



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2024

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 28 November 2024

Legislative Assembly

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

LAURIE MANSELL — RETIREMENT

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [9.01 am]: I wish to inform the house of the retirement of Laurie Mansell, who is in my gallery today, after 34 years of service with Hansard. Laurie joined Hansard in December 1986 as a trainee reporter. Apart from brief stints with Channel Seven as a captioneer and as a Hansard reporter in the New South Wales Parliament, Laurie has dedicated his professional career to the Parliament of Western Australia. During that time he has worked as a reporter, a subeditor and as the manager of Reporting Services. Laurie stepped back from the role of manager in 2022 after 10 years as part of his transition to retirement. Laurie is well known to all staff for his calm and kind demeanour, and for his fair and thoughtful consideration of all decisions and requests. As a stalwart of the Western Australian Parliament, the refrain “Ask Laurie” has been heard from successive Presiding Officers and Clerks over many years as a tribute to his extensive corporate knowledge of Hansard. I ask members to join me in wishing Laurie a wonderful and well-deserved retirement after so many years of service. Thank you, Laurie.

[Applause.]

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER — PHOTOGRAPHER AND TELEVISION CAMERA ACCESS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [9.03 am]: Members, I advise that I have approved the presence of a television camera and a photographer from 2.00 pm today to enable coverage of question time and adjournment speeches.

CUNDERDIN HEALTH CENTRE

Petition

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [9.03 am]: I have a petition certified by the clerks from 620 petitioners in the following terms, and I acknowledge Councillor Alison Harris, the shire president of Cunderdin, who has been instrumental in bringing this to the chamber —

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

We the undersigned say, **Cunderdin urgently needs improved palliative care and extended stay options at the Cunderdin Health Service, so families in the area don't have to be moved outside of their local community for their final days due to a lack of capacity for short-stay observation outside the emergency department.**

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to: **Ensure the State Government, through the WA Country Health Service, fully funds a permanent, fit-for-purpose palliative care service in Cunderdin.**

[See petition 70.]

HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS — ACCOUNTABILITY

Petition

MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach) [9.04 am]: I have a petition that has been certified by the clerks from 463 petitioners in the following terms —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled. We, the undersigned say,

We call upon the Government of Western Australia to implement a robust system of accountability for healthcare professionals, particularly doctors, in the wake of the tragic and preventable death of 21-month-old Sandipan Dhar in March 2024.

Sandipan Dhar lost his life due to medical negligence at both the Key Largo Medical Centre and Joondalup Health Campus. Despite clear indications of a serious condition, doctors failed to conduct necessary blood tests, resulting in the undiagnosed progression of a blood-borne disease that ultimately took his life.

This tragic event has highlighted the urgent need for a system that ensures doctors are held accountable for their healthcare decisions. Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to urge the Government to:

1. **Establish Mandatory Protocols:** Introduce mandatory medical protocols that require essential diagnostic tests to be conducted when symptoms suggest a serious underlying condition, regardless of initial assessments.
2. **Implement a Review System:** Create a transparent review process for cases where medical negligence is suspected.
This system should involve independent medical experts and provide clear avenues for families to seek justice.
3. **Strengthen Penalties for Negligence:** Introduce stricter penalties for healthcare professionals found guilty of negligence, ensuring that accountability is enforced, and future tragedies are prevented.
4. **Increase Transparency in Healthcare:** Mandate that healthcare facilities publicly report incidents of medical negligence and the steps taken to address them.
5. **Provide Support for Affected Families:** Establish a government-funded support system for families who suffer the loss of a loved one due to medical negligence, including access to counselling, legal assistance, and financial aid.

Sandipan's death is a heartbreaking reminder of the devastating consequences of medical negligence. We believe that no family should have to endure such a loss, and we urge the Government of Western Australia to take immediate action to protect the public and ensure that healthcare providers are held to the highest standards of accountability.

[See petition 71.]

APPLECROSS SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL — ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS

Petition

MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman) [9.07 am]: I have a petition that has been certified by the clerks from three petitioners in the following terms —

To: The Honourable Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia, The State Government of Western Australia and The Department of Education.

From: The P&C, Concerned Parents, Community Members and Students of Applecross Senior High School.

We, the undersigned, respectfully petition the State Government of Western Australia and the Department of Education to immediately accelerate the allocation of funding for new building projects and infrastructure improvements at Applecross Senior High School. Urgent action is needed to address infrastructure shortfalls and ensure the school's continued success.

Applecross SHS is already at ~25% over capacity. The local population is growing at a fast rate and continuing to increase. Government enrolment projections have consistently been underestimated, with 2025 student enrolments expected to exceed 2,000 (more than 30% over the schools build capacity).

Classrooms are overcrowded. Temporary solutions, such as 16 transportable classrooms, are no longer sustainable, with the school running out of space for further transportable classrooms by 2026. No further trees can be removed. The oval and courts can not be used for transportable classrooms. Additional transportables will lead to the loss of sporting sheds and car parks. Our facilities cannot cope with the demand. The aging infrastructure poses safety risks and limitations on learning.

This is a constrained site, with our oval the only available land, being occupied by transportable. The oval is also being over utilised due to overdemand on our single gymnasium and pool that has been out of action for the past 18 months. Our oval is also a valuable community public open space connecting people, increasing physical activity and improving mental health.

Applecross SHS recently awarded *Excellence in Teaching and Learning (Secondary)* in 2024, as well as offering diverse ATAR and VET pathways, and commitment to staff development, stands out as one of the top-performing schools in the State. However, its growing success is now outpacing its capacity. Students at Applecross Senior High School deserve the same access to modern facilities as their peers in other districts and in new suburbs. Underfunding creates disparities in education quality, which can affect students' academic achievements and future opportunities.

Now, we call on the Legislative Assembly to commit to funding the first stage of essential infrastructure upgrades, identified from the following priorities:

1. **Commit to Long-Term Development:** Urgent development of a long-term infrastructure master plan.

2. **Prioritise Funding:** Immediately prioritise and expedite the release of funds allocated for school infrastructure projects in the budget, to provide for:
 - 24-28 General Classrooms
 - 12-16 Specialist rooms (eg Science, Home Economics, Design and Technology, and Hospitality)
 - Expanded Student Services facilities
 - Additional gymnasium
 - Additional toilets for both staff and students
3. **Begin Planning and Construction Immediately**
4. **Involve the Community**

We acknowledge the collaborative efforts of Principal Paul Leech, School Board Chair Andrew Dwyer, and Member for Bateman Kim Giddens MLA, who have worked tirelessly to progress this critical issue. The Applecross P&C is in full support of this work and adds its advocacy to this issue.

[See petition 72.]

Nonconforming Petition

Ms K.E. GIDDENS: In less than a week I had a further 296 signatures in a nonconforming format, making it a total of 299 signatures on the same matter.

ROAD SAFETY — MIDWEST

Petition

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [9.11 am]: I have a petition that has been signed by 46 people, which is not a bad effort from a community with a population of 100. The petition has been certified by the clerks as conforming to standing orders. It is couched in the following terms —

Petition — FAILING ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE MID WEST

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

We, the undersigned, express our deep concern at the appalling state of roads in the Mid West. Major freight routes are littered with potholes, tarmac has been ripped up and road shoulders are disintegrating, presenting a severe road safety risk to road users. We have particular road safety concerns as we approach the Wildflower and grain harvest season.

We therefore ask the Minister for Transport to immediately upgrade road infrastructure in the Mid West for the safety of all road users

And your petitioners as duty bound, will ever pray.

[See petition 73.]

PAPERS TABLED

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

FRINGE WORLD FESTIVAL

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.12 am]: The 2025 Fringe World Festival is nearly upon us. The Fringe World Festival is a massively popular annual event held in Perth and enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of people. In 2024, an impressive 600 000 attendees enjoyed free and ticketed events. Tickets are priced to represent great value, so people can enjoy multiple shows over several nights. More than 288 000 attendances at last year's festival were ticketed, and over \$10.2 million was spent at the box office.

The Fringe World Festival offers an incredible array of entertainment with something for everyone, from comedy and music to circus and much, much more. With over 2 600 artists and 450 events, it also provides important opportunities to showcase local and international talent.

The Cook Labor government is a proud supporter of the Fringe World Festival. Through Lotterywest, we have committed \$4.5 million, and through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, we have allocated an additional \$2.9 million to stage the festival in 2025, 2026 and 2027. This iconic summer festival is delivered by Artrage, a not-for-profit organisation that certainly punches well above its weight. The 2025 Fringe World Festival will undoubtedly be another season of world-class shows and events. I encourage everyone—in between doorknocking!—to experience the Fringe World Festival for themselves. Please come along and join the fun.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN MUSEUM BOOLA BARDIP*Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts*

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.14 am]: I inform the house about the outstanding achievements of the state's flagship cultural institution, WA Museum Boola Bardip, which was recently recognised at the Perth Airport WA Tourism Awards. Boola Bardip took out the gold award for major tourist attraction for the second year in a row, as well as the silver award in cultural tourism. Since opening on 21 November 2020, Boola Bardip has continued to achieve new milestones. In this past year alone it has welcomed some 400 000 patrons, 120 000 of whom were visitors to our state. The consistently high satisfaction rates of 96 to 97 per cent are a testament to the dedication and excellence of the WA Museum team. I thank all staff, including Alec Coles, CEO, on their success at the tourism awards and acknowledge and congratulate all other tourism awards finalists and award winners.

