: I love it! It sounds like a glorious place for hens, indeed.

I referred to information from the Humane Society International Australia, as well. It is also worth noting that in recent history—just a few years ago—we witnessed atrocities on our screens. In 2018, footage aired on *60 Minutes* showing breaches of the Australian export regulations and animal cruelty laws. It depicted deliberately cruel treatment of Australian sheep on a live export voyage. It was really troubling viewing. To be honest, just printing out an article on this for my contribution today made me feel really sick. On one particular voyage, 880 sheep died on one day. They saw young lambs die. Apparently, no sheep are meant to go on these voyages if they are pregnant, but that was completely ignored. The live sheep export trade earns Australia, on average, \$250 million a year, and a large percentage of that market share is from Emanuel Exports. The cruelty that goes on on these voyages is really quite remarkable. Even in light of the *60 Minutes* footage, it was interesting that the chief executive of the Australian Livestock Exporters’ Council at the time said —

Reality is Australia actually has the best standards in the world when it comes to livestock exports and movement of livestock by transport ...

That is really interesting when we also look at a more recent analysis that was conducted by some pre-eminent researchers and university lecturers as part of the Australian Alliance for Animals. They have an image in a document, which I am happy to table, of day 19 on one of these live sheep export voyages. It was determined on day 19 that no animal cruelty issues were identified. I am looking at the photograph here and the animals are standing in thick faecal matter, which was acting as their bedding for the voyage. They had to endure 24-hour lighting on the voyage, 90 decibels of noise and a constantly moving deck. Stresses were identified in every sheep on every voyage in 2021. I think that is worth noting.

I do not want to take up too much time, but in my original contribution, I mentioned many examples of animal cruelty that go on right across the world and right across Australia in many different areas. I feel like I am picking on the agricultural industry, but I am just highlighting that this is what occurs. That is not to say that examples of animal cruelty do not go on in other industries as well. In my previous contribution when the bill was before the house, I talked at length about horseracing practices amongst breeders and in knackeries in the eastern states. That was not happening here, but footage came to light in which horses were whipped, kicked and punched. Their genitalia were mutilated with electric prods. This was deeply distressing. One thoroughbred was captured in the 7.30 report in October 2019. It was a hugely successful racehorse, War's End, which won \$400 000 during his career. It ended up on the floor of a slaughterhouse and was shown to be kicked, punched and abused, and then tossed away and left to die in a horrific fashion. In knackeries, it is the same situation. An abattoir in New South Wales was hit with a \$60 000 fine for treating animals in a really sick fashion. That was horrendous to read about. It was captured by a hidden camera. One worker was seen bleeding out a pig that had not been properly stunned. When the pig continued to kick violently, it was repeatedly bashed with a metal pipe. An inadequately stunned goat was subjected to a prolonged decapitation and a stockman deliberately used an electric jigger on a bull and the animal behind it, even though they could not move to escape the shocks. This highlights some of the atrocities. I could draw on a lot more, but I want to highlight that these things go on when there are already mechanisms in place—legislative frameworks that are designed to protect these animals that are meant to be in our protection. We are failing them. The overwhelming community expectation is that we deal with these animals in a humane manner. We are clearly not doing that.

Members of the opposition are trotting out the same arguments that they did last time around, which is that they cannot have somebody going onto properties because of the biosecurity risk. I went to Walpole recently on holiday with my family. When we wanted to go on one of the little boats around the inlet, we had to put our shoes through all these different washes so that we were not taking any biosecurity matter onto the boat that could pass on risk to the beautiful trees in that environment. It was pretty straightforward. I am fairly certain there would be mechanisms in place for inspectors going onto farms. They could readily access these mechanisms to ensure that there is no biosecurity risk.

I would also like to add that if farmers feel they are doing the right thing, they should not shy away from having this oversight. They should absolutely welcome it, because there should be no industry that is above scrutiny and oversight. For an opposition that is always screaming for transparency, I think it is really interesting that when the shoe is on its foot, it says, "Not us." Farmers should welcome this opportunity to show that they are doing the right thing and that they are looking after the animals in their care. I think they should welcome this legislation, as I do. I would like to congratulate the Attorney General on bringing these provisions to ensure that adequate oversight is provided where there is currently none. I commend the bill to the house.

**MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston)** [11.46 am]: I rise to make a very brief contribution on the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I understand that the opposition wants to go into consideration in detail, so I will keep my contribution very brief, but I felt it was very important to rise to speak in support of this bill. Many members know that my electorate is called Collie–Preston and the majority of the electorate sits in the Preston area. It encompasses the Shire of Capel, the Shire of Dardanup, the Shire of Collie, the Shire of Harvey and the Shire of Donnybrook–Balingup. They are all very well known and very well established farming communities in terms of the economic activity within those local government areas. I highlight that as this bill aims to do two very important things and people in my community expect both of them to occur. They are to balance animal welfare considerations with the importance of this part of the economy—the farming and agricultural industry and the food industry—and deter trespassing by activists onto what are essentially people's family homes. We have seen a number of examples recently in the media of the attention those activists have attracted by trespassing onto farms. It is really unfortunate and should not be happening. The flip side is that, obviously, the concerns around animal welfare need to be considered and, if needed, inspected and investigated. This bill will do both those things. It is through that lens that I will speak to this bill today and provide my support.

I grew up in Yarloop and went to Harvey Senior High School, as members may have heard me say previously. Harvey high school was home to Harvey agricultural college, obviously going back to when I was at school. They are now separate entities, but it was a combined campus back then. I want to acknowledge the great work that ag schools do right across the state in providing training and career pathways into agriculture for young people. I want to talk about how important the farming industry is. I grew up on a dairy farm. We rented the house of the farmer and lived there. My aunty and uncle owned a 100-acre beef farm at the back of Yarloop. They grazed cattle for the

beef industry. I just want to highlight a couple of things about the beef industry and its importance to the local economy within the south west, and particularly focus on the fact that the Boyanup saleyards are in my electorate. I managed to get the livestock trade sale market report from the Nutrien Ag Solutions website this week. It turned over 912 head of cattle at the Boyanup saleyards this week. It is an incredible local employer and is very important to the agricultural and farming industries. I note with much interest that the prize Angus bull sold at the Boyanup saleyards this week was a whopping 865 kilograms and sold for \$1 816.50. That is a lot of bull I might say! In relation to the herd of cattle within Western Australia, the most recent figures I could find on the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development website show that Western Australia has approximately two million head of beef cattle distributed around the state, with the majority in the Kimberley and south west regions.

I have talked about the large range of farming and agricultural food activities within my electorate. I want to highlight Ferguson Valley as an amazing part of my electorate. It is a really diverse electorate, as I said, and someone was surprised to find out that there is a beach within the Collie–Preston electorate. It is hidden; it is tucked away. It is Peppermint Grove Beach. Ferguson Valley is an outstanding place and takes in the towns of Crooked Brook, Dardanup and the amazing Gnomesville. The residents are very quiet in Gnomesville, but there are lots of them! I am astounded at how peaceful that part of my electorate is.

I want to highlight some really great work done by our Minister for Regional Development; Agriculture and Food. I understand that the minister will not continue in Parliament next year. Even today, the final sitting day of the year, the minister was hard at work alongside the Premier announcing \$320 million for a world-class agricultural headquarters in Perth. I want to put on the record the outstanding job that Hon Alannah MacTiernan has done over her career in Parliament and the passion and absolute willingness she has shown in delivering for the agriculture portfolio, which is really important for regional communities, and the regional development portfolio across Western Australia. On behalf of the many, many constituents who have spoken to me since the minister announced that she was retiring, I pass on my congratulations and thanks for everything she has done within the agriculture portfolio for Western Australia.

**Mr P. Papalia** interjected.

**Ms J.L. HANNS:** Okay; great. It is all very weird in the house today.

Several members interjected.

**Ms J.L. HANNS:** With those comments, I would like to wind up my contribution and commend the bill to the house.

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [11.52 am] — in reply: I have copious notes prepared for my second reading reply on the Animal Welfare and Trespass Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, which should not take me longer than 35 minutes if I go through them all. However, it feels a bit like a scene from *Dog Day Afternoon* and I am standing up for the second time to give a second reading reply on this bill, having done it before. So we will take all that I have said before as read.

**Mr P. Papalia:** You mean *Groundhog Day*. Is that what you were after?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Yes.

**Mr P. Papalia:** That was a different movie.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** As I said, coming back to consideration of this again feels like a scene from *Groundhog Day*.

**Mr P. Papalia:** It was Bill Murray.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** That is right; it was Bill Murray in *Groundhog Day*, who just kept going back to the same spot. That is what it might feel like in consideration in detail.

On a more serious note, it is a serious piece of legislation. I thank members for their contributions. They are all concerned with both animal welfare and the preservation of the sanctity of property owners, especially owners of rural properties and rural businesses, from invasion by activists or protesters—really, I should call them trespassers. The bill has sought to balance those two aspects—that is, the right for the community to be assured by way of inspection that no cruel practices are taking place in animal rearing, especially intensive farming settings, and protecting food producers and the agricultural sector from invasion by trespassers.

With those few remarks, I thank all members for their contributions. I know that the opposition wants to raise matters again. I am not being demeaning by saying that it is groundhog day, but I am sure that the member who will be speaking for the opposition —

**Mr P.J. Rundle** interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** We will get on to consideration in detail. I thank all the members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave denied to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

*Consideration in Detail***Clause 1: Short title —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I know that the Attorney General thinks it is groundhog day, but, as I have said, there have been a few minor changes and the opposition wants to raise a few questions. Once again I reiterate that, to me, the bill deals with two totally separate subjects. The other point that is interesting to me is that the other day, the minister said that the Animal Welfare Act had been reviewed and that a new bill will come in in the third quarter of next year, so I question the whole process in a lot of ways. Nonetheless, I just want to ask a few general questions on clause 1 and then I will work through some other detail in some of the other clauses. Given what I have just said about the review of the Animal Welfare Act and the new legislation, why was the decision made to proceed with this legislation?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** It is because this bill deals with an important aspect not dealt with in the animal welfare legislation, and that is the crime of trespass and the uplift in the penalties for trespass. That is why we want to proceed with this legislation—to deal with trespass.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Further to that response, why did the Attorney General not deal with trespass as a single bill and leave the animal welfare side of it until the third quarter next year?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The government wanted to deal with the question of trespass. We do not know how long the Animal Welfare Act amendments will take to pass through this Parliament in the third quarter next year. It might go off to a committee in the other place like it did before, which will be for a long time. In the meantime, rural landholders, people living in remote areas and people living on isolated properties are feeling vulnerable to trespass. They made their concerns abundantly clear to the government. These things seem to go in waves. At the moment, the fashion is to glue oneself to something, be it an expensive painting or the doors of Dumas House. Gluing is the fashion at the moment. Ten minutes ago, the fashion was going onto farmers' properties and stealing stock. I do not know what these extreme protesters will go back to. We are going to deal with them all, but we wanted to get on with the anti-trespass legislation to protect all our very valued food producers in rural areas.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I guess that leads to the comments that I made back in my second reading debate contribution. If it was such an urgent scenario to deal with—it was going to be dealt with within two to three weeks back in early 2019—why are we here dealing with it three and a half years later? Nevertheless, how will the legislation compare with that of other states?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I am advised that when we compare our penalties introduced in this bill for trespassing in the circumstances defined, they will be among the highest, if not the highest, penalties in the nation. It is different from the biosecurity legislation, but for straight-out trespass, these will be the stiffest penalties.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife):** Before I give the member for Roe the call, I am going to make this point because I was going to make it the last time we were debating the first clause of a bill. It is not the practice of this place that clause 1 is the place for general questions and general debate. I will allow this to continue so long as the Attorney General is willing to indulge it. However, I am not going to allow the practice of the other chamber to creep into this chamber because it is not the practice of this chamber and it never has been.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thank you, Acting Speaker; I appreciate that. I have just a few other general questions and then I will move on to the other clauses. Hopefully, the Attorney General will answer those questions for me; otherwise, I will re-ask them elsewhere.

Since the bill was restored to the notice paper in August this year, what consultation has occurred?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** There has not been specific consultation on the terms of this bill, but there has been consultation by the department on the Animal Welfare Act. There has been a review of that act. Questions about the inspector's powers of entry were discussed in consultation with industry at the time of the review of the act.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Thanks for that, Attorney General. Noting the consistent trespass events that have occurred at the Perth Royal Show and so forth, can the Attorney General outline why the likes of agricultural shows have been precluded from this bill in relation to aggravated trespass?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The aggravated trespass provisions were really designed to protect farmers and other rural food producers who are living in rather isolated circumstances, like a farmhouse on a 1 000-hectare property up some country road. They are very vulnerable. Those food producers and farmers really need the added protection, we believe. There are issues involved around biosecurity, with trespassers entering the land. The member asked a lot of questions about biosecurity the last time we debated this, as I recall. Agricultural shows have lots of people around and, usually, police are there. Those events are attended by lots of people. The exhibitors and the stock that they bring to the show are not vulnerable like they are at night-time up these country laneways.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We had an occasion this year, I think at the Perth Royal Show. There was a gentleman displaying cattle. The farmer had to take matters into his own hands to try to protect his livestock from a certain protester. There are not always going to be police on hand. The other situation might be in an agistment facility for racehorses. I am still not quite clear. I hear what the Attorney General is saying about people being isolated, but I am just not clear why some of these other venues such as ag shows and agricultural colleges have not been included as part of this legislation?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** What we are dealing with are these trespassers who are conducting protests against intensive farming in vulnerable areas. It was a specific problem that we wanted to address. Other laws protect steakhouses in Northbridge, or whatever, from these protesters. We have seen them used. When protesters go there, they are arrested and hauled before the courts. They are given bail orders and community supervision orders that prevent the repetition of that sort of conduct. We set about trying to deal effectively with the set of circumstances of country folk living on farms—doing the absolutely essential occupation of producing food for our nation—needing the extra protection. We will be giving that to them.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I appreciate the Attorney General allowing these more general questions. We saw aggravated trespass offences picking up around the 2018–2019 period. The Attorney General obviously expressed his outrage and said, “I’ll be bringing on this legislation.” I noticed that some of those trespassers have turned to crowdfunding et cetera to cover their legal fees. Does the Attorney General intend to bring in legislation down the track to circumvent that situation?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Firstly, I seek the chamber’s indulgence to reply while sitting down. I am due for end-of-season surgery in the morning.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I am happy to grant you that permission, Attorney General.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Thank you, Acting Speaker.

The answer to the member’s question is no, but we have included in the bill a minimum penalty, which includes supervision orders. People might have a rich mummy or a rich daddy who can pay the fine. How do we ban them? That happens all the time. Now people go crowdfunding to pay the fine. That is why we propose to bring in a minimum penalty requiring an ongoing order. These people will not necessarily be deterred by the fine, but they will be deterred if they know they will be arrested for breaking a supervision order and brought back before the court for a much more serious offence.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have a final question on this clause. Given the long gestation of this bill and the fact that it fell off the notice paper in the previous Parliament, and given the anticipation of the new animal welfare bill in quarter 3 of next year, as per Hon Alannah MacTiernan’s statement yesterday, will this bill progress to the government’s agenda in the other place prior to June next year?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** That is our intention. That is why we hope to get it through this chamber today, so that the other place can deal with it early. We especially want the trespass aspect of the bill dealt with pronto. It has been too long.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 2 to 4 put and passed.**

**Clause 5: Section 35A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have a few questions about the designated inspectors. Could the Attorney General provide an example of a scenario in which the designated inspector will be appointed by the director general of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and the qualifications and abilities of those inspectors?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I am not prepared to hypothesise about circumstances, but I can say that the department has a tiered system of inspectors already. When inspectors are initially hired, they are required to undertake comprehensive training conducted by the department, which is a combination of online and face-to-face learning, classroom teaching and on-the-job experience. The current training modules include understanding the Animal Welfare Act and receiving tuition in the inspectors’ powers, body condition scoring—I would fail on that one at the moment, with my body!—common welfare issues, humane destruction of animals, emergency animal disease early response and detection, post-mortem necropsy, executing search warrants and the legal obligations thereunder, using body-worn cameras and writing direction notices. Once an inspector has received this initial training, they undergo ongoing mentoring and tracking of their professional development needs and progress. Ongoing advice is provided by supervisors and veterinarians, and periodic inspector workshops are held to facilitate new or refresher training. There is also competency and refresher training required for staff authorised for firearms and captive bolt use.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** That seems to be slightly more comprehensive than when we last discussed this bill. The Attorney General’s response last time was that they had to have certificate IV qualifications. Is that still the case?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** When applying for the job, one of the requirements is a certificate IV, but a certificate IV does not cover all the modules that I described to the member. They have to show the academic competence of obtaining a certificate IV, and then they are given specialised training on the modules that I previously outlined.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I can recommend a couple of good orthopaedic surgeons, Attorney General.