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA*Statement by Minister for Heritage*

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.15 am]: I rise to share some of the highlights of another busy and successful year in the heritage portfolio. The heritage grants program, managed by the Heritage Council of Western Australia, helps ensure that future generations will experience our unique cultural and architectural heritage. Later today, I will announce details of 39 grant recipients who will share in \$1.22 million in funding. The grants will help owners with the costs of important conservation works such as masonry repairs, stabilisation and re-roofing, and contribute to projects that reactivate places for heritage tourism or for the benefit and enjoyment of the public.

The state Register of Heritage Places lies at the heart of our historic heritage. This year, a diverse mix of places was added to the register. They include the historic Nedlands landmark of the Loreto Convent and primary school, the brutalist 1960s architecture of Hale School Memorial Hall and the former Ford Motor Company factory, known to many as the home of Matilda Bay Brewing Company.

As we approach a significant milestone in our state's history in 2029, our heritage places have an important role to play in telling our Western Australian story, so it is pleasing to know the Heritage Council is presently focused on ensuring that the stories of Aboriginal people and places, women, non-English speaking migrants and working people are better reflected in the state heritage register.

In September, I had the privilege of announcing that the \$150 million redevelopment of the much-loved Perth Concert Hall is set to begin next year. The refurbishment will restore the 51-year-old building's glory while retaining its renowned acoustics and enhancing its connection with the surrounding landscape. Other heritage conservation projects that have progressed this year, or had funding confirmed, include \$7.6 million for the Geraldton heritage precinct, Ngurra Barlunggu, on Yamatji country; and \$3.8 million for Strawberry Hill at Barmup, on Menang Noongar country in Albany.

This year's Australian Heritage Festival took place across April and May, with 85 organisers hosting more than 130 events across Western Australia. This Friday night, at Walyalup Civic Centre, the Heritage Council will be hosting the Western Australian Heritage Awards, and I will be pleased to be there. The record number of 55 nominations highlights the wonderful work of volunteers, professionals and organisations across Western Australia to support the preservation, celebration and stories of our state's historic heritage places. I thank the Heritage Council of Western Australia, the National Trust of Western Australia, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and, most of all, the organisations, communities and individuals, many of whom are volunteers, who contribute to the care of our cultural heritage places.

VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING — SECONDARY EDUCATION*Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development*

MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [9.18 am]: I rise to inform the house about the strong uptake of vocational education and training courses by secondary students following a \$42.8 million investment by this government to create more training places for school students to engage in pre-apprenticeships and STEM-related, industry-relevant training courses. We took to the last election a plan to get more WA students into vocational education and training courses and provide them with access to the more sophisticated technical skills offered at TAFE and specialist private registered training organisations. This boost to VET delivered in the secondary student program will support both the public and private school sectors across regional and remote WA. So far this year, there have been almost 9 800 enrolments in VET delivered to secondary students program, building on the 8 604 enrolments last year. These strong results have been supported by flexibilities introduced to turbocharge uptake, including access to skill sets, a second funded vocational qualification for year 11 and 12 students and access to certificate II courses, including pre-apprenticeships, for year 10 students.

Vocational courses provide a crucial introduction to training for secondary students and assist them to plan career options. They can also give students a nationally recognised qualification when they leave school and contribute towards them attaining a Western Australian Certificate of Education. Pre-apprenticeships in particular give students the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills to begin an apprenticeship when they leave school. We know that students who have completed a vocational course, particularly pre-apprenticeships, are valued by employers because they commence their careers having already experienced on-the-job training. I am pleased that our plan to get more WA students into training is doing just that—giving more young people the best opportunity to get into well paid, quality jobs.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY — STATUTORY POSITIONS — MINES

Statement by Minister for Industrial Relations

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Industrial Relations) [9.20 am]: I rise to inform the house about progress on the transitional arrangements for mines statutory positions. The state government recognises the disproportionate number of workplace injuries and incidents in the mining sector. We are doing everything we can to mitigate these risks because everyone has the right to come home safe from work. The Work Health and Safety (Mines) Regulations 2022 prescribe statutory positions in relation to mines that carry out important work health and safety functions associated with mining operations. These positions include mine site senior executives, managers, supervisors and specialists such as mine air quality officers, noise officers and surveyors. Statutory positions are required to undertake work health and safety legislation exams delivered and supervised by the WorkSafe group of the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety.

In March 2024, I directed WorkSafe to amend the regulations and extend the transition period for completing the legislation exams, which was originally set to expire on 30 March 2025. I am pleased to advise the house that the amended regulations took effect on 14 November 2024, extending the transition period to 30 March 2026. This provides more time for mining industry statutory position holders and applicants to complete their exams. The state government has established four exam centres, in Cannington, North Lake, Kalgoorlie and Bunbury, with a further two exam centres set to be open early next year, in Karratha and Geraldton. Thousands of people have passed the exams. I am pleased to see that the exams continue to be delivered at an increasing rate, ensuring capacity for all candidates to access exams.

This government knows that the Western Australian mining industry is the powerhouse of our economy. We will always work to ensure that risks in the mining sector are effectively controlled.

VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING ACT — STATUTORY REVIEW — REPORT

Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [9.22 am]: I wish to table the final report of the statutory review of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019, which has been prepared in accordance with section 164 of the act.

[See paper [3439](#).]

Ms A. SANDERSON: I thank the review panel, consisting of Dr Elissa Campbell, Dr Sally Talbot, MLC, Dr Simon Towler and the end-of-life care team in the Department of Health. In its final report, the panel concluded that the act is operating effectively in providing and regulating access to VAD for eligible people and does not require legislative amendment at this stage, and that processes provided under the act are generally operating well in supporting all those involved in providing and accessing VAD. However, the panel made 10 recommendations intended to make existing provisions of the act work more effectively. Eight of the 10 recommendations were for the Department of Health, which has already commenced work to implement these recommendations. The other two recommendations are for the state government to advocate to the commonwealth government to amend the Criminal Code Act 1995 to improve equity of access to VAD and to introduce Medicare items for VAD. The Cook government has advocated strongly to the commonwealth government on both these items, and will continue to do so.

In the absence of Medicare funding, the Department of Health is providing payments to VAD practitioners to ensure patients can still access free services. As everyone in this place knows, the VAD legislation is close to my heart. I am proud to say that this government will continue to ensure this act works as effectively as possible for the benefit of the Western Australian community.

HOUSING — LAND RELEASE

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands) [9.24 am]: As part of continuing efforts to boost housing supply across Western Australia, last month the Cook Labor government announced the release of more than 600 hectares of new residential land across two sites north and south of Perth. The two sites, in Eglinton and Karnup, will

provide a significant injection of residential land and support long-term housing growth in the state. Across their lifetime, the sites are expected to deliver more than 6 000 new residential lots, as well as up to 900 new social homes. It is anticipated that the two sites will eventually be home for nearly 16 000 people. As part of the land release, the government will invite developers to put forward proposals to support new housing on the land under two development models—a partnered approach or direct purchase of the land. Under the partnered model, successful proponents may collaborate with DevelopmentWA to plan, design and develop the sites. Alternatively, the sites may be sold to a successful proponent for full development. The Karnup site is strategically located adjacent to Kwinana Freeway and close to the future Karnup train station, providing excellent connectivity to the Perth metropolitan area.

There is a lot of noise in the background.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Members, could you please move out.

Mr J.N. CAREY: The Eglinton sites are close to the new Metronet Yanchep line, offering residents convenient public transport options. An expression of interest process closed on 30 October 2024. Shortlisted proponents will be invited to participate in a request for detailed proposals process in early 2025, with the preferred proponents expected to be finalised in mid-2025. These two sites offer a significant chance for the private sector to propose new housing developments that also provide the opportunity for more social housing for the most vulnerable members of our community.

Our government is doing everything it can to bolster the long-term supply of housing throughout Western Australia, including through our record \$3.2 billion investment in housing and homelessness measures.

INDUSTRIAL LAND — MERIDIAN PARK

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands) [9.52 am]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook Labor government has delivered a major industrial land release in Perth's north-western suburbs. This month we have released 11 new industrial lots as part of the highly anticipated stage 2B of Meridian Park industrial estate. The release, through DevelopmentWA, will bolster industrial land in Perth's north west corridor and is set to bolster economic development and create new employment opportunities. With lots ranging from 2 817 square metres to 7 233 square metres—that is very detailed; why not just say more than 7 000?—this release will provide land for a wide range of industries, including warehousing, logistics, mining services, engineering and general construction.

Interested parties are encouraged to submit their offers by 10 December. A further seven lots will form part of a future release. Once fully developed, stage 2B will support commercial activity, creating more than 160 new local ongoing full-time jobs and generating an estimated \$61 million in annual economic output. This release at Meridian Park represents an important opportunity to attract new businesses, diversify the WA economy and support local enterprises in Perth's northern suburbs. This is an exciting milestone for Perth's northern corridor, providing much-needed industrial land that will drive growth and investment.