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** I am making an adequate contribution to the superannuation fund of a couple in West Perth at the moment!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Very good!

Further to that, I may have missed it, but I did not hear anything about biosecurity in that list of requirements. The biggest occurrence between the last time we considered this bill and now has been the biosecurity threats of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. We now have real concerns about people moving from one farm to another and creating biosecurity risks. I know on my own farm I have increased signage about biosecurity, with a mobile phone number and the whole package. Given this, what will the biosecurity training be?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I remember the member raising biosecurity concerns on the last occasion that we were considering this bill. I have told the member about the training that the inspectors receive. These inspectors are very professional and they work for the department that is leading the state's response to the key biosecurity threats that we face. At the top of the department's concerns is biosecurity risk, including foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease. The department has standard operating procedures and policies in place that inspectors must follow when attending certain properties. These procedures reflect the risks associated with specific types of animals. For example, the work procedure for pig and poultry properties is to ensure that 48 hours has elapsed since the inspector previously visited a pig or poultry property. The inspectors have biosecurity kits in their cars, which allows them to undertake sanitation procedures before and after entering a property, including the disposal of their gumboots, overalls, used paper towels et cetera following an inspection. They are expected to be aware of and minimise biosecurity risks associated with their access to a property and to observe the biosecurity and safety requirements of a specific property. Let me repeat: biosecurity concerns are a foremost concern of the department.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I thank the Attorney General for that answer. It is a little more comprehensive than I recall, but that is good. Under proposed section 35A(2)(a), the designation will be cancelled by the CEO by written notice to the inspector. Under what circumstances would the designation be cancelled?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The designation would be cancelled if they have not exhibited competency in the areas of training. Similarly, as I have explained to the member before, there will be reassessments of their work, and if they are judged to be below standard during those reassessments, their designation will be cancelled. It is very important to the department and the government that when inspectors enter properties, they are at all times alert to any risk that they might introduce to the property. The member described the pastoral biosecurity signs on his front gate. This is core business of the department in this time of biosecurity risk. If any of them show a want of competence in their assessment, they will be, if I can invent the word, de-designated.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The concerns of some of our farming members and business owners is that, as I have said before, an inexperienced 20 or 21-year-old will just come into the mix. They may have completed all the modules, but they will have no real-life experience of working in broadacre livestock farming. They might be fresh out of university or their TAFE certificate IV course and might not have an understanding of the real world and what occurs in the world of livestock farming. Can the Attorney General provide any assurance on that?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** It is hypothetical that the department will send out a 20 or 21-year-old inexperienced person. It is just not going to happen. The member can assure his neighbours, as the government will assure the farming community, that that is not going to happen. I will not go through the whole job description for a livestock officer, but essential criteria are that they must have demonstrated experience in establishing, implementing and managing compliance programs, preferably in animal welfare. These will not be just young, raw recruits; they must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding of relevant compliance legislation, compliance governance frameworks and, importantly for biosecurity issues, operational procedures. They must be able to build effective relationships and have well-developed interpersonal negotiation skills with the member's constituents, including the ability to maintain internal and, importantly, external relationships with the farming community. They must demonstrate an ability to develop practical and innovative solutions to problems and they must be able to think strategically and demonstrate an ability to conduct complex investigations, including prioritising, interpreting and applying legislation, policy, procedures and guidelines. These are not criteria that could be fulfilled by a 20 or 21-year-old inexperienced grad.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I thank the Attorney General for that explanation. I note that under proposed subsection (3), the CEO may, by written notice, restrict the authority, limiting the places or the circumstances in which the power may be exercised. Can the Attorney General clarify what that means? I thought they would either have the job or not. How will they be restricted?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** There might be a specific animal or type of animal that is susceptible to a disease or suchlike, or it might be that we want to conduct an inspection of intensive chook sheds in an area of Wanneroo, and we can say that we want the inspector to go out and inspect chooks, and not just wander around the countryside inspecting everything. There might be specific industries requiring inspection. One that has come up recently is the condition in which some piggeries are maintained. The inspector might be given limited powers to search and investigate piggeries. They will not have the power to stop off at every farm on the way to a piggery, but will have the power to have an intensive investigation of piggeries or intensive chicken sheds. I think there are even intensive dairies now.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will that practice continue so that certain types of inspectors will have a more specialised field and they might take on just piggeries or egg farms, for example? Rather than having a broad-based inspector, will someone be more specialised in each field?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Given the size of Western Australia and the jurisdiction, they will have to be designated for all fields; however, the department might concentrate on a specific area of agriculture—as I said, chooks, pigs or whatever at the time. It is important, therefore, that the inspectors build their competency across the field. Obviously, as in any field of endeavour, be it politics or wherever, on a given day a particular person is chosen for a particular task, be it a minister to hold a particular portfolio or an orthopaedic surgeon. I saw one last week for my hand and the guy said, “No, I only do knees.” There must be specialists that they can refer people to, but they have to build competence over the whole field, and that is what will happen here.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 6: Section 36A inserted —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I seek some clarification on the terms used. The Attorney General has done some work on intensive production and the provision for animals to have an opportunity to graze or forage outside. Firstly, I want to go back to proposed section 36A and proposed subparagraph (b) in the definition of “abattoir”, which states —

includes a holding yard or other place used for or in connection with the slaughtering of those animals;

Once again, I refer to my hometown of Katanning, which has a WAMMCO abattoir. Obviously, WAMMCO has the abattoir and the lairage where all the sheep are stored on boards six feet in the air for slaughter the next day. Then there is an area 300 or 400 metres away with irrigated grass where sheep might be held for six weeks or three months to be slaughtered somewhere down the track. It is not really what I would call a holding yard. It is a place where those sheep will graze for the next two or three months until they are moved in towards the abattoir. How will that be treated?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I think that the answer to the member’s question is to be found in clause 6, which will insert proposed section 36A into the act. The definition of “abattoir” states, in part —

includes a holding yard or other place used for or in connection with the slaughtering of those animals;

If sheep are held close by in a paddock and are brought in for the purpose of being taken through the abattoir, that paddock will be within the ambit of the bill.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** My real issue is that I do not consider it a holding yard because the sheep will potentially graze there for another two or three months. The definition of “intensive production” says that “any animals involved in the production do not have an opportunity to graze or forage outside”. That definition is over the page. To me, it is not a holding yard. It is a grazing paddock where the sheep might stay for the next three months until they get moved to a holding yard or a lairage facility.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** If it is not a holding yard and they are out there grazing at large, it is not intensive. They are out there grazing. This is to deal with those areas surrounding an abattoir where animals are brought in and held prior to slaughter. No-one wants to see those animals that are held and contained prior to slaughter being mistreated.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Are we saying, therefore, that because they can graze in a paddock over here for three months, the inspector can only inspect, from here, the rest of the abattoir facility or they can inspect the whole facility that the abattoir owns—the whole 50 hectares or whatever?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The member is demonstrating on the back of the chair “from here to here”. I am not making fun of him, but I do not want to hypothesise. All these cases, as anyone who has been in a court knows, will turn on its facts. Obviously, a holding yard right next to the slaughter line will be covered. A paddock 500 metres away where animals are grazing at will would not be covered. It is a question of degree and fact and each case will turn upon its individual facts. The designated inspectors will be well schooled and trained on the application of this legislation. They will focus on the areas of highest risk where the animals are contained in density.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Will trucks that bring stock onto the abattoir property be excluded from this legislation?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The inspectors will not have power to enter upon the trucks under this bill. I do not want to speak about the animal welfare bill because that one has not been presented to the Parliament yet. But under this bill, the inspectors will not have statutory right to enter upon those trucks. Nor will truck owners have the protection of the enhanced trespass penalties. They will still have the normal law, but they will not have these enhanced protections.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 7 put and passed.**

**Clause 8: Section 38 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Most abattoirs and knackereries should be registered businesses, so will the designated inspectors have a list of these businesses, and who will manage that list?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The department will decide upon its particular list of places to inspect, but a place does not have to be registered to be a knackery. Someone might just start up a knackery. There is no knackery licensing board. If it is a knackery, if it is an abattoir, farmers sometimes slaughter—sometimes illegally slaughter—so they might be described on the facts as an abattoir.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Minister, has Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development developed over the last two years a set of standards or a code of conduct to which it expects designated inspectors to adhere?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** DPIRD has a code of conduct for its employees, which is probably discoverable under the freedom of information process or something like that. But there is an existing code of conduct that the member could inspect. I do not have it here to table this afternoon, but the member could get it.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Let us say we get one of these inspectors who decides to go off the reservation and takes it upon themselves to inspect anything and everything. Will some sort of penalty be in place for those inspectors?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** There would be internal disciplinary proceedings. A formal complaints procedure is available online that the public, constituents and farmers can use when they think an inspector has acted unreasonably beyond power. I hesitate to say that the complaint procedure is not being used because the inspectors are reasonable, but there is a complaint procedure available to take care of that high stress, only hypothetical situation.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 9 put and passed.**

**Clause 10: Section 70A amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Clause 10 will amend the Criminal Code. I go to the definition of “animal source food production facility”, which states —

... operated for the purpose of commercial food production —

(a) a farm or other place where an animal is reared or fattened;

Can the Attorney General outline this to me because, once again, I have trouble with this definition. I would have thought, quite frankly, that every production facility is looking to rear or fatten produce but, once again, I want to clarify that if someone has a broadacre farm where their position is to rear and fatten everything but there is an intensive feedlot—a little area that they might want to take the sheep or whatever over to at the break of the season—would the broadacre operation be covered under this situation?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Thus far we have been examining and interrogating the inspections of intensive agriculture. We are now looking at the Criminal Code. These aggravated offences will apply more widely to offer protection to farmers than the more narrow areas under the preceding clauses relating to intensive agriculture and the inspector’s powers. These are throwing out a wider blanket of protection for the farmer.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Under this scenario, the Attorney General is basically saying that any animal food production facility is covered, as long as it is a commercial food production place looking to rear or fatten—a dairy farm, an egg farm, or an abattoir or knackery.

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** By way of protection.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** They are all provided protection against trespass.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Could I answer that, or respond to that comment by rhetorical question? Did the member see that photograph of some rooster—I do not mean a chicken rooster; I mean the colloquial expression of some rooster—carrying a calf off a property?

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** Yes, I did.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I do not know whether that calf was intensively raised or not, but there we have a farmer in a reasonably isolated area and someone has come onto their property and carried off a calf. I am not interested about whether that is intensive or un-intensive agriculture. Here we have a person who is really important to our community producing necessary food that we all need, and someone has trespassed upon their property for no good. We have no time for them. People in remote areas are raising all this. We are here to support the farmers, not hinder them.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 11 to 13 put and passed.**

**Clause 14: Section 35 amended —**

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I would like a little clarity on this clause, which states —

(a) the need to ensure that the following persons are protected from the effects of an offence under *The Criminal Code* ...

(i) a person engaged in animal source food production ...

(ii) a family member ...

I assume that under normal circumstances children would not come under this. Is that about adult children or children under the age of 12? What is the definition of “children” in this case?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** The definition of “family member” is under clause 10 on page 8 of the bill. It states —

- (a) the spouse or de facto partner of the person; or
- (b) a parent, child, —

A child is a minor —

brother, sister, uncle, aunt or cousin ... the person’s spouse or de facto partner ...

It is all defined there, and continues —

- (d) a grandchild or grandparent of the person or of the person’s spouse or de facto partner;
- (e) a guardian or ward of the person;
- (f) if the person is an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander ... a person regarded under the customary law or tradition of the indigenous person’s community as a member of the extended family ...

We have tried to make it as wide as possible for these protected people.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As an example, let us say someone who had been a worker at an abattoir or a knackery has then decided that they might like to become an activist against that establishment. Would they be protected under this scenario?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Just because a person has worked at an abattoir in no way means they are a protected person. We are also bringing forward amendments to the Restraining Orders Act; there will be an applicant and respondent. The abattoir can be the applicant bringing an order for restraint against their former employee. Just because the person has been a former employee will not give them a blanket of immunity.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have a final question to wrap it up. Will that also apply to hardship—that is, if a person loses their job or income?

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** What do you mean?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Proposed section 35(2A)(d) states —

hardship that may be caused to the respondent if the order is made ...

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** A loss of employment is always regarded by the courts.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 6317.]

## KARRAKATTA CROSS INITIATIVE — FRESHWATER BAY PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [12.50 pm]: This Remembrance Day I had the honour of attending Freshwater Bay Primary School’s 2022 Remembrance Day Karrakatta cross initiative. For the past two years, the Freshwater Bay Primary School community has been active in responding to community concerns about the removal of headstones from veterans’ gravesites as a part of a cemetery renewal process. The students research the lives of the servicemen and servicewomen whose headstones have been removed. They pay their respects by placing a cross at the head of the grave and saying a few words about the history of the service person to show their appreciation of their life and service. This project has become known as the Karrakatta cross initiative and is driven through the hard work and dedication of David Thomas, who is president of the Claremont RSL, and Gavin Wilkinson, who is president of the Nedlands RSL sub-branch.

I am very impressed that the school has continued this initiative that imparts to children an appreciation of the sacrifice made by previous generations for the life we enjoy today. This year, the students laid crosses at the burial locations of 18 World War I soldiers, as well as for six Indigenous soldiers and four nurses who were killed in other conflicts. I commend Freshwater Bay Primary School for this initiative, especially the two wonderful teachers involved, Ben Turner and Cindy Carboni. I wish the school every success in maintaining this tradition over the years to come to continue to recognise the valuable contributions of our servicemen and servicewomen, ensuring their sacrifices are never forgotten.

Lest we forget.

## CINEFESTOZ BROOME

*Statement by Member for Kimberley*

**MS D.G. D’ANNA (Kimberley)** [12.52 pm]: The first ever CinefestOZ Broome took place this month, consisting of a four-day film experience that included feature film screenings, community events, Cinesnaps school visits and special events spread across an array of cinemas and venues. The festival showcased the importance of on-screen storytelling by First Nations people. As Western Australia’s inaugural First Nations film festival, we hope it will be the first of many.

Film is a very accessible medium. It opens our eyes to lived experiences that many people otherwise could not appreciate and plays a significant role in the journey to reconciliation as a nation. One of the highlights for me was attending the closing night, at which Nyul Nyul and Yawuru film director Jub Clerc debuted her film *Sweet As*. The film premiered at the Melbourne International Film Festival in August and was a finalist for best film at the CinefestOZ film festival. Jub won a Blackmagic Design Australian Innovation Award for her work. The film also won the Network for the Promotion of Asia Pacific Cinema award for best Asia-Pacific film at the Toronto International Film Festival in September, becoming the first ever Australian film to win a NETPAC award. Lastly, it was recently nominated for, but did not win, unfortunately, best youth film at the Asia Pacific Screen Awards. *Sweet As* is set in the Pilbara region and follows a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous at-risk teens on a photo safari camp on country. It is a story of hardships, friendships, crushes and self-discovery when on a troubled path. It is an amazing work and everyone should make sure they get to look at it.