And Hansard always say they can hear me clearly!

By ensuring a steady pipeline of available land, we are creating opportunities for businesses to expand and innovate while creating new local jobs.

VANADIUM FLOW BATTERY — KUNUNURRA

Statement by Minister for Energy

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldy — Minister for Energy) [9.28 am]: I would like to update the house on our government's work to test a new vanadium flow battery in the north of our state. We know that battery storage is a key element of making the most of Western Australia's incredible renewable energy resources. I was proud to join the member for Kimberley, Horizon Power staff and representatives from VSUN Energy, a subsidiary of Australian Vanadium Ltd, on a recent visit to Kununurra to officially open Horizon Power's new long-duration vanadium flow battery.

Horizon Power is testing this battery in Kununurra's warm—let us say sometimes very hot—conditions. The new vanadium flow battery has a 78-kilowatt capacity and 220 kilowatt hours of storage, which is expected to be well-suited to the Kimberley heat, as it needs to be. Lessons learned in Kununurra are expected to inform the use of this battery storage technology in towns right across Western Australia. We have a growing fleet of standalone power systems and small microgrids across our state that could benefit from local deployment of vanadium battery technology. The opportunity for vanadium batteries to provide long-duration storage—the next frontier of the energy transition—is immense. The basic concept of vanadium flow batteries was initially invented and developed in Australia at the University of New South Wales. Because vanadium flow batteries use liquid electrolyte, they have huge potential to be scaled up to store immense amounts of energy. The unique chemistry of vanadium gives the battery a unique range of advantages, including resistance to degradation.

Horizon Power’s learnings from the trial at Kununurra could yield huge dividends. Battery storage already plays a critical role in WA’s energy mix, with large-scale batteries in Kwinana and Collie absorbing all that excess rooftop solar power we have in Western Australia during the day and dispatching it out at night when demand for energy is at its peak. Earlier this week, I accompanied the Premier to open Synergy’s Kwinana battery energy storage system stage 2, better known as KBESS2, which adds a further 800 megawatt hours of storage and 200 megawatts of capacity to our south west system. Incredible work on the energy transition is underway under this government. It is happening now.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge and thank Graham Arvidson and Zamien Sumich at VSUN Australian Vanadium, as well as Jennie Milne from Horizon Power, for showing me their incredible work on the Kununurra vanadium flow battery trial.

E-WASTE — SAM’S SPARES

Statement by Minister for Environment

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [9. 31 am]: I would like to update the house on a great success story of our 2021 election commitment to deliver a statewide ban on e-waste disposal to landfill by 2024. These commitments matter. These promises change lives and change outcomes for the better.

In today’s tech-driven world, the amount of electronic waste is increasing at an alarming rate. However, not all e-waste is garbage. Many discarded devices still have life in them, and they can be repaired, refurbished and recycled to serve a new purpose.

Two weeks ago, I visited Sam’s Spares in Gosnells, a not-for-profit organisation established by an extraordinary young man, Sam Thomas. He is fantastic. Sam refurbishes and donates computers, laptops, mobile phones and other electronic devices to vulnerable members of the community, including young kids going through high school who are from struggling families. Sam kicked off this great initiative back in 2022 in a small room at the back of his house and my, how it has grown! In July 2023, this government awarded Sam’s Spares a grant of \$232 000 under our \$10 million e-waste infrastructure grants program. Sam’s operation has since grown into a large warehouse operating recycling and refurbishing electronics from the likes of Bankwest, ATCO Australia and the Perth Mint and donating that equipment to the most vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our society.

Our grant funding increased Sam’s Spares’ capacity to sort, store, categorise and donate e-waste through the installation of additional storage, workbenches and tools, and provided increased education and training opportunities for many young neurodivergent people who work in that facility from the local community. The funding has increased processing capacity in all areas of the operation and it is now working five days a week. The organisation has prevented nearly 600 tonnes of e-waste going to landfill this year. It has also gifted 1 638 refurbished devices to those in need in the community.

Sam’s Spares is a shining example of how not-for-profit organisations can positively impact the environment and our communities. By bridging the gap between IT e-waste and people in need, we create a win-win situation that benefits everyone.

I look forward to keeping this house informed of the other great success stories that continue to evolve from our government’s statewide ban on e-waste disposal to landfill—another successful election commitment delivered. Thank you.

PET ADOPTION CAMPAIGN

Statement by Minister for Local Government

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park — Minister for Local Government) [9.34 am]: I am pleased to inform the house of an important community awareness campaign currently running across our state. The Cook Labor government’s “Adopt, Don’t Shop” campaign is encouraging Western Australians looking for a new pet to first consider adopting or fostering a dog or cat from one of the many incredible animal rescue organisations operating across our state. I give a shout-out to Minister Carey on his new greyhound.

Mr J.N. Carey: Betty Confetti!

Ms H.M. BEAZLEY: Betty Confetti.

We know that in the lead up to the festive season and summer holidays, many people consider bringing a pet into their home because they have extra time off to help their new addition settle in and create a strong bond. Shelters and rescue organisations currently have so many different sizes, types and breeds of puppies, kittens, dogs and cats, so any Western Australian looking for a pet can find their perfect match at a shelter. There are already so many positive adoption stories from people who have opened their homes and their hearts to a rescue pet that has become a much-loved companion and member of their family. Rescue animals come desexed, microchipped, vaccinated and checked by a vet. Importantly, their characteristics are known to the rescue organisation to ensure their new home is the best fit.

Adopting a pet from an animal shelter or rescue organisation not only supports these hardworking animal welfare services but also supports our government's landmark reforms to stop puppy farming. A key element of these reforms was announced this week, with the transitioning of pet shops to adoption centres for dogs and puppies in 2025.

This is not all our government is doing for our vulnerable four-legged friends and the hardworking people who care for them. In this term of government, we have doubled the annual funding to our six WA animal welfare shelters and organisations, reaching a record amount of \$400 000 a year. Recently, through Lotterywest, we provided the Dogs' Refuge Home in Shenton Park with \$2.3 million for a major overhaul of its facility. In September, we also announced a significant cost-of-living relief measure for pet owners, with \$500 000 provided to RSPCA WA to subsidise the sterilisation of dogs and cats for eligible pet owners on low incomes across our state. This important program is delivering targeted cost-of-living relief to support Western Australians who might struggle to afford to sterilise their pet.

Our "Adopt, Don't Shop" campaign is running until the end of December across TV, radio, social media, print and on billboards. I encourage you all to spread the word about the joy of choosing a rescue pet.

DEFENCE INDUSTRY — TRAINING

Statement by Minister assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park — Minister Assisting the Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [9.37 am]: I am pleased to update the house on the significant program of work that is being delivered by South Metropolitan TAFE to support Australia's AUKUS endeavour.

South Metropolitan TAFE is nationally recognised for collaborating with the defence industry and has been delivering training to the defence industry workforce for almost two decades. SMT is currently leading many workforce development initiatives to establish a pipeline of skilled workers for WA's defence industry, which, following the signing of the trilateral AUKUS agreement, is expected to provide local jobs for generations. Since South Metro TAFE launched its Defence Industry Pathways Program in 2021, 104 trainees have completed the program, which also sees us partnering with over 40 host employers from our maritime defence industry. Over 72 per cent of graduates have gained roles within the defence industry, many of whom are women. This is a fantastic retention rate for the defence industry.

Veterans are being supported back into the workforce through our state-funded defence industry veterans employment scheme, with 82 scholarships provided to date. Our women in defence industry scholarship has provided 74 women of all ages and backgrounds with six months of free technical engineering and electronics training to prepare them for employment in the defence industry.

SMT is also leading a pilot program in integrated logistics training, which has upskilled 83 existing workers and is delivering a tailored program of training to address the need for skilled welders and provide support for Submarine Rotational Force-West starting in 2027. Prospective students and industry clients can access the specialised team dedicated to defence industry career services at our jobs and skills centre at the Rockingham TAFE campus. The centre also promotes defence industry careers in schools and the community. Additionally, an articulation catalogue is being produced to guide graduates on transitioning between university and TAFE qualifications related to the defence industry.

Considerable work is underway to align skills development with AUKUS requirements, including a skills framework for nuclear submarine sustainment and shipbuilding. The Australian Submarine Agency has engaged South Metropolitan TAFE to develop an entry-level competency unit for work in a nuclear environment. This unit will be nationally accredited and included in all defence industry qualifications post-pilot. SMT has established vocational training partnerships with key United States alliances and organisations, focusing on trade skills development in nuclear naval fabrication. Along with my colleague, Hon Simone McGurk, Minister for Training and Workforce Development, I am proud to see our esteemed TAFE colleges taking such a proactive role in maximising opportunities provided to Western Australians through our AUKUS agreement.

CHILD PROTECTION — CARNARVON AND MEEKATHARRA

Grievance

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [9.40 am]: I rise today to grieve to the Minister for Child Protection. In her absence, I thank the Minister for Housing for taking my grievance, which is to highlight the urgent need for increased wraparound services and resourcing in our regional communities, particularly in towns like Carnarvon and Meekatharra. These towns, like so many others across Western Australia, are at breaking point, grappling with rising youth disengagement, escalating crime, severe antisocial behaviour and low school attendance rates, yet the support required to address these issues remains woefully inadequate or ineffective. Children brazenly steal, vandalise, disrupt daily life and fail to attend school, all with little or no parental accountability and seemingly without an effective response from child protection. Like all children, this cohort of young people need to be cared for, to be at school and to have a place where they can have a hot meal, a shower and somewhere safe to be after dark and into the night.

Recently, in the very early hours, eight mobility gophers were stolen from the seniors independent living units in Carnarvon and were damaged or destroyed by a group of young offenders. These gophers are a critical means of transportation for those elderly residents to get to the shops, doctor's appointments and to socialise, and they are now without the means to replace these gophers. Sadly, some of these offenders were aged only 10 years or younger. The victims of crime continue to suffer, but little is being done to address the root cause and help these neglected children.

Although I acknowledge the programs currently in place, including Target 120 and others, and the many dedicated and hardworking facilitators, these initiatives alone cannot provide the comprehensive support that our communities and young people desperately need. Wraparound services are about creating a coordinated, holistic approach, bringing together mental health support, youth outreach, family services, drug and alcohol and rehabilitation facilities and education programs to ensure that vulnerable individuals are given every chance to succeed. Unfortunately, such coordination and resources are glaringly absent in most parts of the regions. The issue of safe night spaces is an example. The community of Carnarvon has made it clear that the community and services such as the police desperately need dedicated, secure spaces where vulnerable and disengaged youth can go at night, providing not just shelter and food, but also connections to critical support services, creating a pathway away from crime and towards opportunity.

However, despite the evident need and call for help, the government has dragged its feet in supporting the Shire of Carnarvon's community-driven intensive family and community intervention program, which includes establishing these vital Safe Night Space facilities. In the town of Meekatharra, the shire advised that the critical kids-only youth centre, which provides after-school care services and meals from 4.00 to 8.30 pm on Mondays to Fridays, is suffering critical resourcing shortages, while child protection workers visit the town on an intermittent basis. Representatives from the Carnarvon night foot patrol have also called for a youth night safe space. We have a women's refuge, but it is often full, and women cannot bring their sons over the age of 14 years with them because they cannot stay overnight in the refuge. That again highlights the urgent need for a Safe Night Space. Communities like Carnarvon and Meekatharra are overwhelmed by the lack of targeted support. Families are being left to navigate complex issues without the assistance they deserve, and an increasing number of vulnerable young people are slipping through the cracks, which are now becoming canyons.

The lack of regional resources and investment not only fails to address current challenges, but also perpetuates cycles of disadvantage. The absence of sufficient safe spaces, transitional housing and wraparound services sends a clear message to regional Western Australians that they are not on the radar.

I have asked in this place about youth night spaces on so many occasions, only to have the suggestion shot down by the minister. I asked about out-of-home care, child protection and antisocial behaviour and for updates on Target 120. I have asked the Minister for Police on numerous occasions about youth safe spaces for disengaged youth, which are desperately needed to assist the police. I have asked the Premier about securing Safe Night Space programs, I have raised the issue with the Minister for Housing, and I have even asked the Attorney General, in a desperate effort to get a commitment to a Safe Night Space in Carnarvon and Meekatharra, but my grievances and questions have been dismissed or ignored out of hand and the real problem has been denied. I have been told that I am attacking the hardworking frontline workers, and attacks have been made on my integrity. I know that one needs to live it to know it and I do live it. All I want is to see that children are safe and supported, and we need the government to listen.

I want to see the government invest in safe spaces for youth, similar to the investment in Broome and the Fitzroy Valley. I want the government to address the root causes of disengagement, antisocial behaviour and crime, and provide the support and resources that our regional communities need to build safe, thriving and connected towns. We need to remember that we are all signatories to the 1989 Convention of the Rights of the Child. We all have a responsibility to make sure that children's rights are protected. Clearly, this is not happening, given what we are seeing across the regions. As we all know, historically, the Christmas period is always challenging, and the need for children to be cared for will be further heightened. If we keep doing what we are doing, we will only get more of what we have. We need to be collaborative and bold and we need to take steps to make real and effective change.

To be clear, as the minister knows, Western Australia does not stop at Wanneroo. The people in the regions do not want any more than anyone else; they just want a fair go. Will the Cook Labor government urgently commit to providing a Safe Night Space in Carnarvon and providing effective funding and resourcing for Meekatharra to keep kids safe in their towns?

I thank the minister for taking my grievance.

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.45 am]: I wish to first put on the record that the Minister for Child Protection, who is paired to this grievance, cannot be here this morning as she is away on a personal matter.

Respectfully, we all take these issues seriously. I say this: it is unfair for the member to state that there are issues beyond Wanneroo. I say this sincerely. It is disrespectful to the efforts of the minister, who, as we have witnessed

in this Parliament, takes these issues earnestly and seriously. I think all sides of politics understand that these issues are complex, and I think there is a sincerity from most people in politics that we want to resolve these issues, and that we should understand that there is not a simple fix, but a range of policy measures are needed.

The Minister for Child Protection has assisted the member for North West Central several times on issues in her electorate and she has offered to brief the member on matters under her portfolio. I think that the minister has repeatedly stated in this Parliament that we have undertaken, overall, to bring in a stronger child protection system that is about working hard to keep children and families safe. As we have heard before, we have a nearly \$1 billion annual investment in the delivery of child protection services, which includes what the member referred to—wraparound support for our most vulnerable children and families. That includes \$127 million in early intervention and family support services, and, of course, a 30 per cent increase in child protection FTE, so we are actually putting more staff on the frontline.

I refer to the specific areas that the member referred to, particularly around the regions. In terms of engaging with vulnerable young people who are at risk, as the member has identified, or obviously at risk of engaging in youth crime, we have Target 120, Target 120 Plus, Operation Regional Shield, the inroads program and the police and community youth centre's safeSPACE program. We understand that Target 120 is still being rolled out, but it has been an incredible program that is already working to assist young people at risk of offending to avoid the juvenile system, while also ensuring that we are supporting communities by providing that wraparound support the member mentioned.

The state government has invested \$43 million to implement Target 120 across 20 metropolitan and regional sites—so, beyond Wanneroo, member for North West Central—of which eight are led by Aboriginal community-controlled organisations, including in Carnarvon. The minister has previously said that she is a big supporter of the development of local solutions. The government has demonstrated that it is always prepared to work collaboratively with local government and community organisations to deal with very complex issues.

The member for North West Central mentioned Carnarvon and Meekatharra. I want to put on the record that there is a broad range of support services in those areas. Importantly, there are two child protection teams in Carnarvon and a child protection office in Meekatharra, as well as co-located workers in Mt Magnet and Mullewa. We are delivering several key services in Meekatharra, including Meekatharra youth services, which is delivering outcomes for young people by providing access to diversionary and recreational activities; the Aboriginal Community Connectors program; and an intensive family support service. We also provide funding to several services to support young people and families in Carnarvon. The member for North West Central implied that the government is not funding any services. We provide funding to several services, such as Target 120 in Carnarvon; Carnarvon youth services, providing a drop-in support service for young people at risk; the Carnarvon Sexual Assault Response Service; the Aboriginal Community Connectors program, which provides informal support and interventions, outreach support and the coordination of referrals to local services; an intensive family support service, which provides targeted child protection and intervention services; and the Gascoyne Women's Refuge, which supports women and children affected by family and domestic violence. Again, I put on the record that the advice I have received is that we provide funding to several services to support at-risk young people and their families in Carnarvon. I am also advised that the Gascoyne Development Commission was successful in obtaining funding through the commonwealth Attorney-General's Department's justice reinvestment program for Carnarvon. That program supports various community-led justice reinvestment initiatives in First Nations communities across Australia.

I put on the record that as opposed to what was suggested by the member for North West Central, this state government does not take a flippant approach to young people who are at risk of offending. We fund a range of services and we have made a huge investment across regional Western Australia. We should show this policy area the due respect that it deserves, which the member for North West Central failed to show.

LAVERTON HOSPITAL

Grievance

MS A.E. KENT (Kalgoorlie) [9.52 am]: I rise today to direct a grievance to the Minister for Health. I thank the minister for taking my grievance. I wish to discuss the rebuild of Laverton Hospital in my electorate. For decades, Laverton Hospital has provided essential medical services to residents, Indigenous communities and transient populations, including mining workers and tourists. However, the ageing infrastructure and limited capacity of the current facility is not fit for purpose. Rebuilding Laverton Hospital is not merely a matter of upgrading its physical structures; it is also a significant investment in the health, resilience and future prosperity of the community.