Congratulations to Jodie Bell and the CinefestOZ team.

### **SOUTH WEST COUNSELLING INC**

*Statement by Member for Vasse*

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party)** [12.54 pm]: The south west community is very fortunate to have affordable counselling, psychology and a range of related support services provided by South West Counselling Inc. This community-based not-for-profit organisation recently celebrated 40 years of providing a confidential, professional and respectful service. Congratulations to the board of directors, chair Gloria Ross, CEO Karen Sommerville and the staffing team at South West Counselling for reaching this huge milestone.

It is commendable that George and Willi Smith identified in 1982 that an outreach counselling service was needed. Special mention must also be made of Jenny Monson, who was appointed by the board as the first director of service. Jenny's significant contribution resulted in SWCI securing and now having complete ownership of its current premises on Adelaide Street in Busselton. Under Jenny's direction, the agency was a finalist in four sections of the Community Services Industry Awards, including the major award in the category of support of remote and rural communities. Nothing could be more appropriate. Fast-track to today and the demand for such a diverse range of support is challenging and overwhelming. In 2019, SWCI won the excellence in not-for-profit category at the Business Excellence Awards, and in 2021, it won the judges' choice award at the Business Excellence Awards.

Thank you to all staff members of SWCI for continuing to ensure our community has your invaluable support service.

### **SOUTHCARE**

*Statement by Member for South Perth*

**MR G. BAKER (South Perth)** [12.55 pm]: I would like to congratulate Southcare on its fortieth anniversary of protecting, connecting with and caring for the local community. Southcare is a not-for-profit organisation that provides personalised in-home and community support services to the southern suburbs of Perth. It first opened its doors in 1982 with a group of 20 volunteers, who began helping people in need in the local community by providing emergency assistance in the form of baby blankets and food hampers. The volunteers are known as "Southcare heroes", and they are a vital aspect of the team, providing valuable services in the community alongside staff. There are currently 32 volunteers. I would also like to congratulate CEO Nicky Howe, chair Veronica Lawrance and former chair John Dobson for reaching this fortieth anniversary milestone.

Each year a volunteer wins the Helen Moore Leadership and Service Award for embodying the attributes of leadership, trustworthiness, professionalism and fair play. This year it went to John Faulkner for his outstanding service to people in need of emergency relief. John has helped more than 1 000 local families in his five years as a volunteer. Congratulations to John, and thank you to Southcare for 40 years of service.

### **AWARD WINNERS — NORTH WEST CENTRAL ELECTORATE**

*Statement by Member for North West Central*

**MS M. BEARD (North West Central)** [12.57 pm]: I take the opportunity to congratulate and recognise recent award winners from the North West Central electorate—there have been many during the year! The Shire of Meekatharra youth services team was rewarded for its hard work, commitment and dedication, taking out the Making a Difference Award and the popular vote at the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries' Western Australian Community Achievement Awards. This small team has made a huge difference in Meeka and is really well received by the town.

The next shout-out is for Gascoyne Junction for taking out the top honour as the state winner of the Environmental Sustainability Award at the 2022 Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards, and also for winning the environmental sustainability category for leading the way with its litter prevention initiatives and water planning. The Junction, a small, remote and resilient town that was wiped out by devastating floods in 2010, has rebuilt, adapting to local environmental factors. It is great to see recognition of this committed and resilient community.

Last, but definitely not least, Exmouth won the Community Containers for Change Award at the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards. Over 12 months, more than 1.6 million containers have been sorted and saved from landfill, with 13 community clubs and 135 members supporting the local Freemasons, who, until recently, had delivered this program to the community on behalf of the Aboriginal Biodiversity Conservation Foundation. Clubs that volunteered received \$300 each time they assisted at the refund point—an amount that was generously matched and donated by Mantarays Ningaloo Beach Resort. It is great to see continued commitment to giving back, with part proceeds being returned to the Exmouth community. These are just a few examples of the fantastic community resilience and support across North West Central. I give massive congratulations to all involved in these award-winning community groups.

### **VOLUNTEERS — ALBANY**

*Statement by Member for Albany*

**MS R.S. STEPHENS (Albany)** [12.58 pm]: Today, in advance of Thank a Volunteer Day next week, I give special thanks to volunteers in Albany who make a collective difference in our community. As a long-serving volunteer of the Albany Surf Life Saving Club and many other organisations, I know and value what our many selfless volunteers provide for our community. It is people like Alice Rule, who volunteered for 50 years with Keep Albany Beautiful. For 48 years of those years she was president, and played a huge part in Albany's recognition as a Tidy Town. It was fantastic to see that the Albany Youth Advisory Council had won the Young Legends Award in the Tidy Towns Sustainable Communities Awards 2022. Rhonda Appleton and the Rubbish Warriors are responsible for the orange bags full of rubbish on the side of Albany roads. The Rubbish Warriors encourage the public to stop dumping rubbish and create positive change to address roadside, bushland, ocean and beach rubbish tossing. John May, Ed Szydowski and Maureen Hannan were acknowledged at the annual Fishability Awards for their work in getting people with disability hooked on fishing.

Thank you to our 16 volunteer bush fire brigades who, as many people in my community experienced yesterday, are often the first called when fire threatens. It is volunteers like Kenneth Johnson, who was recently acknowledged for 60 years of service to Highway Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade—an incredible achievement for his selfless dedication to keeping our community safe. Thank you to the volunteers of Albany for your service. Our community is so much richer for what you do.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*

### **VISITORS**

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [2.00 pm]: I would like to welcome some guests to my gallery and to the public gallery.

On behalf of the member for Darling Range, I would like to welcome to the Speaker's gallery today the Serpentine–Jarrahdale Network of Principals, Mrs Ashley Mottershead from Woodland Grove Primary School, Paul Jones from Byford Secondary College, Noelene Mason from West Byford Primary School, David Paine from Marri Grove Primary School, Rebecca Instance from Beenyup Primary School, Hayley Taylor from Jarrahdale Primary School, Luke Bradley from Mundijong Primary School, Kendall Lange from Serpentine Primary School, and Ben Calleja.

On behalf of the member for Collie–Preston, I would like to acknowledge her guests to Parliament today, the staff and students from South West John Calvin Christian College, with five guests in the Speaker's gallery—staff member Sean Eikelboom and students Acacia Van der Heide, Ella Schoof, Tara Olde and Ashley Van Duyn. Welcome to all of those.

On behalf of the member for Wanneroo, I would like to acknowledge her guests from the Whadjuk Cultural Authority representing the Aboriginal Cultural Centre Steering Committee, Peter Hill, Beverley Port Louis and Cheryl Martin.

### **QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**

**BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING —  
PROFESSOR FIONA STANLEY'S COMMENTS**

#### **817. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to the Premier's assertion in question time on Tuesday that Professor Stanley said that she did not want an inquiry and she did not want a royal commission into Banksia Hill Detention Centre, and his comments in Parliament yesterday that the Leader of the Opposition would have to ask Professor Stanley why she is saying things publicly now that are totally contrary to what was said in the meeting.

Given that the professor was invited to the summit in her capacity as an expert and a well-respected member of the Western Australian community, has the Premier contacted her directly to discuss this matter since the summit, or is he no longer interested in her views because she disagrees with him?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

No, I have not spoken to Professor Stanley since the summit. Yes, the government has responded to a range of the requests of the people of the summit by providing additional mental health services, psychological services, counselling services —

**The SPEAKER:** Premier, if I could just interrupt for a moment. It is a requirement to sit in the public gallery. Thank you.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It has provided additional counselling services, additional training, additional education—a whole range of things that were talked about at the meeting. That was one of the outcomes of the meeting. That is not all the government will do. Of course, over time, we will do more things. I make the point to the Leader of the Opposition again, and I think that this is not well recognised by people: over the course of the last 10 years, the number of juveniles in detention has halved. We are rewriting the Juvenile Justice Act, which we advised the people at the meeting, who were not aware of that fact. We have put in place programs like Target 120 that go into households that have juveniles caught up in the justice system to assist them with parenting and other strategies so that they are not engaged in these things. We are investing \$15 million in an on-country centre on a pastoral station so that young people from regional Western Australia can get the opportunity for alternative forms of rehabilitation that do not involve going to Banksia Hill. All those things are part of what we are doing. I think that sometimes there is a lack of recognition of many of the good things that are going on.

BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING —  
PROFESSOR FIONA STANLEY'S COMMENTS

**818. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier reach out to Professor Fiona Stanley to have a discussion around these issues further to the summit?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

That is not my plan. I heard what Professor Stanley said the other day. She was very much of the view that there was not a requirement for another inquiry or another review, and —

**Ms M.J. Davies:** That's not what she said.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is exactly what she said.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** That's not what she said.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** That is exactly what she said at the meeting.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Sadly, she has said something totally contrary to what the Minister for Corrective Services said. He said he wanted to employ more Aboriginal people in the youth custodial sector. Professor Stanley obviously misheard and said something totally contrary to that publicly.

PRIMARY INDUSTRIES AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT —  
HEADQUARTERS AND RESEARCH FACILITY

**819. Ms R.S. STEPHENS to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting Western Australia's agricultural sector through its significant investment in research, development and biosecurity. Can the Premier outline to this house what this government's massive \$320 million investment in a new state-of-the-art research facility for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development will mean for WA primary producers, and can the Premier advise the house how this investment builds on this government's record of supporting WA's agricultural sector?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Albany for the question. Off the top, I want to thank Hon Alannah MacTiernan for her contribution to Western Australia—to politics in local government, federal government, the upper house, the lower house, the City of Perth, as mayor and councillor, and as an all-round terrific, hardworking person. I thank her very much.

This morning, the minister and I made a landmark announcement. We have allocated \$320 million to a world-class biosecurity and research facility for agriculture in Western Australia. The existing facilities in South Perth are past their use-by date, so we are now going to build a new world-class HQ for the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development at Murdoch University's Perth campus. It will be on 11.3 hectares of land and it will house 350 staff. It will be a modern facility delivering world-class science with specialist laboratories, glasshouses, an incident and emergency management operations centre, and a headquarter and office building for the staff who

work there. We have some of the best researchers in agriculture of anywhere in the world. Out of this, we will have one of the best research facilities of anywhere in the world. The minister argued for this and was successful, and I am so pleased we are able to announce this important initiative. She has done a terrific job in agriculture.

When the minister arrived in the portfolio, members will recall the fiscal cliff that was embedded in the budget. She repaired that. She brought it to the Expenditure Review Committee and we reinstated \$131.5 million of funding for agriculture. We hired 200 additional staff, including many researchers. Many of them are based in regional WA; in fact, more than ever under the last government, so we will have more agricultural staff in regional WA than when the Nationals WA occupied the position of agriculture minister.

Under Hon Alannah MacTiernan, we have also seen the \$48 million grains research partnership with the Grains Research and Development Corporation, \$25 million to kickstart the Western Australian Agricultural Research Collaboration, and \$15 million for biosecurity capabilities and emergency preparedness. We are focusing on carbon farming in the pastoral estate for the first time. That is something completely new that has not been done before. We have seen \$14 million invested in the digital farm program, \$13 million to manage the impact of wild dogs, and \$24 million to drive value-adding, including in the food and beverage industry, I think particularly down in Nambeelup near Mandurah. She is the state's first Minister for Hydrogen Industry. She has organised at least \$160 million of investment in renewable hydrogen. She has led the way in renewable hydrogen in Western Australia and I suspect that in 10 years' time, when this industry is strong and flourishing in Western Australia, people will look back at Hon Alannah MacTiernan as the mother of the industry. It is a terrific achievement.

There is so much more that she has done over her political career, including, of course—one that is close to mine and the member for Mandurah's heart—the railway to Rockingham. The railway to Mandurah, sorry! The railway to Rockingham and Mandurah and all the other places in between. She did a great job in delivering that, against great opposition at the time. I remember the motions being moved by the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA against it. She stood up to that and delivered the railway. One thing I will say about Alannah in closing: she is one of the great doers of Western Australian political history.

#### AMBULANCE RAMPING

##### **820. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the November monthly record of 5 767 hours of ambulance ramping, which has added to the highest ever annual ramping figure of more than 60 000 hours this year so far. Given that ramping figures are now the highest ever recorded under the minister's watch, has she simply given up on the Labor Party's 2017 election promise to reduce ambulance ramping?

##### **Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

The numbers for ramping this month are tracking downwards from the peak that we reached in winter, which everyone expected because we were in the middle of a pandemic dealing with a COVID peak and a large number of respiratory illnesses. We had to cope with furlough, respiratory illnesses and so on and so forth. In the last 12 months, the state government has put 483 beds into the system that will help to ease some of those flow pressures that we see around ramping. One of the key things—I have said this many, many times—is that this is an issue around all the pinch points across the whole spectrum of system, which includes access to primary care and a GP when needed, as well as access to the emergency department, processes within hospitals, discharge processes and the ability to discharge people into appropriate settings when they are medically fit for discharge. As we know, significant numbers of people can be ready and medically fit but cannot be discharged because of the paucity of appropriate aged-care facilities. That was driven down and into the ground by the former federal government.

One of the key interactions with the system is our ambulance service and how it functions. I want to bring to the attention of the house, including the opposition, a letter I received today from St John Ambulance about its performance over the last few months and some of the key performance indicators that it has been meeting. It had a tough time at the beginning of this year and that saw a significant intervention by the state government in which senior emergency response personnel from the Department of Health and Western Australia Police Force were put into St John to work with it to ensure that it was meeting the standards within the current framework and resources. I will quote from the letter —

The initiative built new cooperation, engagement and understanding between St John, the Department of Health, WA Police Force and the Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

At the time of the intervention, the St John Priority 1 response Key Performance Indicator for 90 per cent of cases responded to within 15 minutes was 74.9 per cent.

...

Since working more closely with our interagency colleagues, St John delivered five months of consecutive improvement in Priority 1 response to 84 per cent of responses within 15 minutes during November, and Triple Zero ... calls answered with the 10 second benchmark has remained above 90 per cent since June.

Congratulations to St John for its work. Congratulations to the interagency team that went in there. I note that in the contribution from the member for Vasse last week, she criticised this response and called it a failure. She called it a failed intervention response. The numbers do not lie and they come from St John.

#### AMBULANCE RAMPING

**821. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. The numbers do not lie. It is the highest figure for November on record and the additional 200 hours —

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, member for Vasse! This is not an opportunity for debate or for you to put your own spin on the minister's answer. You can ask a short, sharp supplementary question.

**Ms L. METTAM:** When will the minister's government start to take responsibility for these damning and dangerous figures?

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, minister, just wait for the member for Wanneroo.

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

Madam Speaker, you have just seen in action the work that has been done over the last six to 12 months. We are taking responsibility to manage our emergency services. That is a big and complex system, as every person says, even the independent experts at the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. The president of that college himself says that this is a systemic issue. It is actually a global issue. No-one has solved the ramping. The president has said that the work the WA government is doing is nation-leading and very promising and that he has a seat at the table. The Liberal Party's former Minister for Health says that it is very easy to throw stones; it is a lot harder to solve the problem. But our record investment in beds, in new models of care and in emergency management, and the new federal government's future investment in primary care will all see improvements in access to emergency care.

I pretty much expect that after this summer break, the member will have reached the five votes that she needs to become Leader of the Opposition—five! Got to work those numbers hard and hit the phones to get those five votes! She will have to come up with some ideas and explain to the community what her position is.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

#### CONVERSION PRACTICES

**822. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Attorney General:**

I refer to the evidence presented to the Education and Health Standing Committee's inquiry into the Esther Foundation about people being subjected to harmful and dangerous LGBTQIA+ suppression and conversion practices and the committee's specific recommendation that conversion practices be banned in Western Australia. Can the Attorney General please update the house on today's announcement by the McGowan Labor government that we will ban this harmful practice?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:**

I am able to confirm that the McGowan government will be introducing legislation to outlaw, and make a crime, conversion therapy—that is, therapy designed to change the sexual attraction of a particular person. It is founded on a fallacy that a gay person or a lesbian person is somehow broken and that their brokenness can be fixed by praying away the gay or by subjecting them to other strictures, counselling and pressure to get them to change their sexual attraction to another gender. We know now that the overwhelming evidence is that such practices lead to the subject feeling acute distress, depression, suicidal thoughts and feelings of guilt. We know all this based on the compelling evidence presented by the Australian Medical Association, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, all of which unanimously oppose conversion therapy as being dangerous and harmful to the person.