When I was elected to my position as member for Kalgoorlie in 2021, I was well aware of the history of Laverton Hospital. A lot of promises and commitments had been made by different sides of politics over many years. I draw the minister's attention to the plethora of historical moments that have besieged this project. I understand that a business case was developed in 2011—then nothing. A previous Minister for Health, Hon Dr Kim Hames, flagged this as a priority project in 2012—then nothing. There was confusion when a former member for Kalgoorlie, Wendy Duncan, asked whether it should be funded through royalties for regions or the Goldfields–Esperance revitalisation fund. Ms Duncan said at the time that uncertainty was holding the project back. She said that the

WA Country Health Service would not move to the detailed business case phase unless it knew that the funding was assured, because it was an expensive process once it reached the surveyors and all that sort of thing. As the incoming Minister for Regional Development in 2017, Hon Alannah MacTiernan said of Laverton Hospital —

“That project was put into the Royalties for Regions program in the budget in May, 2015 but when the election came around, the business case had still not been presented to Cabinet,” she said.

We know that coming into government in 2017, the budget deficit was well over \$40 billion. We also know that this meant a pause for the hospital rebuild. I fast forward to my term in 2021, which coincided with the pandemic and the associated building challenges. In summary, since the rebuilding of Laverton Hospital was first mooted, nothing happened under one term of an Independent member for Kalgoorlie, nothing happened under two terms of a National Party member for Kalgoorlie, and nothing happened under one term of a Liberal Party member for Kalgoorlie. Is the minister able to assure me and this house that something will be done in my term as the member for Kalgoorlie? The community of Laverton has been waiting too long; it deserves better. It deserves a health facility that can deal with the myriad difficult health conditions. The nurses deserve better quarters. I do not want my time in this position to be labelled as yet another member for Kalgoorlie who did not begin to deliver on the rebuild of Laverton Hospital. I thank the minister for taking my grievance.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [9.55 am]: I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for her grievance and unwavering advocacy for her community, particularly on this issue. The member has been a strong advocate for her community and Laverton from day one of her time in this place. The Cook Labor government has made the biggest commitment to regional health care. There are several major regional health infrastructure projects underway, including at Geraldton Health Campus, with the \$166 million expanded emergency department and new mental health, intensive care and high dependency units; the \$451 million expansion of Bunbury Regional Hospital; and the major redevelopment of Tom Price and Paraburdoo Hospitals in partnership with Rio Tinto. That contract has now been awarded to Cooper and Oxley. Other key regional projects include the Halls Creek dialysis unit, the Broome renal hostel, step-up, step-down facilities in Hedland and Broome, and an MRI facility in Hedland. We are committed to delivering world-class infrastructure in our regions, and particularly those projects that the Liberals and Nationals failed to do in their eight years in government.

The member for Kalgoorlie identified some of the challenges faced by the building and construction sector since the pandemic. Those challenges are particularly pronounced in regional areas. It does not get much more regional than Laverton; it is a very isolated town. WA Health is responsible for the hospitals in some of our most remote parts of the community. Securing contractors for these jobs can be challenging, but WA Labor is delivering.

There is no question that the 1960s-built facilities at Laverton Hospital and the Leonora multipurpose service do not support contemporary models of care and that the accommodation for health workers at those facilities is no longer suitable. I visited them myself so that I could see exactly their state and condition. We want to attract healthcare workers into the regions, so having accommodation with the hospital is a really important part of the redevelopment.

The redevelopment has a long history, as the member for Kalgoorlie outlined. The government initially released the tender for this project in February 2023. Unfortunately, we did not receive any compliant responses to the tender. The WA Country Health Service and the Department of Finance engaged directly with contractors to progress a solution, understanding that it is a unique and isolated community. In August this year, I was very pleased to share with the member for Kalgoorlie and the shire president, Patrick Hill, that a forward works contract has been awarded to ADCO, which built Newman Health Service—a fantastic regional campus and a beautiful new regional hospital. Those works have commenced ahead of schedule. The forward works package includes earthworks, site access, electrical upgrades and sewage diversion. It is not sexy, but it is critical to laying the foundations for the main works, which will include a modern emergency department and outpatient facilities; mental health, community health and drug and alcohol services; specialist services for visiting clinicians; and a space for an onsite GP clinic.

We look forward to seeing the main works commence following the conclusion of the forward works, and we are continuing to work with the contractor on the implementation of the forward works. We are absolutely committed to this project and we are looking at innovative ways of delivering it; splitting up the contract is one such way.

The member for Kalgoorlie has been a tireless advocate for the community of Laverton. I have to also acknowledge Patrick Hill, the Laverton shire president, for his ongoing advocacy of this issue. The member for Kalgoorlie has raised this issue with me frequently, as she should, and as she has pointed out, it is a Labor government that is delivering this redevelopment for the community of Laverton. It is important for the resilience of that community to support it in accessing the best possible health care. It was a promise that was never delivered by the Liberal–National government; former Liberal–National government members for Kalgoorlie delivered nothing for the Laverton community. The current Labor member for Kalgoorlie will be the member who starts that redevelopment.

MARMION MARINE PARK

Grievance

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [10.00 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Environment, but I notice he is not in the house at the moment.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): He is in the process.

Mr R.S. LOVE: He is in the process? Could I have the clock reset because the minister was not here?

The ACTING SPEAKER: I think we can do that.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you.

My grievance is to the Minister for Environment over the Cook Labor government's consultation process for marine park creation, including the Marmion Marine Park expansion. This marine park, originally established to conserve marine biodiversity whilst allowing for sustainable use, is now subject to an ideologically driven agenda that undermines recreational fishers, threatens local businesses, and ignores the critical socio-economic contributions of this vital coastal region.

Recreational fishing is not just a pastime in Western Australia; it is a way of life for hundreds of thousands of people. It provides an essential source of recreation, relaxation and food, and annually contributes an estimated \$2.4 billion to the state economy. From tackle shops that generate an annual \$159 million, to expenditure on bait and ice of \$244 million, and on food and drink of \$600 million, jobs and livelihoods across Western Australia depend on recreational fishing, yet this government appears intent on jeopardising these benefits without adequate justification or consultation.

Consultation over the Marmion Marine Park expansion has not been transparent; stakeholders have been sidelined. We have heard alarm bells from peak fishing bodies, including the Western Rock Lobster Council, Recfishwest and the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council. WAFIC wrote to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and said, according to my notes —

It is disappointing that we all feel misrepresented, disrespected and completely ignored in DBCA's Marmion Marine Park Expansion planning process to date.

Decisions appear to have been made without any meaningful engagement with affected communities. Worse still, there is little evidence that socio-economic impacts have been properly considered, mirroring the failures in consultation over the South Coast Marine Park. Disallowance motions by the opposition in the other place regarding the four component marine parks comprising the South Coast Marine Park will be debated later today because of concerns that the government has failed to undertake the necessary research and analysis required to comply with the intent of the Conservation and Land Management Act.

The initial decision to establish the South Coast Marine Park was based on a 30-year-old report, *A representative marine reserve system for Western Australia: Report of the Marine Parks and Reserves Selection Working Group*, otherwise known as the Wilson report. No additional contemporary scientific research was provided by the state government to support its decision. The Wilson report did not provide an unequivocal recommendation for the establishment of a marine park of the scale and scope proposed by the state government. In fact, the report recognised the lack of scientific data relevant to the south coast and acknowledged that further research was required to identify specific areas of conservation. The state government subsequently commissioned a report titled *A review of the south coast marine environment and proposed areas for state marine reservation between Albany and Eucla, Western Australia*, which was completed in June 2021. Unsurprisingly, the Carijoa report, as it is known, reached the same conclusion as the Wilson report, but it provided a list of gaps in knowledge relevant to marine park planning. These gaps have not been filled.

Stakeholders have been asked to comment on marine park proposals without access to the data, rationale, or so-called scientific evidence underpinning zoning plans that disproportionately target recreational and commercial fishers, and that defy the desired outcome of sustainability. In the case of Marmion Marine Park, proximity to boat ramps, accessible beaches and groynes makes it a hub for shore-based and small boat fishing. Accessibility is vital for families and individuals seeking healthy ocean-based low-cost recreation and food. For generations, families have been fishing these inshore waters for a variety of prolific bread-and-butter species such as herring, whiting, squid, tailor, skippy, pink snapper, dhufish and western rock lobster. Fishing families with tight budgets and small dinghies and runabouts cannot go further offshore, for obvious reasons; hence, these inshore waters need to be accessible for the next generation of anglers and their families.

If the proposed sanctuary zones severely restrict access to these areas, as seems likely, the impact will be devastating. Shore-based recreational fishing is not only a cherished activity, but also a key driver of community wellbeing. The government's failure to consider these social and economic dimensions demonstrates a profound disconnect from the people it should serve.

As the minister has outlined in answers to my questions this week, he will not publish the proposed park expansion prior to the election. We can only interpret that to mean that there is significant opposition to Labor's plans. This should ring alarm bells for the community. It is increasingly clear that the government's approach to marine parks is driven by ideology rather than evidence. Sanctuaries are being drawn with no basis in science or targeted ecological need. Decisions reflect a one-size-fits-all, lock-it-up-and-leave-it mentality, disregarding the unique characteristics of Marmion Marine Park and its users.

It is a farce for the Cook Labor government to tout conservation credentials whilst pumping wastewater off Mullaloo Beach. Pollution, urban runoff, and the impacts of rapid development along the coast should be the focus of government. Instead of addressing these tangible environmental threats, the government's focus is directed at implementing ideologically driven marine parks that provide no clear ecological benefit and harm community livelihoods.