The McGowan government will be introducing legislation, as I said, to outlaw these practices. I realise that we might get some pushback from the extreme right, evangelicals or others who practise these —

Several members interjected.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** Did anyone mention Hon Nick Goiran?

We realise that we might get some pushback, but the community is over it and embracing of all members. People who have been subjected to these practices are often young and vulnerable people who have had their lives significantly damaged. As I said, we will be outlawing this practice, but we will have a carve out and an exception for medical practitioners and psychiatrists who are counselling people because there might be some young people who are confused and still making up their mind who seek counselling from a doctor, a psychiatrist or a psychologist.

We would say that their practices are all regulated and governed by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. If they go too far or introduce some notions into their counselling that are abhorrent, they will be dealt with under their own ethical programs.

I look forward to the day next year of rising to seek your call, Speaker, to second read in a bill that outlaws this practice in Western Australia forever.

*Visitor — Kelvin Matthews*

**The SPEAKER:** On behalf of the member for North West Central, I would like to acknowledge a guest in the gallery—Mr Kelvin Matthews, CEO of the Shire of Meekatharra. Welcome.

#### WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

##### **823. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Fisheries:**

Madam Speaker —

A member interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** That interjection was disorderly. I would ask for those kinds of interjections to cease.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I refer to phase 2 of the west coast demersal scalefish resource consultation, which closed on 30 September.

- (1) When will the commercial fishing sector, the public of WA and regional communities that rely on demersal fishing finally get direction on the management of the west coast demersal scalefish fishery?
- (2) Will the minister guarantee that any changes will not be forced on the fishing community and related businesses and provide sufficient lead time for them to prepare for any new arrangements that will be set in place?

##### **Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:**

I thank the member very much for the question.

- (1)–(2) The science and the issues associated with the demersal scalefish resource are very complex. It is very clear that we are dealing with a species that is in recovery. Making decisions in relation to the future sustainability of that species is incredibly important. I am considering all the submissions that came through from fishers before I make a final decision. The member would probably have far more appreciation of the issues if he had actually bothered to seek a briefing on the science because then he would understand the complexity associated with fisheries management and the importance of the demersal scalefish resource, particularly. I will make a decision in due course, and I will certainly be advising all stakeholders once that decision is made.

#### WEST COAST DEMERSAL SCALEFISH RESOURCE

##### **824. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Fisheries:**

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister guarantee that the concerns of the whole fishing sector will be taken into account and that he will cease contemplating the nine-month closure of the recreational fishing sector?

##### **Mr D.T. PUNCH replied:**

I can confirm that the sustainability of the demersal scalefish resource is paramount to all stakeholders and all sectors. The member would appreciate that there is an incredible diversity of view within the fishing community about what should happen, but we make decisions based on science and research. We do not come in here looking for the latest issue out of the community or the paper to capitalise on; we look at the science. Members opposite come in here and repeatedly attack the Minister for Health and the Minister for Housing and they do not look at the evidence. We look at the evidence and the science that underpins our decision-making and we make considered decisions.

#### METRONET PROJECTS

##### **825. Mr H.T. JONES to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment in public transport infrastructure across WA, including the delivery of Metronet.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the progress of more than a dozen Metronet projects currently underway, including the Byford rail extension, and outline how this investment is supporting local jobs, local businesses and the local economy?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of anyone who opposes this transformative project?

##### **Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Darling Range for his question and, of course, for being such a strong advocate for his community and, in particular, improving transport across the entire area.

Members would be well aware that Metronet is delivering. This year, we opened the new Forrestfield–Airport Link, the first rail line connecting the airport to the city, with brand new stations at High Wycombe, Airport Central and Redcliffe. These projects are delivering jobs across the community. Over 10 000 people currently work on Metronet projects across the suburbs. Wherever we look, work is underway. Member for Southern River and member for Jandakot, we are working on the Thornlie–Cockburn Link. Work is well underway on relocating the Kewdale white oil line and a range of other services, and works are progressing on the Ranford Road Bridge. Member for Butler, work is underway on the Yanchep rail extension, across all three stations and on the three green bridges, with three deck pours already completed.

The Morley–Ellenbrook line is the rail line that the former government promised but never even started, let alone completed. Broken promises were made to the people of Ellenbrook. As people can see, work is underway across the entire corridor. Work is underway at the Whiteman Park station, the Ellenbrook station and the Malaga station. New bridges are being installed. The northern dive structure on the Tonkin Highway is nearly complete, and the southern dive structure is being completed. Work is underway on the Tonkin Highway alignment. At Byford, there is the new Thomas Road Bridge, and works are underway for the planning and all the geotech for the rail extension, together with all the level crossing removals through Armadale. At Bayswater, elevated structures have already been erected for the south-east platforms. We have opened the first part of the Leake Street underpass, and further work is underway on developing the platform and the relocation of that rail line.

Member for Mandurah, platforms are in place for the Lakelands station, and a bus interchange is being built. Of course, we will soon see further progress at that station.

The first railcars that were produced in WA are being tested in Nowergup. The new technology centre, the operations centre, is being developed in East Perth. The two-zone fare cap has been introduced to make sure that no matter how far and wide people travel across the Transperth network, the most they will pay is the cost of travelling two zones.

Today, as part of the latest initiative to make our rail lines and rail stations more attractive, we announced new lighting at the Perth train station. Members would be aware that the whole forecourt has been changed to make it a safer place. We have transit guards patrolling the forecourt of the Perth train station. We are also lighting up the train station in Perth. It is better than Flinders Street in Melbourne. To celebrate the incredible victory of the Socceroos overnight, we will be turning that train station green and gold until next Sunday.

#### MULLEWA HOSPITAL — REDEVELOPMENT

##### **826. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:**

I refer to the Mullewa Hospital redevelopment and the Premier's correspondence to me of 23 June 2021, which said that progress was being made to bring this project to fruition. I also refer to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health's response in a grievance that the costs and time lines for the hospital have been impacted by increased labour and supply costs.

- (1) Has the health minister approached the Premier for funding for Mullewa Hospital as part of the current midyear budget review process?
- (2) Can the community of Mullewa finally expect real action from the government in the development of its hospital?

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for the question.

- (1) As the member would be aware, considerations of the Expenditure Review Committee are cabinet-in-confidence. The midyear review is due to be released later this month.
- (2) The Western Australian government remains committed to the redevelopment of the Mullewa health centre. The government has committed \$6.3 million to the redevelopment. Like all projects, it is facing cost and other pressures due to the current global market conditions. Planning for the redevelopment continues, in consultation with the local community. Once completed, the facility will provide access to a range of health services under one roof. It will include enhanced primary and community care facilities and will provide 24/7 emergency care from a new emergency department.

I note that the former government had eight and a half years to complete this project. It committed to it a year out from the 2017 election and then it announced it would delay construction before the 2017 election.

Just so the member is aware, we are investing in regional health like never before, including for Meekatharra Hospital, \$50 million; Collie Hospital, \$14.7 million; Bunbury Hospital at South West Health Campus, more than \$200 million; Geraldton Health Campus, \$122 million; the renal dialysis centre in Halls Creek; an expanded Karratha Health Campus; a new Albany dental clinic; the cancer facility in Albany; Laverton Hospital; the Tom Price Hospital redevelopment; and, left off my list, Newman Hospital.

## MULLEWA HOSPITAL — REDEVELOPMENT

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

I have a supplementary question. Noting that it has been six years since the redevelopment of the hospital was first announced, can the Premier guarantee to the people of Mullewa that the redevelopment will take place and give some indication of when?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

As I said to the member, and I will repeat it, the WA government remains committed to the redevelopment of the Mullewa health centre. The money is in the budget, but, like everything else, it is subject to cost and development pressures. Projects all over the state, around Australia and, I think, all over the western world, are going through this. There are extraordinary levels of activity and extraordinary constraints on supply, particularly on materials and labour. That is the reality. No-one can magic that away. We cannot blink our eyes like in *I Dream of Jeannie* and make it disappear. We cannot do that. The fact is that we have to space out our developments, do what we can as quickly as we can and make sure that we do it properly. There are cost pressures on everything, and certainly not only this sector, but also every other sector is facing supply chain difficulties.

## LGBTQIA+ YOUTH — GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

**828. Mr S.N. AUBREY to the Minister for Youth:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's support for young LGBTQIA+ people who experience discrimination and elevated rates of adverse mental health issues. Can the minister update the house on this government's investment in youth programs and outline what this support means for young people who identify as LGBTQIA+?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

I thank the member very much for the question and congratulate him for his hard work in removing discrimination for everyone, and young people in particular, who identify as LGBTQIA+. It was great to see him at the Pride night on Saturday, along with a number of other members. If members in the chamber have never marched in Perth's Pride Parade, they really should put it on their bucket list. It was great to be there with the Water Corporation, the Department of Communities, the Department of Fire and Emergency Services, the Department of Health and a range of other government agencies—too many to mention. It is one of the most uplifting events members will ever be involved in. If members have not done it, they should put it on their bucket list.

When I became Minister for Youth, one of the initiatives I picked up from my predecessor, the member for Willagee, was the Ministerial Youth Advisory Council that he put in place. It is an absolutely great bunch of young people who advise me on a whole range of issues. One of the issues they raised with me was the ongoing discrimination that young people who identify as LGBTQIA+ experience in a range of areas. It is a long list, whether it be school, accommodation or health. They face a whole range of discrimination. One of the things the council recommended was that the state government should fund an advocacy service specifically for young members of that community. I looked at all the things in the report and thought that the best thing I could do was give these young people a voice, so in 2020 the McGowan government funded Youth Pride Network for the first time. Previously, it had been a bunch of hardworking volunteers, but in 2020 we gave funding to Youth Pride Network so that it could employ its first paid staff and have the capabilities and resources to do some good stuff. Since then, it released the *State of play* report on the discrimination that LGBTQIA+ people have experienced in the accommodation system. Youth Pride Network put in a submission when we reviewed the Equal Opportunity Act, it made a submission on the federal Religious Discrimination Bill—that disastrous exercise of the previous federal government—and on the Esther House review, the report on which was released today. I have been really impressed with the work it has done.

I am pleased to announce that the original three-year funding agreement that we had in place for Youth Pride Network, which had another year to go, has entered into a new three-year agreement to push the network's funding out to 2025. It will be given an additional \$500 000 over three years. That will increase its staff resources and, for the first time, give it resources so that it can engage with young queer people in the regions. I know from some regional members that a number of regional pride groups in Western Australia often do not get the love and attention they deserve. I am really pleased to continue to support the Youth Pride Network.

If I can, I pay tribute to Charlotte Glance, who was the project coordinator until recently. She was a founding member and has now moved on to do other things. Charlotte was a great mover in that organisation. I wish Cheyanne Henderson-Watkins all the best in her new role at driving that organisation.

On this side of the house, we believe that young people in particular should be allowed to get on and be the people they are without having their sexuality or gender identity constantly questioned. There are enough difficulties in the world without having to face that issue. We are very proud on this side of the house to have supported the Youth Pride Network. We have also funded TransFolk of WA for the first time for the work it does with young people. I give a shout-out to Hunter, who has been a great driver of that organisation. I am really pleased to do this on the day that we announced, through the Attorney General, that we are banning conversion therapy in

Western Australia. That was one of the key issues that the Youth Pride Network raised with me on many occasions. If members talk to young people who have been subjected to that sort of dangerous and bigoted practice, they will know that it does not take long to realise that outlawing that practice in this state is long overdue.

CRIME — CARNARVON

**829. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the escalating crime in Carnarvon and, in particular, two incidents that occurred last week, one of which resulted in the hospitalisation of a home owner after getting hit in the side of the head with a pair of boltcutters and another narrowly avoiding an arrow that was shot through his front door. Will the minister visit Carnarvon with the Commissioner of Police to meet with local government and community leaders to assure the community that the government is taking this matter seriously?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I thank the member for her question. I regularly go to Carnarvon, although I have not been there recently. I intentionally did not go there just prior to the election, but I will go there in the new year, not specifically for the purpose that the member asked, but because I travel the regions and talk to police. I can say about Carnarvon and the recent matters to which the member referred that the police are not reflecting the member's claims in this place. I am not saying that those two particular incidents did not occur, but I am saying categorically that the member's claims about the scale of crime confronting police in Carnarvon at the moment are not reflected in the police reports to command. I can also say that Operation Regional Shield is supporting Carnarvon, although not right now because there are no Operation Regional Shield deployments in Carnarvon, but there were only a matter of possibly days, and certainly weeks, ago. Operation Regional Shield is driven by the Commissioner of Police. He has the authority and the resources provided by government and he will always direct police resources, police personnel and capability to where it is required. Operation Regional Shield responds to any matters of juvenile crime in particular in the regions and any acute challenges police confront wherever they are. Right now, it is not operating in Carnarvon.

CRIME — CARNARVON

**830. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. Given that the information the minister is receiving does not seem to reflect what I am hearing, will the minister agree to meet with me, local leaders and victims of crime in Carnarvon to see this for himself?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I will happily meet anybody on policing matters in Western Australia at any time. As the member is probably aware, I regularly travel the regions and talk to police officers in their place of work and talk to the local communities. I talked to Eddie Smith when I saw him not long ago. I will happily meet with the member. One thing I can tell the member about this challenge is that I will talk to the Minister for Racing and Gaming in the new year because I will look at the potential to expand our banned drinkers register into the midwest. That has been rolled out across the Kimberley, Pilbara and into the goldfields. I was approached in the past, when I had the racing and gaming portfolio, by people seeking to expand it to the midwest. I think we can consider that, particularly for Carnarvon. It would require support from the local liquor outlets, and if there is not a liquor accord there, it would require one. That is the normal practice for getting that support. That is one thing we can look at. I will repeat that the only report I get on policing in Carnarvon is that the police are doing a great job. Every time I talk to Eddie Smith, the shire president, he assures me that the police are doing a fantastic job. Eddie Smith has never raised any matters. The district superintendent, who is based in Geraldton, has gone to Carnarvon only this week, I think, and he has not had any matters raised with him about the resourcing or capabilities of police in Carnarvon. He has been rotating additional officers up there to assist at any time required, outside of Operation Regional Shield. I have not had any issues raised about any crime wave, as the member is referring to it, in Carnarvon. I am told that the police are doing a wonderful job. Every time I talk to Eddie, that is what he says to me.

SOCIAL HOUSING — DELIVERY

**831. Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's unprecedented investment into social housing and homelessness. Can the minister update the house on how this government's record \$2.4 billion investment into social housing and homelessness is delivering more social housing for Western Australians, as well as critical maintenance work across the existing social housing stock?

**Mr J.N. CAREY replied:**

I thank the member for her question.

This government is doing everything it can to accelerate the delivery of social housing in Western Australia. It has set an ambitious target of adding 3 300 homes, in perhaps one of the toughest construction markets that our state

has ever seen. That is a \$2.4 billion program in housing and homelessness. I am really proud of all the reforms that we have been undertaking over the past few years. To date, we have added over 800 homes to the system, with another 900 under contract or construction. There has also been a lot of refurbishment and maintenance work. Since July 2020, almost 500 000 work orders have been completed, worth over \$370 million, for the maintenance and refurbishment of 19 000 properties. That includes major refurbishments of 521 properties through the social housing economic recovery package grants program.