Sanctuaries that displace fishers without addressing pollution hotspots or urban runoff will do little to protect marine biodiversity. The approach by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions has also been condemned by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, as revealed in freedom of information documents obtained by shadow Minister for Fisheries Hon Colin de Grussa, which noted in relation to the South Coast Marine Park, according to my notes —

The current draft zoning scheme will likely result in the loss of several South Coast fisheries and impact on the livelihoods of numerous fishers.

It is DPIRD's view that these impacts are not in the community's best interests and that the impacts can be largely avoided or minimised if DBCA are genuinely serious about ... designing the zoning scheme for the SCMP.

It is not acceptable for people's lives and livelihoods, food security, recreation, mental health and way of life to be permanently changed by the SCMP without them fully understanding the basis for that change.

We know that this government scrapped legislation that would have provided more surety of compensation for affected professional fishers.

The member for Roe, Peter Rundle, pointed to skewed priorities. He said that over half of Esperance residents have formally expressed opposition to this marine park, signing petitions and other documents only to be ignored in favour of input from overseas organisations like the Pew Charitable Trusts, which lack any local connection. The economic contribution of professional and recreational fishing in Western Australia cannot be overstated. It supports thousands of small businesses, from bait and tackle shops to local food and beverage suppliers. The Marmion Marine Park expansion threatens to disrupt this vital economic activity. For many families, recreational fishing is not just about economics; it is about tradition, education and quality of life.

People deserve better. Marmion stakeholders deserve better. The government must commit to a process that is transparent, inclusive and scientifically sound. I call on the Minister for Environment to immediately release all supporting data and impact assessments; genuinely engage with stakeholders and the community; publish the government's proposals prior to the election; commit to reconsidering zoning plans; provide clear and fair compensation frameworks; and protect recreational fishing opportunities. Perhaps the minister could then end Labor's war on the weekend.

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Environment) [10.08 am]: Oh dear. I am trying to maintain my respect for the grievance process, but when the Leader of the Opposition carries on like this and uses and abuses the grievance process in the way he has recently, he goes too low. When you go low, you really go low, don't you, member? Today we have heard a cavalcade of malarkey. I do not have the time or inclination to go through and correct every falsehood you have just read out in this place, because there are too many. I want to tell my own story, and I am not going to waste any energy responding to you.

I will make one point: the Leader of the Opposition appears to be criticising an outcome that does not exist. Can he tell me what the outcome is of the Marmion Marine Park? What is the final design that he says has ignored community concerns? What is it? It does not exist yet.

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: The process has not concluded, member. You are so keen to jump the gun, criticise and fill the world with falsehoods. You make the member for Roe look —

Mr R.S. Love interjected.

Mr R.R. WHITBY: I listened to you in silence, member.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I cannot hear the member next to me for the cavalcade of noise coming from members opposite. Clearly you could not hear me either, Acting Speaker.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): No. Thank you very much. I am sorry. Where are we? Minister for Environment.

Mr R.R. Whitby: I'm ready to go.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Yes. I apologise for my inattention.

Grievance Resumed

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Acting Speaker, we know the form of this mob. They tell absolute untruths. The member for Roe was caught red-handed with his mate Hon Colin de Grussa some time ago with a pamphlet that actually had a deliberate falsehood about the South Coast Marine Park. I have talked about that many times in this chamber. He was caught red-handed. The Leader of the Opposition has a habit of jumping the gun and trying to politicise things to increase anxiety and uncertainty in the community. It is the way he operates.

I give the example of another grievance in this chamber recently when the Leader of the Opposition talked about the issue of Carnaby's cockatoos. In that scenario, he thought he would come in here with a grievance and perform a quick hit job on me and rollout a media campaign to try to discredit my and the government's position on this issue. It actually blew up in his face, did it not? He should be extremely embarrassed by the grievance and the subsequent media campaign he launched. It made the claim that this government needed to rush out and start artificially feeding Carnaby's cockatoos, which was his main point. I would like to quote Australian scientist Professor Kris Warren from Murdoch University's school of veterinary science. I have to say that I got a lot of feedback after the Leader of the Opposition's grievance from people who were horrified about the point he made and the thing he advocated for. Kris Warren stated —

... supplementary feeding is harmful and is not the answer.

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: This grievance is about the Marmion Marine Park and the minister here is quoting something about Carnaby's cockatoos.

The ACTING SPEAKER: I think there was an analogy there. Frankly, just because you do not like the answer does not make it a point of order.

Visitors — Swan Christian College

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): While we have an interruption, I welcome students from Swan Christian College up on the balcony.

Grievance Resumed

Mr R.R. WHITBY: Thank you, Acting Speaker. If you give me the indulgence, I will conclude. I just want to quote Kris Warren who responded to the Leader of the Opposition's grievance in this place recently. She stated —

Supplementary feeding of wild animals changes their natural behaviour and may increase their dependence on unnatural food sources, which can reduce their ability to survive in the wild.

In private conversations with me, she was much more angry, concerned and disappointed by those comments by the Leader of the Opposition.

I will get back to the Marmion Marine Park. I advise the Leader of the Opposition that the Cook Labor government very much remains committed to delivering the expansion of the marine park. It is a special area for conservation, commercial and recreational perspectives. It is Perth's primary recreational water activity spot, attracting as many as 1.75 million visitors a year. The lagoons and reefs in the park are a diver's paradise. They are filled with the most spectacular array of fish species, and, of course, it also includes a range of recreational and commercial fishing values. That is something we absolutely want to ensure continues to prosper well into the future. We are committed to that. The proposed park expansion will include threatened Australian sea lion populations and the habitats they rely on as well as important seagrass and macro-algal communities.

In relation to the member's grievance today, I can advise the Leader of the Opposition of what I already told him in question time. Creating WA's first marine park on the state's south coast was a once-in-a-generation opportunity that required significant resources as well as deep and prolonged consultation with stakeholders. I remember that this mob over there said, "When are you going to tell us about this! When are you going to release this?" They were rushing, rushing, rushing. No. We are going to consult with people and do the job properly, which is the way it is expected to be done.

The consultation on the South Coast Marine Park was enormous. I can give the Leader of the Opposition all the facts and figures. There were face-to-face meetings, a pop-up shop in Esperance, 21 000 submissions, sectoral advisory groups, the community reference committee and scores of meetings. That focus and the hard work of that consultation paid off.

Do not take my word for it, members, take the word of WA's recreational fishing body Recfishwest. In response to the public release of the final South Coast Marine Park plans, it stated —

"On behalf of the cast of thousands, we're pleased to see the Government adopt large scale changes in today's announcement and we're grateful for the thousands of fishers who united to make their voices heard.

We heard those voices as a government and responded to them.

The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council stated —

... it is clear from this decision that the government has taken local voices into its decision-making process reducing the no-take sanctuary zones to approximately 20 per cent of the marine park.

Again, the Leader of the Opposition ignores this stuff. He wants to inflate concern and anxiety in the community. We will adopt the same approach with the Marmion Marine Park expansion as we did with the South Coast Marine Park, which got good outcomes, the right balance and the recognition of Recfishwest and WAFIC, as I just pointed to. We will not rush this. I do not have a timeframe, and I will not set a deadline. I am about consulting the community.

Mr R.S. Love: What about after the election?

Mr R.R. WHITBY: If the Leader of the Opposition wants a rushed job to get to a deadline, that is his business. I am not going to fall for that trap, and I am going to deliver a great outcome to the people of Perth.

RENEWABLE ENERGY — CLIMATE CHANGE

Grievance

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [10.16 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Energy. I would like to thank the minister for taking my grievance today. Certainly no-one would deny that reliable energy is crucial to our daily lives. A dilemma facing governments across the globe is how to ensure communities have access to reliable and, critically, affordable energy. Our government is keenly aware of this challenge, as is clearly demonstrated by our cost-of-living measures around power credits. These were introduced in our first term of government and have continued, with the payment this year of \$700 to every Western Australian household. This was especially welcomed in my community, but we need to continue making strides towards greater use of cleaner, more sustainable power sources to ensure we are doing everything we can to combat climate change.

Figures from the Australian government Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water indicate that 35 per cent of Australia's total electricity generation in 2023 was, surprisingly, from renewable energy sources—thus creating much hope. Of those sources, 16 per cent came from solar, 12 per cent from wind and six per cent from hydro. This reflects the highest rate of renewables in total electricity generation on record. Solar and wind have doubled renewable generation expansion over the last 10 years. Importantly, small-scale solar generation grew 17 per cent last year and by an average of 21 per cent a year since 2015. The federal department states that solar power is now the cheapest source of electricity available.

Australia leads the world in rooftop solar. As of last year, over 3.5 million solar panels have been installed across our country, which the Clean Energy Regulator estimates is over one in three Australian homes. Not only will a move toward greater use of renewable energy help address climate change by decarbonising economies; it will also generate new industries and jobs, as well as help ease residential and commercial electricity costs along the way.

Residents of my electorate have long been very enthusiastic adopters of solar panels. Through time, more and more solar panels have appeared on family homes right across my electorate. I understand that there are approximately 4 000 solar panels installed across the City of Belmont, with a total generation capacity of around 17 megawatts. The area has seen a 300 per cent increase in solar panel installations in the last 10 years. There are approximately 125 household batteries installed across the City of Belmont, with a combined capacity of around four megawatts. Again, there has been significant growth in the rollout of residential batteries across my electorate, especially in the City of Belmont, in the last few years.

More constituents are also choosing to invest in an electric vehicle. Employees of the many businesses in my electorate are commuting to work in EVs. It certainly is booming. In fact, my husband recently purchased one and I am still yet to learn how to drive it. Although electric vehicles will be a key part of reducing transport emissions, they can place pressure on an electricity grid that was designed well before this new technology emerged. Solar panels and other distributed energy resources are changing how our grid works. This includes an abundance of rooftop solar energy during the day, while households often have the greatest demand for power in the evening once everyone has returned home from work or studies. Minister, how is our government working to manage this change? All these local changes have been happening during a period of great inflation and a lot of uncertainty across the world, not only in the shadow of the pandemic, but also with the recent and ongoing global conflicts. Looking back over the last four years, governments around the world have had to respond to some of those real challenges, particularly to address the cost-of-living pressures faced by households.

In the last year, the federal Liberal opposition has lurched, unsurprisingly, towards the retrograde illusion of nuclear power generation in Australia, including the proposed construction of a reactor in Collie. I understand from our hardworking local member in that electorate that that is deeply unwelcomed by locals. The Western Australian Liberal Party remains open to that idea, despite the obvious reality that doing so would be ruinously expensive, require coal generation to continue beyond 2030 and likely compromise the investments of Western Australians in their own rooftop solar and other distributed energy resources. It is clear that we are at a juncture between an energy transition that is already happening and vague plans to defer it all for a mirage on the distant horizon under a Liberal–National alliance, if they were to be elected.

In view of this, can the minister outline the following: How will the Cook Labor government's approach to the energy transition continue to yield benefits for households and businesses not only in Belmont, but also right across the state? How is our government working to manage the huge changes that are happening with rooftop solar, electric vehicles and other distributed energy resources? How does our proactive approach differ from the risky alternatives always put forward by the other side?

MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldivis — Minister for Energy) [10.22 am]: I thank the member for Belmont for raising this grievance. My faith in the grievance system has been restored after that contribution, so I appreciate that. I thank the member for the opportunity to outline how our ongoing work will continue to benefit all Western Australians. We are in a huge transition right now. We have invested \$5.4 billion to date in Western Australia's energy transition across a wide range of initiatives. This is real money being spent on expensive kit, but it needs to be done. This transition is monumental and has many moving parts—more than I can cover in the seven minutes in which I have to talk. To address the member's grievance, I thought I would share an insight into the member's local community that will be very interesting to her.

We know that we have to fully capitalise on daytime rooftop solar to make low-cost renewable energy more available when households need it most. Those rooftops are doing an amazing job for our energy system. Incredible amounts of energy are being produced on rooftops right across Western Australia. This past Tuesday morning, the Premier and I opened Synergy's Kwinana battery energy storage system 2. The \$661 million worth of battery technology can power around 370 000 homes. I was never good at maths at school, so I got someone in my office to do the calculations. That is the equivalent of powering around 18 electorates the size of Belmont. Would it not be great to have 18 Belmonts powered by the renewable energy stored in those batteries through the peak of the evening?

Last month, I opened another big battery in Collie, and Synergy has another on the way. I understand that a Belmont-based business, GenusPlus Group, has been working to deliver more than \$100 million of work under installation and construction contracts for KBESS2—the big battery that I opened this week with the Premier. That includes civil works. That company is doing a great job and is invested in the transition. I am also advised that GenusPlus has delivered that big battery project on time against the target schedule and under budget—a great result for our government.

Western Australia's long-running affinity for rooftop solar continues to deliver amazing results. The power grid that serves Western Australia and covers Kalbarri to Albany and across to Kalgoorlie—the south west area—recently hit a new renewables record. On Sunday, 17 November, our system hit 85 per cent renewables, beating the previous mark. Let us think about that. Eighty-five per cent of all the energy that most of Western Australia was using from that south west grid, where most of us live, came overwhelmingly from rooftop solar and wind generation and not coal, gas or nuclear generation. This is a remarkable milestone not only for us, but also on a world level. It is impressive that more than 70 per cent of that power came from people who had installed their own rooftop solar panels, with the energy produced fed into the system. As the largest isolated system in the world, that is a profound achievement. It is a real feat of engineering and a success in terms of renewable energy.

We are also getting into what is known as distributed energy resources, in which we can coordinate the use of appliances in people's homes—their EVs, solar rooftops and household batteries—and use that energy for the grid and to benefit the consumer through payments. That means that we will have to invest fewer dollars into big grid-scale generation and transmission. It is a great democratisation of our energy system in which everyone has a role and participates. As part of the DER road map, we have launched a \$15 million Charge Up grants program to encourage the uptake of workplace charging stations, which are very important. People need to charge those cars during the day at work while the sun is out. For example, a local Belmont business, Engineered Precision Machining, has a fast-charging site that hosts a 75-kilowatt charger. Elsewhere in the state, Horizon Power is delivering an orchestration trial to show how energy stored in EVs can be put back into the grid. The EV is charged up whenever possible during the day and, at nighttime, we can get the power out of the EV to help charge the local grid. That trial is happening in Exmouth.

The cost of living is a big issue. The two-monthly power bill can be a considerable burden for families, especially those who are struggling. In this year's state budget, we allocated \$492 million to deliver our fourth electricity credit, with \$400 of assistance benefiting households and more than 90 000 small businesses. The total power bill relief received by Western Australian households has been \$2 100 over the past four years. From next week, Western Australians will start to see the second instalment reflected in their Synergy bill. When they get their bill in December and January, that credit will be listed against it.

The member was right to suggest that we should contrast these achievements with what the other mob—I would not call it a plan—talk about. In terms of solar panels owned by Western Australian mums and dads, this clean and silent generation of energy on the rooftops of family homes is having a big impact, as I explained, but those opposite are putting that at risk. Nuclear power has no space for renewables and no space for rooftop solar. Under a nuclear power plan, those mums and dads would not get a tariff or the feed-in benefits. I have an open mind on nuclear power. I am not ideologically driven, but I know a few things about nuclear power. It is incredibly

expensive. Power bills would be five times what they are now. We know this because Georgia in the United States has just opened a new nuclear plant, and its power bills have skyrocketed. I know that it would take forever to build a nuclear plant—up to 20 years. We cannot wait that long. I also know that nuclear power will not work in our system because it would crowd out all the other renewables. In a place like Western Australia, with our sun, wind and space, renewables make more sense than anywhere else on Earth. Nuclear would push renewables aside for a more expensive and riskier option.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

*Sixteenth Report — The Corruption and Crime Commission's management of its misconduct risks:
A follow up to the 'Going rogue' report — Tabling*

MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda) [10.30 am]: I present for tabling the sixteenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled *The Corruption and Crime Commission's management of its misconduct risks: A follow up to the 'Going rogue' report*.

[See paper [3440](#).]

Mr M. HUGHES: With your indulgence, Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk), may I draw to the attention of the house the presence of Amariah Stenton, who is the top year 11 politics and law student at Eastern Hills Senior High School.

This is the final report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission of the forty-first Parliament. This report informs Parliament of the findings and recommendations of an independent review, engaged by the Corruption and Crime Commission, into the commission's actions to minimise its misconduct risks following serious misconduct by a commission officer. The twelfth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission provides the context for this report.

Members may recall that in March 2024, the twelfth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission, *Going rogue: Serious misconduct by a commission officer: Parliamentary inspector's report*, informed Parliament that between early 2020 and early 2023, the commission's human source coordinator corruptly used her position to obtain a personal benefit—namely, an extensive and intimate relationship with a human source: an informant. The report by the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission outlined the officer's deception and exposed serious weaknesses in how the commission managed its misconduct risks over a four-year period. From 2018, the officer repeatedly and wilfully breached the commission's policies and procedures, but the commission did not detect this misconduct with the informant. To give one example from November 2018, the officer was both the human source coordinator and handler of the human source, and no secondary handler was appointed, contrary to established protocols.

The commission unreservedly accepted that systemic failure contributed to a climate in which the officer's deception was not only possible, but also continued over many years. The commission engaged an independent review. In the twelfth report, the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission recommended that the commission provide the committee with a copy of its independent review and report on the commission's plan of action it was taking to minimise misconduct risks. The committee said that it would evaluate the commission's response and report to Parliament, and we have done that in this report. This committee's report attaches the commission's abridged version of the reviewer's report, which is titled *Review of circumstances that allowed a former commission officer to maintain an inappropriate relationship with a human source* and is dated September 2024.