We have reformed delivery through acceleration, through using timber-framed, prefab and modular homes, and the spot purchasing program. We are boosting the community housing sector through SHERP grants to community housing providers, many of which are in the regions, with 320 homes. We are accelerating the speed of delivery by creating new panels for small and medium-size builders, and through our modular panels. We have created the housing diversity pipeline by unlocking lazy government land to secure one in five social houses. We have brought in the \$350 million remote communities fund to deliver housing in remote communities, which the federal Liberal–National government walked away from.

We have brought in tax reforms. That includes a 100 per cent rebate on affordable product. We have changed the Keystart income limits. We have brought in a new Keystart urban infill product. We are bringing in build-to-rent to support workers' accommodation. We also have the regional land supply program, which is delivering 500 subsidised lots to the market. I have also announced a huge number of homelessness reforms. That includes 100 social homes. We also have Boorloo Bidee Mia, which is operating at 100 per cent. This is a great story of reform in the delivery of housing.

I note the opposition. All I can say is that it is a conga line of stuff-ups. Have I got that right? I thought I would go back to it because I did stuff it up before. What we have seen from the opposition have been mistruths, bizarre comments and flip-flops. Yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition said that we were not delivering any social houses. That is absolutely false. In two years, the opposition has not put forward one housing or homelessness policy. When Hon Steve Martin was asked this year, "What are you going to do about it?", he said, "I think we can look at maintenance work." I have just said that we have completed 500 000 work orders, worth over \$370 million, for maintenance and refurbishments. The opposition gets basic statistics wrong. Hon Steve Martin and the member for Vasse said that there are 1 000 rough sleepers in the city. They put out a press release that Common Ground had been scrapped. They said that Boorloo Bidee Mia was operating at 50 per cent capacity.

Yesterday, the opposition spruiked its record about Government Regional Officers' Housing investment in the wheatbelt. In fact, to paraphrase the Leader of the Opposition, she said that when the opposition came into government in 2008–09, it made a significant investment in Government Regional Officers' Housing. The Leader of the Opposition forgot to say that as a member of that cabinet, she oversaw the largest selling off of GROH homes in the wheatbelt region in any one financial year. That is a fact. That is the record of the Leader of the Opposition. She came into this place yesterday and tried to rewrite history. I will be getting the Leader of the Opposition a T-shirt that says, "I sold off the most GROH homes in the wheatbelt." It will be green and gold, and she can add it to her anti-Metronet slogans.

*Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Speaker —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I give you the call, I remind members that points of order are heard in silence and are determined by me.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** This is a second reading speech, not an answer to a question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! That is an opinion; it is not a point of order. Minister for Housing, I ask you to wrap up your answer, please.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I think those T-shirts would sell well. In fact, when I go out to regional local governments and when I speak to local governments in the wheatbelt, they are shocked by the record of the Leader of the Opposition in that she oversaw the greatest selling off of GROH homes in any one financial year. That is her record. It cannot be denied.

The point I am making is there is a very clear difference between our side and that side. In two years, the opposition has not come up with one policy solution. Opposition members have not even had the respect and dignity, in their five years in opposition, to go to the Mission Australia homelessness lunch.

Our government is clearly demonstrating that it is accelerating the delivery of social housing through a large number of reforms to help the most vulnerable in Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** The member for Roe with the last question for 2022.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

#### SCHOOLS — STAFFING

##### **832. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I refer to comments made by the president of the State School Teachers' Union of Western Australia, Pat Byrne, at a recent state council meeting, when she suggested that in order to ensure that there will be a teacher in front of every class in 2023, schools will be made to cut classes, move subjects online and push staff out of their teaching area. Can the Premier guarantee that there will be a teacher for every classroom in Western Australia in 2023, without compromising the learning outcomes of our students?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members! Premier, I want to make sure that I can at least hear and that Hansard can record your answer.

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

For the last question of 2022, the opposition is scaremongering once again. That is what it does. It starts the year scaremongering and it ends the year scaremongering. That is what it does.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** And the middle of the year!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** Yes; in the middle of the year it was scaremongering. It is quarter time scaremongering and three-quarter time scaremongering. That is what it does.

This is obviously something that we work on each and every year to make sure that we have a sufficient number of teaching staff. I recall that the opposition said exactly the same thing last year, and, when it is proved wrong, it never admits that it was wrong. That is what it does.

The Department of Education is working through these issues, as it does each and every year. It is expert at ensuring that we staff our schools across the state. It uses a range of measures to ensure that we have a sufficient number of teachers. With 800 public schools and thousands of classrooms, some in the most remote places on the planet, it may or may not be possible to make sure that each and every one is perfect on day one; that is the same each and every year. Sometimes a sufficient number of staff are allocated to a school, but then someone gets ill the day before school is due to begin. Sometimes schools in the most remote parts of the state are fully staffed and then someone's father or mother dies in another state, and they have to leave. That is what happens. We do our best to ensure that our schools are staffed all over Western Australia, each and every year.

We recently announced some incentive packages for people to go to the more remote and difficult-to-staff schools around the state. We already pay people significantly more to go and work in the more remote and difficult-to-staff schools around Western Australia. That is a good practice that ensures that we appropriately reward and incentivise people to work in the more difficult and remote parts of Western Australia.

#### SCHOOLS — STAFFING

##### **833. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. With an education minister in the departure lounge, is it time —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Member, I will just give you some guidance: if you have a preamble like that, you will provoke that response. I ask you to directly ask the question of the Premier.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Southern River and others, can we just hear the question, please.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Transport!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Is it time for a fresh set of eyes on the portfolio to ensure that Western Australian families, principals, teachers and staff have confidence in the government to deliver improved education outcomes?

##### **Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

It takes students six years to get through high school; in six years, members opposite have not learnt how to ask a supplementary question. It is sad; it is sad to watch them. They have not learnt the art of asking a supplementary. Their inability to learn is actually quite remarkable—really quite incredible.

I want to pay tribute to the Minister for Education and Training. It is not an easy portfolio. I held it for the best part of two years, and it was not easy. She has undertaken that role incredibly well, and her great skill is understanding and working with schools, teachers, education assistants, education staff and the education bureaucracy to achieve outcomes. She has done that incredibly well across Western Australia. In the last question of the day, the member has engaged in meanness; I am just going to say what a great job she has done.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, that concludes question time.

### **MEDICINES AND POISONS (VALIDATION) BILL 2022**

*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

### **PAPERS TABLED**

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

### **ANIMAL WELFARE AND TRESPASS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021**

*Consideration in Detail*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**Clause 14: Section 35 amended —**

Debate was interrupted after the clause had been partly considered.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clause 15 put and passed.**

**Title put and passed.**

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

*Third Reading*

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [2.55 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [2.55 pm]: I would like to briefly summarise a few things as we wrap up debate on this bill. The Attorney General said this was groundhog day, and to be honest he is exactly right. We really have the same bill that we saw two or three years ago. The Attorney General is a self-professed bushie because he takes his Land Rover up to Fraser's in Kings Park every now and then; he mentioned that in debate on the previous version of this bill. The disappointment for me is basically in the way that almost exactly the same bill was introduced a second time. It is disappointing because the Attorney General came out strongly saying that he was going to deal with trespass within two or three weeks; that was in early 2019, and here we are at the end of November 2022, putting together a blended bill of animal welfare and trespass. It is almost as though we are saying to farmers and various other operators, "If you behave and do the right thing with animal welfare, we'll protect you with our trespass legislation." That is really how this bill could be interpreted. I certainly support —

**Ms J.J. Shaw:** What's wrong with that?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** There is absolutely no reason why two totally separate issues need to be blended into one bill.

**Ms J.J. Shaw** interjected.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** They are; they are two totally separate issues.

**Ms J.J. Shaw:** They're two sides of the same coin!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I will not be seeking interjections on my contribution to the third reading debate, Madam Acting Speaker (Mrs L.A. Munday).

I will say that it is disappointing that this is such a narrow bill on the matter of trespass. There is no protection in this bill for people who transport livestock in trucks, utes or other vehicles. We have agricultural shows; we saw what happened at the Royal Show. We have agricultural colleges and saleyards. The Attorney General could have included any number of locations in this bill; he has had more than two years to protect people involved with livestock. I do not see how that is so hard and why this legislation should have such a narrow scope.

I do agree with some of the comments made by members opposite. I agreed with the member for Maylands when she said that if we look after our stock, they will look after us. I certainly do that on my farm. Pretty well every farmer I know does the same thing. I know the member for Moore is in the same boat. We know that probably 99.5 per cent of farmers do the right thing. I know the standards of our abattoirs, knackereries and other similar places have really improved over the last 10 to 20 years. They all need to keep those standards to keep their licences. It is the same thing

with farming, to be honest. The majority of farmers who are not up to scratch have been weeded out over the years, as occurs in other industries. That is the way it goes, whether it is grain farming, livestock farming or whatever. In general terms, the principle is if you look after your stock, they will look after you. I do not think there is any disagreement there. I acknowledge the member for Maylands' passion about looking after animals and agree with many aspects that she brought up.

I am concerned with the comments of the member for Forrestfield and, to a lesser extent, the member for Belmont. I note their comments on live shipping. I agree with one thing that the member for Forrestfield said, which is that the footage we all saw brought things further to light. None of us would agree that those practices are acceptable. I agree with the member for Forrestfield on that. I encourage the member for Forrestfield and the member for Belmont to take advantage of the readily available tours on the live export ships in Fremantle. We have some quality people in the Livestock Collective who are very comfortable with promoting their tours to people. I recommend that the members for Forrestfield and Belmont avail themselves of that opportunity.

The other thing that concerns me is that their stance is opposite to that of the Premier. I have asked the Premier in question time several times about his support of live exports and he has said that he thinks that appropriate steps have been taken for live exports. That is encouraging, because it is an industry that employs 3 500 people and is worth well over \$100 million to the state. The Premier has said that he is supportive of it. Unfortunately, the federal Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry and federal Labor do not seem to agree at this time. I look forward to the support of the Premier over the next couple of years to make sure that he puts the best foot forward for Western Australia. From that perspective, I wanted to put that in there for the benefit of the members for Forrestfield and Belmont, because I think they are on slightly different ground from the Premier at the moment. I ask them to take that opportunity to go and have a look. The other thing that worries me about the live export industry is that if Australia steps out of the space, as our federal Labor colleagues want us to do, the trade will be left with African countries, such as South Sudan and Ethiopia, that have very mediocre animal welfare abilities. We need to remember that it might make us feel better, but it would make the worldwide animal welfare situation worse.

I want to mention another couple of things. I still worry about our inexperienced biosecurity inspectors, especially in the context of foot-and-mouth disease and lumpy skin disease that we have heard mentioned copious times over the last few months. Biosecurity is a real concern for our farmers. I still worry about broadacre farmers who have, let us say, 5 000 hectares with 10 000 sheep and they live on the property. That is not covered in the scope of this legislation. What is covered is an intensive farming area. We still have a lack of clarity there. If someone has a feedlot on their broadacre farm—the member for Moore knows all about this—when they have that break of the season, they have to bring their sheep into a feedlot to let the grass establish itself out in the paddock. We still face the prospect, potentially, if a designated inspector sees fit to inspect that particular feedlot down in the back paddock, that they can come in and drive past someone's house on Sunday morning and inspect that without any notice. They are the sorts of things that concern us.

There is the worry that we have had hardly any changes over the past two years. Initially, it was all about trespass and the government sorting this out in three or four weeks—yet here we are, three and a half years later. Once again, it will not go to the Legislative Council until next year. We certainly feel it should be referred to the Standing Committee on Legislation. Then we had Hon Alannah MacTiernan come out yesterday and say how the animal welfare bill will be brought in during the third quarter of 2023. We had a similar bill two years ago and we spoke about it copiously two years ago, but it was left sitting in the Legislative Council. Here we are again—in the last week of the parliamentary year—and, sure enough, the bill will arrive in the Legislative Council early next year, and in the third quarter next year the bill will come up again. I really do scratch my head sometimes when I look at the agenda, I suppose I could call it, of the government.

I will wrap it up there. I could go on, but in light of today's activities, I want to say that we are not opposing the bill. We still feel it deals with two unrelated issues, and the bill should have been split and sent to the Standing Committee on Legislation in the upper house.

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [3.07 pm] — in reply: Just briefly, I did mention Bill Murray's wonderful movie *Groundhog Day* in which things just keep on coming back, as occurred in so much of the first term of this parliamentary session. That is because so many bills got held up by the opposition towards the end of the last Parliament. We all know about the urgent list that never got attended to, and other bills came back here. That is politics. The opposition decided to be obstructionist in the upper house in the last Parliament and forced us into this situation.

As far as the narrowness of the bill goes, we reject that. As we said in consideration in detail, the trespass provisions are not related only to intensive agriculture; it can be anywhere that agriculture is taking place. As far as saying that this deals with two separate issues, no, it does not. As we explained in the second reading speech and repeatedly elsewhere, what has brought about the trespasses is people going onto properties to video unsafe and abhorrent animal husbandry practices. It is not acceptable that they go onto these properties. The evidence they collect is inadmissible because it is the result of a crime, but there have to be inspections. We will ban the trespasses and permit the inspections lawfully. That is considered balance. If people do not want to be held accountable or transparent, too

bad! We are all held accountable by the Corruption and Crime Commission and other measures of transparency, which includes bringing your case to this chamber publicly. People want to avoid transparency and accountability but that is too bad. We have a balanced system here: aggravated penalties for trespassing on farmers' lands and lawful inspections by designated inspectors. As for livestock and transport, there is the Road Traffic Act 1974, the Animal Welfare Act 2002 and other acts that can protect them in those circumstances. There is no more to say on this bill; we have had two runs at it.

I commend this bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

## PREMIER'S STATEMENT

### *Consideration*

Resumed from 16 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

**MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach)** [3.10 pm]: I rise to respond to the Premier's Statement. Before I do, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise Richard Lissett from Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club. After winning the volunteer of the year award for Surf Life Saving WA, Richard went on to win the national DHL Surf Life Saving Australia volunteer of the year award.

His citation reads —

Richard took on the roles of Director of Lifesaving, Director of Education and Club Captain as well as doing 100 hours of Patrol and taking on the duties of Age Group Manager.

Realising that you can take on too much and burn out Richard set about recruiting other Club Members to take on support roles and now has 8 support service officers able to take on the senior roles in the Club.

He established the Club's first IT Committee to tackle the challenges of a growing Club. Richard has used his corporate strategic planning skills to assist develop the Club's Strategic Plan as well as reviewing and redrafting all Club policies and procedures to ensure appropriate governance and alignment with both SLSWA and SLSA. To ensure that processes and procedures are consistent he also developed a suite of templates for Officers and members to use. Richard is passionate about ensuring the Club looks 'beyond the flags' and engages with the broader community and local government to help realise the Vision and Mission of SLSA. His mantra for his Club is "Don't step back, step forward" and has a firm belief that Clubs should constantly be seeking feedback from its members and reigniting the passion for the purpose of saving lives.

For those who do not know me, I think this is my forty-second year as a surf lifesaver. I am also a patrol captain and the patron of the Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club, so seeing Richard awarded this prestigious and sought-after award is just a credit to his work ethic and his love for keeping the beach safe and enhancing everybody's experience on the beach. That includes not only club members, but also countless constituents from my community.

If members were to meet Richard, the thing that would stand out about him is his humility. I laugh with him often. When he was awarded the state award, we kept promising one another we would catch up to get a photo but it never happened. You know what? That is Richard's way; he just gets on with it. Richard has done an outstanding piece of work, but I can say, almost without hesitation, that his family is the key to his success. I note that there is no mention of them in the citation so, on behalf of a grateful community and club patron, I would like to thank his wife, Tracey, his son, Harry, and his daughter, Amelia. Without their support, I am sure Richard would never have achieved the results that he has.

The second person I would like to take the time to recognise is outstanding local cyclist Jai Hindley, who won the prestigious Giro d'Italia this year. The 26-year-old, who hails from Mindarie, is one of only two Australian riders to win a grand tour, following Cadel Evans' 2011 Tour de France triumph. He is the first Australian to win the Giro d'Italia and one of two Australian riders to win a grand tour. For those who do not know, Jai was here in Parliament today. If members looked in the dining room, they would have seen the huge trophy; it stands about this tall.

Jai Hindley's biography states that his cycling journey started at the Midland Cycle Club. I can tell members that that is not true! It actually started when he would ride to Mindarie Primary School every morning. I have spoken to his proud mum and the teachers at Mindarie Primary School, and they have all told me that Jai used to pedal like a possessed person to school every morning and home every night. He started this when he was six years old. From there, he earned a Western Australian Institute of Sport scholarship, which supported him to graduate to the national under-23 team in Europe and, ultimately, become a professional contract rider with the Union Cycliste Internationale World Tour. His success follows a breakthrough performance at the 2020 race, where he won a stage and finished second overall. That is such an achievement.

Jai moved to the Bora–Hansgrohe team for the 2022 season. Early in the season, he managed a top-five finish in the—I will try this—2022 Tirreno–Adriatico. Okay. A couple of months later, he won his first grand tour, the Giro d’Italia. Jai rode strongly for the first two weeks of the race and won stage 9, the high mountain stage. He is not a massive person; one would expect the engine that drives him to be huge but he just looks like you and me—a normal person. It is phenomenal.

On the penultimate mountain stage, he was able to drop the contenders, including Richard Carapaz, and ride himself into the lead, with a comfortable margin going into the final individual time trial. I will not go on about the rest of his achievements, but when I met him at Mindarie Primary School, we had a great day. The kids were in assembly and I remember that he had his bike and his trophy there. The thing that really struck me was his drive to get the kids to wear their bike helmets. This is a guy who has pedalled all over the world. He asked the kids how many of them ride their bike to school and everyone stuck their hands up. His next question was: how many wear a helmet? Quite a few of the hands came down. I just remember that, for such a great individual, he has such humility, and the way he drove home that message about everyone wearing cycle helmets when they ride a bike. The first responders in this house know how important that is.

I return to my response to the Premier’s Statement. I can say without reservation that this is a government of achievement. We have made nothing short of exceptional accomplishments. We have finally come out of the COVID-19 pandemic and not only has our economy grown, but also we have achieved a AAA saving status after saving hundreds of millions of dollars in loan repayments. I am not the one saying this; rather, it is Standard and Poor’s and other experts.

I recall the statement made during the COVID pandemic that the Western Australian economy was possibly the strongest in the world. The humble Western Australia was being a leader in the world—a bit like Jai! Our economy has continually grown throughout this time with this government’s response to COVID, but our labour force has not grown in parallel with the economy, and I am saddened by that. I do not know of a sector within our community that has not complained to me about staffing issues. I know—I am building a house, and I can tell members that finding tradesmen is a definite challenge for the company that is helping us with that.

I have said previously that this government is a government of achievement. It has fought hard to ensure that we have kept our fair share of GST. Our Premier; Treasurer has done a wonderful job in this space, fighting off the thieves in the night, like the Premier of New South Wales, trying to steal our fair share. I often hear the deluded statement that the Liberal Party is competent in managing our economy—really? Let us look at its colleagues, the current New South Wales Liberal–National government. It sold off its government streams of revenue, like its power stations, in the name of paying down debt. That has resulted in extreme and uncontrolled increases in electricity prices. No wonder it comes creeping in the night like a wiggling noodle in the grass. How competent is a government that believes that cutting income streams leads to better provision of services? I have to ask: with less money coming in, surely that means the government can achieve less provision of service for its people?

I will not go any further than that because, in the next part of my speech, I am only going to be criticising the members opposite. This is a good day to finish in the house. With that, I end my comments.

**MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough)** [3.21 pm]: I rise today to respond to the Premier’s Statement, which was delivered to Parliament on 15 February 2022. I would like to use this opportunity to acknowledge the importance of sport and recreation in Western Australia and recognise some of my local sport and recreation clubs.

Joining Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club changed my life. Never before in my life had I felt the sense of belonging and fulfilment I felt when I became a surf lifesaver at Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club. A social return on investment study commissioned this year by SportWest has revealed that WA-organised sport and its 700 000 participants return \$7.10 in economic and social benefit for every dollar of cost each year, totalling a gross benefit of \$10.3 billion per annum. The gross benefit can be broken down into economic and employment benefits, \$4.85 billion; physical and mental health benefits, \$3.02 billion; and personal wellbeing and broader social benefits, \$2.39 billion. The mental health benefits delivered by sport alone are \$1.8 billion a year. This report tells me and other members of community sport and recreation clubs something that we 700 000 participants in WA already know—that is, that our clubs are not just a sporting club. They are our homes away from home. They are villages that work together to raise our children in a healthy and safe environment. They are a community that shapes the lives of their members. Trigg Island Surf Life Saving Club’s motto is “Developing lives, saving lives”. These clubs are institutions with a long and proud history of older members who support and guide the younger members. They are an extended family, and, as a family, they support each other in the best of times and the worst of times. Together, they strongly feel and celebrate the wins on and off the field, but they also feel the pain of loss on and off the field just as strongly.

There are many clubs in my electorate at which I feel as much a part of the club as I do at Scarboro surf club. One of those is the North Beach Soccer Club in North Beach. I first came to know the North Beach Soccer Club and its president Simon Collins through the election campaign, in which the McGowan Labor government and I promised and delivered \$200 000 to support the installation of lighting at Charles Riley Reserve. But it was not until I attended the North Beach Soccer Club’s fiftieth anniversary dinner that I got to know and connect with the

club's members. The men's team's vice president, Callum Parker, was given the responsibility of babysitting the VIPs that night. I was surprised when I met Callum. He was in his early 20s, studying law, and was genuinely interested in learning about and supporting others. We had some really good yarns. When he gave his speech to the club that night, I saw the true markings of a leader—someone who realises the power of the spoken word and of sporting clubs and their ability to improve and shape people's lives. The anniversary dinner night ended with lots of beers drunk, the president's wife asking me around for dinner so that she could set me up with her daughter, and me joining the club members, arm in arm, singing the club song at the end of the night!

In March this year, following the delivery of the upgraded lighting in North Beach, I received a message. The message read —

“Hi Stuart, not sure if Simon has been in contact but North Beach SC has a charity match for Brain Cancer this Friday Night under the new lights. Each team has to have a celebrity appearance. Scomomo wasn't available, so was keen to see if you are free. Callum NBSC”

I accepted the invitation and played the full match. My performance on the field can be summarised by Callum's half-time comment. He said, “Stuart, we appreciate that you're here, but maybe stick to footy next time!” That match was part of a fundraiser in support of Ali Westwood and Nicola Parker, Callum's mum, both of whom had been diagnosed with brain cancer. Nicola Parker has since tragically passed away, only a couple of months ago. Her memory is carried on by not only her husband, Gavin; son, Callum; and daughter, Brooke; but also all the members of the North Beach Soccer Club, who feel the pain of her loss deeply. Nicola's daughter, Brooke, has shared an acknowledgement of her mum for me to share with Parliament. She said —

Nicola, better known as Nikki was born in Africa to her loving parents, Olga and Rob, in 1967.

She later married her Husband Gavin and had two children Brooke and Callum. Nikki moved to Australia permanently in 2001 and worked throughout her time here firstly as a beautician and later as a school admin at Burbridge School.

Nikki had no existing health conditions and was not only considered very healthy but also took great pride in looking after her and her family's health. So, it came as a huge shock when she was diagnosed with stage 3 Glioblastoma Brain Cancer in July 2021.

After brain surgery Nikki and her family were told that this cancer had a very low survival rate, it was not going to be a matter of if it got her, but when. She then went through 15 months of treatment through the cancer clinic and Sir Charles Gardiner hospital and passed in October 2022.

Nikki was described by her friends as one of the most special people in their lives. She loved her family and friends, and her community meant a lot to her. She was brave and did everything with class and kindness.

Even in the face of this she cared more for others than herself and enjoyed every second spent living life. Nikki was an incredible mother to Callum and Brooke.

She took great pride in seeing them make their way in Australia and was always there on the “side lines” to cheer us them on.

May you rest in peace Nicola “Nikki” Parker

In December 2021, Ali Westwood, a player at North Beach, was diagnosed with brain cancer as well, and in less than a month he was undergoing neurosurgery. Doctors successfully removed 90 per cent of the tumour but left 10 per cent due to the risk of removal. In late February 2021, only a month later, he underwent a second surgery to remove the remainder of the tumour. Between the surgeries, Ali proposed to his partner, Kayla Carlino, who has supported him the whole way through his journey to defeat brain cancer, and they will get married on 15 April 2023. It was a short and incredibly hard journey, and Ali stayed positive the whole time. Ali shared some of the things he learnt on his journey. First, however bad you think your day is going and no matter how negative you feel, there are better days ahead. Second, believe in yourself. You can get through any tough times if you look towards positive endings. Third, always find something to look forward to, no matter how small it is. It might just keep you going on those really bad days. Fourth, life is a bumpy journey. Enjoy the highs and ride out the lows. Live in the moment.

Only a month after his second surgery, Ali played in a charity match and made it through the whole game, although he told me afterwards that I had apparently roughed him up a little. Despite my apparent attempt to derail him, he has got on with his life and got it back on track. He returned to university and finished his degree in teaching physical education in high school, and he has resumed driving, working and playing sports. Ali's journey has been an inspiration for his friends and family and the North Beach Soccer Club, which rallied around him to support him through his battle with brain cancer.

Unfortunately, only nine months after Ali's diagnosis and subsequent defeat of brain cancer, the Westwood family and North Beach were devastated when Trevor Westwood, Ali's father, was diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. This Sunday, I will join the North Beach Soccer Club for a golf day fundraiser to raise funds in support of the Westwood family at this difficult time. Trevor's wife, Claire, has shared some of Trevor's story for me to share today.

Born in the United Kingdom, Trevor, “Trev”, was a plumbing and heating engineer for 35 years before emigrating to Perth in 2009. After arriving in Perth, Trevor changed careers for seven years and worked at the RAC driving centre as a trainer and assessor until it was closed. He then went to the police and community youth centre to work as a trainer, teaching Indigenous students in years 11 and 12 how to change their lives and build a better future for themselves and their families.

Trevor’s greatest and proudest achievement in life is the love and support he has given his family. He is deeply proud of his three children, Lauren, Ross and Ali, and how they have adapted and thrived in Perth after relocating at the ages of 15, 14 and 11 years old. He is also proud of how, as a family, and with the support of many friends at North Beach, the Westwood family navigated through Ali’s diagnosis of brain cancer and his journey to defeat it after two surgeries.

Trevor is not someone who minces his words. He gets very passionate about soccer, especially when Ali and Ross are playing. Trevor is cherished by his family, who are all members of the North Beach Soccer Club, and he will be deeply missed by us all. I hope that Trevor finds some solace in knowing that part of his story is now recorded in *Hansard* of the Western Australian Parliament, as it is in the memory of the Westwood family and the North Beach family, who will be there for his family long into the future. I wish Ali a wonderful and happy wedding in April. His story is an inspiration and a reminder to us all that the time we have on this planet is a gift. To the Parkers—Callum, Gavin, and Brooke—I did not have the privilege of knowing Nicola, but having become friends with Callum and seeing the type of human being she raised, I know she was a wonderful woman.

At the golf day this Sunday, I will present an official *Hansard* extract of this speech to each family as a reminder of the positive impact they have had on the North Beach Soccer Club, the Scarborough community and this world. I hope that having your stories etched into the public record of the Parliament of Western Australia for as long as it exists, provides some solace. Up the Beach! Thank you.

Question put and passed.

## ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

### *Special*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House)** [3.30 pm]: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 14 February 2023 at 1.00 pm.

Today, we come to the end of the second year of the forty-first Parliament. It is traditional at this time to reflect on the year just past, which of course saw a number of significant events worldwide, nationally and in the state, including the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. There were some other notable Australian passings during this year: Olivia Newton-John, Judith Durham, Archie Roach, Uncle Jack Charles, our own Yvette Mooney from Channel Seven, John Hamblin from *Play School* and, of course, Western Australia’s greatest wicketkeeper Rod Marsh, who passed earlier this year along with cricketing great Shane Warne, amongst others.

This year Parliament opened on Tuesday, 15 February. Today marks our fifty-first sitting day of the year, if we include the three days of the budget period. This equates to 17 regular sitting weeks plus one week of budget estimates. During 2022, around 35 government bills were introduced into this house and around 40 bills were passed. Many significant bills were passed this year and although I will mention a few, I will not detract from the other significant achievements of ministers who passed bills through this place.

Earlier this year, we passed the Parliamentary Commissioner Amendment (Reportable Conduct) Bill 2021, which implements key recommendations of the landmark Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The ever hardworking Attorney General has gone to a very important meeting, he tells me. As he left the chamber, he said to me that if I defame him in my song today, I will not have parliamentary privilege, apparently. I beg to differ. I am no lawyer but I think that constitutionally he is wrong. I can say that because he is not here. The Attorney General delivered the Bail Amendment Bill 2022. This legislation will ensure that child victims of alleged sexual offences are at the centre of decisions around bail, and it will also strengthen parole laws for persons linked to terrorism. The Emergency Management Amendment (Temporary COVID-19 Provisions) Bill 2022 was passed to allow for the ongoing management of COVID-19 beyond a state of emergency.

Also worthy of a mention is the very hardworking and industrious Minister for Planning and the Railway (METRONET) Amendment Bill 2022. This was another milestone in the government’s program of job-creating Metronet programs. I will provide some quick stats. I am moving into using my Richie Benaud voice now because that is what I am, a sports minister. I am going to talk about a few stats: “Great to see a big crowd at Optus Stadium for the cricket”, even after I encourage them. I want to turn to some quick statistics: “Over to those.” This year around 277 questions on notice were asked. Thank God the former member for Dawesville is not here anymore because I tell members what! More than 782 questions without notice have been asked and answered, approximately 14 matters of public interest have been debated and I understand that we have passed 40 bills as of today. We have sat for over 300 hours to deliver almost 300 ministerial statements in this chamber and table 18 committee reports and 865 papers. We also welcomed the new member for North West Central after the by-election a few months ago.

We also want to give some thanks. Madam Speaker, we acknowledge you and your tremendous stewardship of the house and the work that you and your team do. I acknowledge the member for Forrestfield, the Deputy Speaker. I also acknowledge all the Acting Speakers—the members for Hillarys, Kalgoorlie, Dawesville, Landsdale, Cockburn and Albany—and thank them for their work. I acknowledge and thank the Clerk, Kirsten Robinson, and her amazing team, including Scott Nalder, Liz Kerr, Isla Macphail, Thomas Moorhead, Rachel Wells, Denis Hippolyte, Lachlan Gregory, Lisa Bellano, Alison O’Shaughnessy, Nikolas Carbone, Darren Seet, Marie Martin, Anne Day and Molly Rogers-Thomson. Let us not forget, of course, the amazing committee staff who worked so tirelessly to produce the 18 reports that were tabled in this place over the year.

I want to very sincerely thank the member for Belmont, who is the government Whip, and who does a tremendous job. We also thank her current staff member, Jason Timms, and her former staff member Ryan Harte for their work. On this side of the house, the Whip has a very big job, given the number of members, so I want to thank the member for Belmont. I also acknowledge the member for Joondalup, who is not able to be here today, who steps in very quickly when asked if the Whip is not available. I thank the muzzled manager of opposition business, who is wearing his very stylish—he looks a bit like Hannibal Lecter. Premier, we could have lent him a Hannibal Lecter mask! There he is: “Hello, Clarice. I’m having some friends over for dinner.” I thank the member for Moore. We have had a few good conversations, but it has been a very workable arrangement and I appreciate his support. To the effervescent member for Roe who is the opposition Whip, who can at least count the fingers on one hand, given the onerous task that he has, but he does it with affability, which is great—well done. It is also good to collaborate with him on the running of the house.

Yesterday, I highlighted that next year we will be operating under the new sitting hours, as we know, and using the draconian voting system we voted for.

I want to acknowledge the Parliamentary Services team, headed by Rob Hunter and his deputy, Patricia Traegde, which includes Security and Reception Services. They have done a great job. They have kept us secure and safe. If I possibly can, I want to heritage list the bollards that used to be out the front. I am very keen to heritage list those. They are now in the car park.

**The SPEAKER:** They are now planters.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes, they are flowerpots—planters. I do not know whether members noticed that.

**Mr S.J. Price:** They were sewage pipes.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** They take the excess effluent from this place, and there is plenty of that, or so they say.

I acknowledge the Parliamentary Services team, which includes Tony Paterson from Security; Stephanie Nguyen; David Boag and all the gardeners and cleaners; our Building Services team, headed by Hugh McCaffrey; and the welcoming reception team. I also acknowledge the authorised officers, I think they are called—the police officers.

**Mr P. Papalia:** Auxiliary officers.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** The auxiliary officers diligently keep us safe from anybody who is lurking around the corridors. Speaking of lurking, a former member was lurking in the corridors earlier. We welcome him if he is still in the building.

I also want to acknowledge the Parliamentary Education Office staff. They are marvellous. Sadly, as members know, Peter Dooley, who was here at the closing of Parliament last year, passed away earlier this year. That was felt very strongly, particularly by the staff and the Parliamentary Education Office. What a great bloke he was. So, too, are the tremendous education staff.

We thank Belinda Corey, Jordie Leavesley, Cherie Toovey, Ben Machowiak, David Cox, Tina Beale, Alison O’Shaughnessy and Sarah Knox.

To Laurie Mansell and the Hansard team, one of whom is here today, thank you for your tremendous deciphering of what we say in this place and your tremendous work.

We also thank Ben D’Lima and the IT team, who of course do all sorts of things. For those of us who still rely on carrier pigeons, I am in awe of the IT people. To Elma Ozich and the Finance team, Tina Hunter and the Human Resources team, and Judy Ballantyne and the Library team, who are still going on up there on the second floor, thank you. Dave Embry and the audiovisual team, thank you very much. You do a great job. If you could just give me a bit more hair, I would really be pleased. Enno Schijf, Mark Gabrielli and the wonderful staff in the lounges and the dining room do a great job. They are wonderful. To the waitstaff, thank you so much for putting up with our idiosyncrasies. They put up with us and they do it so well.

I want to acknowledge Amanda Low. Amanda had a little bub, her first child, a few months ago. Amanda brought her little baby in the other day. She is from the parliamentary support team. Clare Duckworth, Kate Colleran and Julie Knight, thank you all for your support. It is wonderful. It is tremendous. I just go into Parliamentary and Executive Government Services and say, “This is what’s happening”, even if I do not know exactly what is happening, but they make it look like I do, and that is great.

I thank the staff in the Premier's office—Josh and all the team there who assist in keeping the office going. I think it is really important at this time of the year for all of us to acknowledge our electorate staff. Like all members, our electorate staff are remarkable. I have been in Parliament for nearly 22 years. I think our electorate staff deal with issues and complexities that I did not deal with back when I first started. To all the electorate staff, thank you—the researchers and all those people who do a tremendous job in our offices. I thank you sincerely. I include my own staff—Larissa, Krystal, Matthew, Shelley and Fran. Fran has been with me since I started. She is still there. I think she is either deaf and she keeps turning up or does not really care about me much. I know she does. Fran, I am very sorry. I love you.

I want to acknowledge all the ministerial staff in my office—Gary, Tarnya, Kym, Caroline, Melissa, Amy, Danielle, Megan, Demi-May and Georgia, who has just left us, but I wish her the very best. Jock has also left us; there is a bit of a pattern here. Kelly Howat, who has also left us, but thank you, Kelly. Jake has also gone. There are a few who have left. It is a bit of a worry. I have very stable staff. Of course, I thank Heloise and Greta, who have just joined us. Good luck! They love it. It is great fun. We have a lot of time. I do sport one day and ballet the next. It is all good.

I also want to acknowledge Alannah MacTiernan's retirement. We are going to try to finish early so that those who wish to listen to her final words in the other place can do that. I want to thank her, particularly on behalf of the people of Mandurah. They are forever indebted to her stoic stewardship of the railway project. It has delivered change to my electorate and to the people of my electorate.

It is important to acknowledge our families. That is critical. It is really good that there have been some changes to the sitting hours because that means that most of us can possibly spend longer with our families, if they want us back. To my family—Donna, my sons Jack, Charlie and Samuel, and Mia—thank you for letting me do this job, because it is not easy.

I turn to the annual song. Everyone comes up to me during the year and says, “What are you going to do?”, “How about you do this?”, “What are you going to say?”, “Why don't you do that?”, or, “I've got an idea.” Margaret Quirk, the member for Landsdale, sent me a great email. Sorry, Margaret, I am not using any of yours, but it was great. It was really good. The Premier loves AC/DC, and I thought about doing a bit of AC/DC. I do not know why the Premier has a fascination with AC/DC, but he does. I did consult. This week I had a group of students from Lakelands Primary School in my electorate. A young fellow named Brayden Rodriguez emailed me some suggestions. He did; he emailed me yesterday. We had an intense discussion about the complexities involved in framing and forming an appropriate piece of creative work. I have not used any of it! I want say to Brayden that given the theme, the vibe, if I used some of his stuff, it would probably go feral but then I realised it is not feral; it is viral, which is the word he would probably use.

I mentioned the Attorney. He came over to me and said that before he went down to meet some judges, he needed to remind me of what would occur if I defamed him in my song. It was a veiled threat. So thank goodness I put him in the song. I am very pleased about that. I try to talk to my mum and dad as much as possible. I want to acknowledge that my very good friend the member for Armadale is going through some difficulties with his mum. Our thoughts are with him at this difficult time.

Lots of things happened in this place, Madam Speaker, as you know. There are lots of things that members of the public do not see and lots of things that the media do not see here. That is probably good. In the end, I thought I would write a letter to my mum and dad and tell them about some of the stuff that goes on. We look back on 2022 and all the things that have gone on. Here it is, for 2022 —

Hello Mudda, Hello Fadda,  
I am stuck here in the Parliament,  
And this year has been straining,  
And the speeches given here are often draining.

The year started somewhat sinister,  
Then we got a new Prime Minister.  
And remember Emma Peel,  
She got elected in North Sydney as a Teal.

And if it couldn't get any stranger,  
The member for Tangney is a dolphin trainer!  
And to make things really certain,  
Kathryn Chaney beat the Libs in the seat of Curtin.

The Liberal Party is in disorder,  
They meet in a phone box round the corner.  
Now I really don't wanna bore ya,  
But they also got a pasting in Victoria.

Let me go home, oh, Madam Speaker,  
Please let me go or I might get savaged by the member for Roe.

In the chamber it can be deceiving,  
 Sometimes it looks like, no-one is breathing.  
 If they're not in the bar boozing,  
 Then they'll be in here, fidgeting and snoozing.

Now there's Amber, who likes camping,  
 She prefers that to Ambulance ramping.  
 Then there's Rita the concreter,  
 Give her some land and she'll build on every metre.

In the Chamber, Quigley's sleeping,  
 And his mobile phone is beeping.  
 While up here, he's quite a shopper,  
 He arrives to Parliament in a helicopter.

I have to be careful with this one —

The dining room is chockers,  
 It's full of school kids and old ... people.  
 The guests can be very demanding,  
 As we watch our waistlines rapidly expanding.

The sewerage bollards are now planters,  
 But they don't protect us from the ranters.  
 Up here there are no faxes,  
 And we still get harassed by all the antivaxers.

The Premier's known from ground to sky,  
 His popularity is very high.  
 Support comes from dads and mums,  
 Some have tattoos of the Premier on their bums.

Question Time here is very boring,  
 I cannot hear above the snoring,  
 And another speech is starting,  
 While the member for Carine has started farting.

Mudda, Fadda, its now December,  
 Marshie and Warnie we fondly remember.  
 Well the Queen died, and we'll missa,  
 And we lost our elephant that we called Tricia.

We bid farewell to our Alannah,  
 A big THANK YOU reads the banner,  
 But nothing causes a kerfuffle,  
 Than rumours of a Cabinet Reshuffle.

So Merry Christmas Madam Speaka,  
 We all wish you Christmas cheea.  
 I'm sure that after the palava,  
 We'll all be back again here next year!

Merry Christmas everybody.

[Applause.]

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [3.53 pm]: I think every comedy act needs a straight man to follow, and that is me. It is a hard act to follow every year. Once again the member for Mandurah has been very entertaining, although a little bit partisan, I think, on this occasion. He was a bit hard on the poor old Liberal Party. I also thank him for his guidance of the house and the way that we have been able to negotiate and discuss matters. He gets a little bit grumpy if there are motions directly attacking him, but apart from that he is generally fairly easy to work around.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for your guidance and work in trying to keep some semblance of order in this place, which does get difficult at times, as we all know. I also thank the Deputy Speaker in that regard. I note that in the last special adjournment, I spoke of the Deputy Speaker's stumbling performance when reading the *Lord's Prayer*. I have seen an improvement. Now you seem to be able to get the words out without completely falling apart in the chair. I think that is a sign of great improvement.

I would also like to thank the Acting Speakers for giving up their time. We know they could be back in their offices picking up correspondence and the rest, but instead they sit in the chair and give up their time without getting any real reward other than participating in the business of the house. Thanks very much to all those Acting Speakers.

Thank you to our Clerk, Kirsten Robinson; her deputy, Scott Nalder; and the Clerk Assistant (Procedure), Liz Kerr. Thank you to all the chamber staff, Lachlan Gregory, Rachel Wells, Denis Hippolyte, Alison O'Shaughnessy, Nik Carbone, Marie Martin, Ms Bellano and Darren Seet. My apologies if I have missed anyone. They have done so well in dealing with all the changes we have seen. I ended the year wearing a mask. We all started the year in a mask and different arrangements had to be put in place. It has fallen back on the staff members to enable that to happen. I would like to welcome our new Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Moorhead. I nearly fell over when he first came in and announced to honourable members that the Speaker was approaching because it sounded like a bomb went off in the chamber! For so long we have had females in that role and we listened to a female voice when coming in. I acknowledge the former Sergeant-at-Arms Dr Isla Macphail, who has been appointed to the role of Clerk Assistant (Committees).

With that, I also thank all the committee staff who provide support for those members who do valuable work on the committees. Most of us know that some of the chairs do a lot. A lot of the other committee members are made to look really good because of the work the research officers and principal research officers do—thanks to them. The committees enable members who are not part of the executive to contribute to a lot of knowledge and bring forward some really important matters. One example is the *Enough is enough: 2022 progress report* that the member for Vasse, as Chair of the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee, all the other committee members and their research staff took part in and brought down in June. It is a landmark report and a very important piece of work indeed.

Every year, members of the National Party give a token to all the hardworking people in the Parliament as a thankyou. This year it was the member for Moore's turn to provide the said token. I nearly fell over backwards when I was told I had to provide gifts for 200 people, because that is how many people work in the Parliament altogether. They keep our lights on and the gardens in the great order they are in. They provide us with security and provide education and library services, they run the dining room and, of course, produce *Hansard*. I will run through exactly where these people work: 35 people work in Hansard; 34 work in the Council and on its committees—these figures were on the list I was provided, so I hope it is right—33 work in catering; 31 work in the Legislative Assembly and on the Assembly committees; 11 work in the Library; 11 work for Building Services, including the grounds staff; 10 work in security and on reception; 10 work in IT; eight work in Finance; six work in the Parliamentary Education Office; five work in HR; and four work in the Parliamentary Services Department executive offices. In addition, as the member for Mandurah pointed out, we have auxiliary officers who patrol the grounds and keep us safe from people who want to get into the Parliament at nine o'clock at night or whatever. For all those people, on behalf of the opposition, I would like to extend our thanks. Without you, we would not be able to do the job that we do. Also, the media team here play a very important role in keeping the public abreast of the events here.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition; Leader of the National Party for the great amount of work that she puts in. I do not think people realise just how many hours the Leader of the National Party does every day and every week. She hardly ever has a day off. It is a very demanding role, especially with the very small number of people on this side of the chamber. That means we have a lot fewer support staff.

I would also like to thank my alliance colleagues, the members of the Liberal Party. I also want to thank the staff who work for us in this place, and the staff of the Leader of the Opposition. I also thank the executive officer to the state Parliamentary National Party, Michelle Rossouw, and the staff in my electorate office, Alison Cooke, Shelly O'Connor and Kylie Davis.

To all the members in this place who share this little pressure cooker of a chamber, I hope that as we head towards Christmas, you will be able to relax a bit more. I know that as soon as we finish in this place, members will be heading off to school concerts and other end-of-year events. I have 42 schools in the electorate of Moore, and I do not think I will be able to get to all the school concerts, because often four or five concerts are held on the same night. It will be a different time, and everybody will be on the road. I hope that everyone will keep safe. We do not want to have to hold any more by-elections in the short term due to unforeseen circumstances, so please keep safe.

To all the members of cabinet, I hope you get a rest. No doubt there will be a lot of consideration of the fabulous reshuffle that the Premier has spoken about with the retirement of Alannah MacTiernan. Alannah MacTiernan has served in pretty well every sphere of government in this country, and regardless of whether people agree with whatever she has done, there can be no doubt about the level of service that she has provided to Western Australia.

With that, I wish members all the very best. Merry Christmas, everybody. I hope to see you all again next year.

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [4.01 pm]: I also wish everyone the best for the Christmas break and Christmas holiday. It is hard to believe this is the end of another sitting year. I think this is my twenty-sixth sitting year. I am not sure that I have made 26 Christmas speeches, but I have made a few.

It is a fact that this year, the Legislative Assembly sat for 328 hours, there were nearly 300 brief ministerial statements, and we passed at least 41 bills. However, those are not the things that defined this parliamentary year. The main thing was our transition out of the COVID pandemic. I think that is what will be remembered in the future about 2022. Members might recall the controversy in the first couple of months of the year about the delay to the border opening.

That was quite a big deal for a lot of people. The reason for that delay was the massive COVID outbreak that was occurring in the eastern states, and the fact that this state had relatively low vaccination rates, and the delay gave us extra time to get more people vaccinated. I suspect that that one-month delay saved the lives of a great many people in Western Australia, and I am confident we made the right decision. We have now transitioned out of the state of emergency. We no longer have any formal laws in place to deal with COVID, but we obviously have the capacity to reinstate those laws should that be required. I know that there was also a lot of controversy around that, but it all amounted to nothing. We wanted to ensure that we had laws in place in case they were necessary, and at this point in time our advisers do not regard that as necessary.

It was a historic moment for the state and the commonwealth when the Queen passed away earlier this year. Members might recall that that was very confusing for the Parliament. We came to Parliament for a few minutes to pass a motion to acknowledge the former Queen, and then a motion to acknowledge the new King. The Queen reigned for over 70 years, which is longer than most people's lifetime and certainly longer than most people's memory. That event was a historic occasion for this Parliament.

Some refurbishments were undertaken to the Parliament that you were responsible for, Madam Speaker. The Labor Party now has a bigger caucus room. It is quite something to have a larger room. Some changes were also made to the air conditioning in the building. Up until this year, the air conditioning in my office, and the office of every Premier going back 60 years, was controlled by whoever occupied the office of the member for Maylands. I always found that in winter I was too cold, and in summer I was too hot, because however the member for Maylands was feeling was how the air conditioning in my office would operate. It was a great achievement, Madam Speaker, to have that fixed so that future Premiers will be able to enjoy the control of their own air conditioning.

I will not go through all the achievements of the government and the Parliament throughout the year. It would be fair to say, because it is true, that Western Australia is the strongest and most successful state in the commonwealth and one of the strongest and most successful states in the entire world. We can all be very proud of that. Economically and financially, Western Australia leads the nation and is doing the best of any country in the world. All the indicators point to this state doing incredibly well in employment and financial management to ensure that we are well prepared to withstand whatever the world will throw at us. However, a government needs to do more than that. We have done many good, solid and progressive things to make this state a fairer place. I note that the Attorney General, who earlier was grievously defamed by the Leader of the House's poetry, has today introduced reforms to the mental health system. We expect to pass those reforms, which have been talked about forever, next year to benefit and help people suffering from mental illnesses. We also announced today our intention to ban conversion therapy in Western Australia. These are very important initiatives that will help people in the community.

That builds on our announcement earlier this year about reforms to our gun laws to protect people in this state, and our announcement of reforms to bring our abortion laws into alignment with the position in other states and enhance the capacity of women to deal with their own bodies. That also builds on our budget announcements to extend the support for children in care from the current age of 18 to the age of 21, and to provide \$350 million for remote Aboriginal communities. The Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act was proclaimed, I think, earlier this year. That builds on the earlier achievements of the Parliament during the term of this government for safe access zones, and to provide the capacity for child victims of sexual assault to sue for the remainder of their lives. We have also achieved the domestic violence reforms, and the historic voluntary assisted dying reforms, which were passed in 2019 and came into effect in the middle of 2020.

On top of that, we have made some amazing changes to conservation in this state, with the biggest expansion of the conservation estate in the history of Western Australia, the reforms and rules around the use of plastics in Western Australia and our announcement about phasing out the use of coal-fired power generation in Western Australia by the end of this decade.

Not only do we have strong and successful economic and financial policies, but also, at the same time, we are doing amazing, progressive things and making life better for many people across the state.

In terms of thankyou's, I would like to thank you, Madam Speaker, for your role in the chamber over the course of the last year. I would also like to thank the Clerk and all the chamber staff, and the Parliament House staff throughout the building and in the grounds—security, reception, cleaners, kitchen staff and gardeners, and everyone else who makes this place run effectively and well. I sincerely thank all those people.

I also thank the Leader of the House, Minister Templeman, for his efforts throughout the year in negotiating the legislation through this chamber. Well done. To the Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council, Minister Ellery, to all the ministers and members of Parliament, to all the members of the upper house, and of course to the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the Liberal Party, the government Whip and the government Deputy Whip, and to the members of the opposition, both here and in the other house, I acknowledge and thank you for your role.

I also acknowledge my personal staff who assist me in Parliament, in particular Josh Jerga and Ben Coates, and my staff in the West Perth and Rockingham offices, who have done a tremendous job over 2022. I also thank the

executive services team from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet who keep the house moving. It used to be Amanda and Clare. It is now Kate and Julie. To all the staff in my agencies, in particular the Public Sector Commission, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, and the Department of Treasury, you are all terrific public servants and I thank you for your support and assistance and the extraordinary work that you do.

I also acknowledge my own electorate staff; obviously, we have had a few issues over the course of the last few years. I thank the police unit that is my protection detail for their support, particularly over the last couple of years, with some of the issues out there.

Penultimately, I thank Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who I understand is about to deliver her valedictory speech in the other place. Going back to the 1980s, she has served at the City of Perth—with you, Madam Speaker—then at the Legislative Council, the Legislative Assembly, the Town of Vincent, the House of Representatives and, finally, at the Legislative Council again. She is the longest serving female minister in the history of Western Australia, having served for 13 years as a minister. As I said in question time, she is a doer and an achiever. If people want someone who is an achiever in their political life, they need only look to her. I would like to thank her for her service over all those years. The only place she has not been elected to is the Senate, and I would not wish that on her! I am so grateful for her service, and I am sure members of the government agree with me, as would many members of the public of Western Australia.

Finally, I thank my own family, my wife and children, for their support. Thanks, everyone.

Members: Hear, hear!

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition)** [4.11 pm]: I also rise to say a few brief words as we close out the 2022 parliamentary year. I will start by thanking you, Madam Speaker, and the team who keeps everything moving in this chamber and behind the scenes; you are very much appreciated. To the Premier and his cabinet ministers and the staff who provide briefings and answers to questions from our electorate officers, thank you very much. It is very much appreciated.

To members in this chamber, it does get a little willing in here sometimes, but when we get to the end of the year, it is nice that we can walk out the door and enjoy some good cheer; hopefully, that will occur this afternoon. I wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas with your families.

I endorse, and agree with, the list that was put forward by the manager of government business, the Premier and the opposition's manager of business of all the wonderful people we get to work alongside in this Parliament, who keep it going. It is a unique place in which to work, and we are reminded of that every time someone comes to visit and their awe at going into the dining room or the chamber, or listening to the Parliamentary Education Office, or speaking with the staff. We are truly privileged to be in this chamber, supported by some incredibly intelligent, committed and dedicated staff. I say to everyone who is part of that ecosystem, thank you very much. On behalf of the opposition, we really appreciate it.

To my alliance partners, our colleagues in the Liberal Party, thank you very much. We are a small team, and it has been a pleasure to work alongside you over the course of the last 12 months. I thank my own team in the Nationals WA: the member for Moore, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who has stepped in on countless pieces of legislation and worn many hats, as we all do as opposition shadow ministers; the Whip, who very diligently does his job and has done exactly the same in stepping into a number of portfolios across the course of the year; and the member for North West Central, who I welcome and who is settling in very nicely to her role and is taking every opportunity to stand up on behalf of her constituents; we look forward to another two years of that.

I want to also add to the comments by the Premier and the member for Mandurah on Hon Alannah MacTiernan. Every opposition has to have someone they love to hate, and Alannah is that honourable minister! There is absolutely no doubt that she is a hard worker. I have great respect for someone who, no matter what the position of the room, will turn up and prosecute their argument, whether it is a room full of angry farmers in my electorate or anywhere else in the state. You have to have admiration for someone who has made such a long contribution to public service at such a high level. I genuinely offer her my congratulations on her service to Western Australia, even though from time to time our positions have been at opposite ends of the political continuum. I am very hopeful that she will have a long and enjoyable retirement.

To my staff and our electorate officers who are out there on the front line, as has already been mentioned, we could not do the job we do without you. We are also very, very appreciative of the very committed team in the Leader of the Opposition's office.

On that note, having gone through the year of 2022 with a federal election, a by-election and the passing of the head of state, I am looking forward to a break, and I hope you all are, too. I wish you all a very safe and merry Christmas.

Members: Hear, hear!

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [4.15 pm]: I will start at the top by thanking all the parliamentary staff who do such a fantastic job and really make us look better than we might otherwise look. I include

in that all the teams at work; I will not go through them all, because that has already been done extensively by previous speakers. It is not just service you provide, but also good company. Sometimes Parliament can be a lonely place, yet all the staff have such good cheer and provide such good company, and that is something I greatly appreciate.

I thank you, Madam Speaker, the Deputy Speaker and the Acting Speakers. I say to you personally, Madam Speaker: I am especially grateful for your good counsel and wise guidance. It is marvellous to see that the position is above partisan politics, and I greatly appreciate and respect that.

It has been said by members opposite many times in this chamber that the last election was not so good for us. It was obviously an outcome that we did not intend; nevertheless, that is the reality of life and something we have had to cope with as an opposition. I am really proud of the job that the opposition has done in this Parliament, and especially in this chamber, given the smaller numbers we have.

I thank all my own parliamentary colleagues, who have worked so hard. A small number of members means lots of work. I especially want to acknowledge my deputy, the member for Vasse, Libby Mettam, who has done such a fantastic job during this time. We could not do our job if we did not have cooperation and good help from our Nationals WA colleagues, so I want to especially note that relationship. I thank the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mia Davies, for the good guidance she provides the team; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Moore; our Whip, the member for Roe; and the member for North West Central, who I welcome to this place.

I want to thank all the staff who work in our offices. It is a big workload for all of them, and because our parliamentary workload is so high, our office staff carry a particular load, and I am really grateful for that. I acknowledge our chiefs of staff, Sam Harma for the Nationals WA and Michael Huston for the Liberal Party. Again, they have to carry an extra load because of the work we are doing here.

I thank all our families. We all know that families play second fiddle to our unusual schedules and the time that we have to put in here. I am especially grateful for that, and I thank all the families. Political life is unusual in that regard, and there are so many other commitments outside this place.

To all members in this chamber, thank you. We have our moments, and sometimes debate in the chamber can get a bit willing, but I respect the fact that every person in this place is here because they want to make Western Australia a better place, so thank you for that contribution. I wish everyone in this chamber a very happy Christmas, and I hope you have a safe and happy new year. Thank you.

Members: Hear, hear!

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [4.18 pm]: I thank everyone who has contributed to this final motion, particularly our Leader of the House; the Deputy Leader of the Opposition; the Leader of the Opposition; the Premier; and the Leader of the Liberal Party. I thank each of you for your generous words of support for me, for the staff of Parliament House and, more specifically, of our chamber staff here. I particularly want to thank our excellent Deputy Speaker, the member for Forrestfield; and our outstanding Acting Speakers, the members for Albany, Cockburn, Dawesville, Hillarys, Kalgoorlie and Landsdale. You have all done an excellent job.

I also want to thank, in particular, our Clerk, Kirsten Robinson; our Deputy Clerk, Scott Nalder; our Clerk Assistants, Liz Kerr and Isla Macphail, and formerly Mat Bates, who now has palatial offices in the Northern Territory Parliament; and all our chamber, research and committee staff. More particularly, I would like to thank Anne Day, Molly Rogers-Thomson and Anna Murphy, who do such a great job of looking after us.

To Rob Hunter, Patricia Traegde, Elma Ozich and the Parliamentary Services Department team, you all do a sensational job. To Belinda Corey, the Director of Parliamentary Information and Education, Judy Ballantyne and the team in the Parliamentary Library, our Building Services team headed by Hugh McCaffrey, our gardening team headed by David Boag, our Security team headed by Tony Paterson, and our Reception Services team, I could not be prouder of all of you. Enno Schijf, our Catering Services Manager, and Mark Gabrielli, our Dining Room Manager, you, too, do an excellent job. I thank you and all your staff who look after us so well, as do our Hansard and Reporting Services team, including the broadcast team, headed by Laurie Mansell, and our Information Technology team headed by Ben D'Lima. I make special mention of our staff at the gym, who do a great job, but I make special mention in particular of Sammy Prost, who has had a significant health issue. I wish Sammy all the best for a full and speedy recovery.

My attention turns to the member for Mandurah. Leader of the House, each year you set a higher standard, and you have once again excelled. You have added a really fun dimension to our final proceedings of the year. In response can I say —

Leader of the House  
 Your performance was grouse  
 For your end of year song  
 We wait all year long  
 But to follow that  
 Is a very hard act

And here's the thing  
I can't sing  
With song I know I cannot compete  
I will not sing  
I will not dance  
But with this poem  
I'll take my chance  
You made us laugh  
You made us cry  
Your talent at this  
I really can't deny  
Some have said that you are witty  
Others have said that you are shy  
I don't know why  
Of some you were harsh  
Of some you were fair  
But as Speaker of the House  
I really didn't care  
To my fellow MPs  
And staff members too  
This message is also directed at you  
Make merry, have some fun  
School graduations have just begun  
Keep safe on the roads  
Keep safe in your car  
As you go to places both near and far  
Don't drive tired  
Don't over imbibe  
And make sure that you  
Enjoy time with your tribe  
And so to all of you gathered here  
I offer you some Christmas cheer  
Enjoy your Christmas  
Enjoy New Year  
With family and friends  
And all who are dear  
And so adieu—until next year.

[Applause.]

**The SPEAKER:** With that, I put the question.

Question put and passed.

*House adjourned at 4.23 pm*

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**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

**WATER — SEWERAGE**

**561. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth:**

I refer to planned areas for designate sewerage and deep sewerage systems and ask:

- (a) How many properties across Western Australia do not have access to deep sewerage systems? Please breakdown by local government area;
- (b) Of those in (a):
  - (i) How many are planned to be designate sewerage areas;
  - (ii) How many are in METRONET development areas; and
  - (iii) How many properties are in areas not rated for sewerage;
- (c) How many times has the Minister requested information relating to the Kenwick deep sewerage infill program; and
- (d) Given the Armadale rail line is being shut down in 2023 to facilitate upgrades to that train line, was any consideration given to facilitate works in the City of Gosnells so that residents in Kenwick would be able to connect to deep sewerage?

**Mr D.J. Kelly replied:**

The State Government Infill Sewerage Program (the Program) commenced in 1994 with an aim to connect properties that had a higher risk of environmental and health impacts. To achieve a reduction in health and environmental risks, \$800 million over a ten-year period was committed to provide a sewer connection to 100,000 existing properties utilising septic tanks. The Program achieved its objectives.

- (a) 24,265.  
[See tabled paper no [1739](#)] for breakdown by Local Government Area.
- (b)
  - (i) It is not understood what the Member means by “designate sewerage areas”.
  - (ii) Approximately 130 properties.
  - (iii) Refer (a)
- (c) 19.
- (d) Provision of deep sewerage is unrelated to the 2023 rail shut down.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT — INVESTMENT ATTRACTION AND NEW INDUSTRIES FUND**

**595. Mr R.S. Love to the Deputy Premier; Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade; Tourism; Commerce; Science:**

I refer to the Investment Attraction and New Industries Fund (IANIF), announced on 30 August 2021 and I ask:

- (a) What was the total amount expended in 2021–22;
- (b) As of 30 August 2022:
  - (i) How many applications were made to the IANIF;
  - (ii) How many projects received funding;
  - (iii) How many companies have moved to WA with the support of the fund;
  - (iv) Please list the companies in (b)(iii), and detail:
    - (A) The date they moved to Western Australia;
    - (B) Whether the company is registered in Western Australia;
    - (C) The locality the company moved to; and
    - (D) The jurisdiction the company moved from; and
  - (v) How many projects that received funding returned funding? Please list the projects;
- (c) Is the Government still committed to spending \$25 million per year through the IANIF;
- (d) How many jobs have been created by the IANIF to date? Please breakdown into regional and metropolitan;

- (e) Please provide a breakdown of the funding provided to date and the total amount budgeted for each of the following:
- (i) Australian Remote Operations for Space and Earth;
  - (ii) Industry-led Investment Attraction;
  - (iii) New Industries Fund; and
  - (iv) Space Industry; and
- (f) How much money, if any, has been spent on implementing the WA Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy to date:
- (i) Please detail the projects and businesses that have been recipients of any funding?

**Mr R.H. Cook replied:**

The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation advises:

The Investment Attraction and New Industries Fund was formally re-named the Investment Attraction Fund to separate it from the existing New Industries Fund. This response pertains to the Investment Attraction Fund.

- (a) Final detailed applications were received on 12 October 2022 and the formal assessment process is currently underway.
- (b) There were 201 submissions to the Investment Attraction Fund, resulting in 171 eligible expressions of interest. The final assessment of shortlisted applications is currently underway.
- (c) The Government is committed to supporting industry-led economic development projects and initiatives and creating jobs in Western Australia through the Investment Attraction Fund.
- (d) The assessment of applications to the Investment Attraction Fund is currently underway.
- (e) Funding from the Investment Attraction Fund has been allocated to the following areas:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Spend to 31/10/22</b>
Australian Remote Operations for Space and Earth	\$2.2 million	\$0
Investment Attraction Fund grants program	\$151.2 million	\$778, 221 *
New Industries Fund	\$16.7 million	\$3,423,404
Space Industry	\$4 million	\$626,379
Health and Medical Life Sciences Industry Strategy	\$5.9 million	\$121,138

\* Reflects program operational costs

- (f) Further to (e) this spend included funding for Innovation Booster Grants to the following four entities:
  - Biotome
  - Force Hooks
  - Protect Devices
  - Respiradigm.

Details of the recipients and their projects are available on Western Australian Government website.