To properly undertake the committee's oversight role on behalf of the Parliament, members of the committee read the full version of the review report. However, given the sensitive nature of the report, the committee has not made public the contents of the review that are not in the commission's abridged version. The review report is damning. It exposes glaring deficiencies in the risk management systems and culture over many years. This is evident in the six key findings noted in the abridged version of the review report that identified a range of reasons that the misconduct by the officer continued undetected over many years. The committee was disappointed and surprised by these findings. Although it is said that the primary reason the officer was able to continue her relationship with the informant without being detected was her deceptive behaviour, emphasising the primary reason for the misconduct can tend to deflect and minimise the responsibility of the commission, or any agency, to minimise its risk. The primary reason for misconduct will be employee deception, but agencies must not contribute to the risk, including in high-risk work such as human source operations. The reviewer found that repeated breaches of the governance framework supporting the commission's use of human sources were ignored by managers and allowed to continue, and the limited internal reporting requirements for the human source team meant the commission's leadership had a poor understanding of how human sources were being managed and what risks the commission was exposed to through its human source operations.

The reviewer found that the culture of the commission's operational directorate at the time of the compromised relationship was one in which dissenting opinions were discouraged, a strict chain of command was enforced with the human source team, and officers were afraid of losing their jobs due to the commission's reliance on short-term employment contracts.

The reviewer also found that there were failures of leadership within the commission, and the commission's ability to safely and securely manage human source operations was limited. In the committee's view, the officer's managers, the commission's deficient systems and, importantly, its culture created significant risk and resulted in the misconduct—the inappropriate relationship—not being detected for years. The failures enabled the officer to exploit the secrecy of human source work within the commission.

It appears to the committee that the managers ignored the red flags. The commission's staff beyond the human resource team reported on and raised concerns about the officer's conduct or level of contact with the human source. Another concern was that few members of the human source team had previous human source management experience and no-one in the management chain had previous practical experience with human sources. I note, however, that is no longer the case at the commission. It is also clear to the committee that from the time the human source team was established in 2017, there were deficient recruitment selection and risk-management practices in an area as sensitive and high risk as human source work.

Turning to the commission's action, the review report is positive in that it recommends action to minimise misconduct risks at the commission officewide, and the commission is responding to these recommendations and taking remedial action to improve its internal governance and risk management. Our committee's report attaches the commission's response to each of the 10 recommendations in the review report and the action that the commission has taken to date to improve its internal governance and risk management. The commission anticipates that the recommendations of the review report will be implemented within 12 months. The commission understands the need for positive change and remedial action.

Since May 2023, only a few months after the officer's misconduct was detected, the commission has placed a renewed focus on internal governance and risk management. Since September 2023, a new director executive at the commission, supported by a dedicated team of three to four staff, has worked on improving the internal governance and risk management, including actions to respond to the review report that was delivered in September 2024.

As at 1 November 2024, the commission had taken steps towards or implemented four of the 10 recommendations. These include: the commission has procured, and will soon implement, an anonymous reporting platform to enable staff to securely and confidently report workplace misconduct and inappropriate behaviour, as required by the code of conduct; commenced a review of its operational reporting framework; introduced annual refresher training and certification for all staff on the code of conduct's requirements and responsibilities; and is exploring options for executive and leadership coaching to strengthen leadership behaviours within the commission.

In the past 12 months, the commission has also implemented several strategies and projects to strengthen key governance processes managed by the director executive and her team. Further to the actions noted above, the commission has developed and launched a strategic plan for 2024 to 2027; reviewed and updated its enterprise risk management framework policy, registers and reporting templates; strengthened the independent internal audit function; employed new processes to ensure greater oversight of the implementation of external and internal audit recommendations and action plans; and progressed developing a new compliance framework policy and register of compliance obligations. The commission has also adopted a new policy position on employee reappointment to alleviate staff concerns about the impact of speaking up on their job security.

Under the Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003, a commission staff member is not to be appointed for a term exceeding five years, although is eligible for reappointment. The committee questions whether this requirement for all staff supports the operational requirements of the commission.

The committee made the following observations: the circumstances that led to the misconduct of the officer had been a wake-up call for the commission; misconduct can occur in any agency; and systems and integrity culture cannot prevent all misconduct. This is why all agencies must be proactive and constantly vigilant and have systems and integrity culture that minimises their misconduct risks. The commission's actions to date are just the start of the process to address identified governance and cultural issues. It is clearly too early to comment on whether actions taken have been effective, but it is difficult to conceive that actions proposed to be taken will not minimise misconduct risks at the commission to some extent.

Regarding the commission's human source operations, in the meantime, the commission's human source team remains suspended. The independent reviewer made seven recommendations that were human-source specific. As is appropriate, the commission requires further time to consider whether to recommence human source operations. Should the commission decide to re-establish these operations, it will be guided by the recommendations to ensure the integrity of the operations.

I now turn to the committee's recommendations. In conclusion, the committee makes four recommendations —

Recommendation 1

That the Attorney General consider if the law providing that staff of the commission not be appointed for a term exceeding 5 years is necessary, or should be amended, in the *Corruption, Crime and Misconduct Act 2003* or any new Act.

...

Recommendation 2

That the Attorney General ensure that the Corruption and Crime Commission is resourced to implement its response to the Review Report and improve internal governance and risk management.

...

Recommendation 3

That the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission of the 42nd Parliament follow up the commission's implementation of recommendations in the Review Report and other actions taken to minimise its misconduct risks office-wide.

The committee respectfully suggests that this be done in around 12 months, either late 2025 or early 2026, and that committee consults with the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission —

Who will also follow up the commission's action —

about the above.

...

Recommendation 4

That the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission of the 42nd Parliament follow up on whether the commission decides to reestablish its human source operations, and, if so, seeks assurances that these operations are managed and governed in a way that minimises misconduct risks.

To conclude my remarks, the committee thanks the parliamentary inspector for reporting to the committee and therefore the Parliament on this matter. I also especially want to thank our hardworking principal research officer, Suzanne Veletta, and her associate Jovita Hogan for their work that has enabled the committee to respond to and table the parliamentary inspector's report, and for assisting the committee to follow-up on the commission's independent review of the circumstances that gave rise to the misconduct risk within the commission and the actions needed to minimise them.

My thanks go to my committee colleagues, deputy chair Hon Dr Steve Thomas, MLC; Hon Mia Davies, MLA; and Hon Klara Andric, MLC for the great care taken in responding to the parliamentary inspector's report, its assessment of the commission's independent review, and in framing the observations, findings and recommendations in this final report of this committee of the forty-first Parliament.

As I said in my valedictory speech, it has been a privilege to sit as a member of the parliamentary Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission in the fortieth and forty-first Parliaments, and be its current chair. Bipartisanship, professionalism and collegiality have been a hallmark of our work—an approach that has enabled the committee to responsibly discharge its oversight and other duties to this Parliament.

I especially wish to acknowledge Hon Mia Davies, MLA, who will retire as member for Central Wheatbelt in March next year, for the wealth of experience that she brought to the committee borne out of her exemplary contribution to the Western Australian Parliament, as a member of the Legislative Council, this Assembly, as a minister and shadow minister, as a Leader of the National Party and a Leader of the Opposition.

I observe that it is evident that no organisation is free from misconduct risks and the need to be vigilant in effectively minimising those risks. The circumstances that led to the officer going rogue within the commission have been a salutary wake-up call to the commission's leadership. The sixteenth report should not detract from the fact that the commission continues to do good work as the state's key integrity body and serves our state well. I thank Commissioner McKechnie for his leadership in this regard. I am confident that the commissioner understands the importance of the remedial action needed and I look forward to the follow-up reports of the forty-second Parliament on the actions taken by the commission in response to the report of the independent review.

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE

Tenth Report — Growing the defence industry in Western Australia: Discussion paper — Tabling

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [10.45 am]: I present for tabling the tenth report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee titled *Growing the defence industry in Western Australia: Discussion paper*.

[See paper [3441](#).]

Mr P.C. TINLEY: It is with great pleasure that I present the discussion paper to Parliament. The committee decided that given the time before proroguing of Parliament, we would endeavour to cover a topic that was particularly pertinent to the future of Western Australia. It is not lost on me that probably my very last words in this chamber as a member are about the future and not the past. This report is very much about the future.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Can I just ask people up in the gallery to keep it down, please? Thank you.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: They are excited, Acting Speaker.

This is a discussion paper for a very deliberate purpose. The defence industry in Western Australia is a moving target and, as such, it would not lend itself to the conclusions, findings and recommendations of a standard report and we had neither the time nor the capacity to do it. As a result, we feel we have brought together in this report of some 80-odd pages, a collection of known knowns, if you like, about an industry segment that will be very significant for the future of Western Australia. It will be so significant, in fact, that based on the evidence received as a committee we think it will be in the order of a \$25 billion to \$45 billion industry segment. To put that in context, the resources sector is sitting at something like \$140 billion worth of value and the agricultural sector is sitting at about \$10 billion. This will very much nest inside. The other thing that it represents for Western Australia is the capacity to diversify the economy. One thing we know about the current government is that it is very focused on diversifying the economy and what that means. In the committee's context, that was deliberately looked at on the basis of growing jobs—not just any jobs, but jobs up the technical spectrum, jobs that our kids and their kids will benefit from in a high wage jurisdiction that serves a standard of living that we have become used to and what they will hopefully enjoy in their future as well. It is very much part of the future of Western Australia and underpinned in large part by the AUKUS deal, which is increasing the defence expenditure in Western Australia and is a major opportunity for local industry. Roughly 52 per cent or \$38 billion of all commonwealth procurement contracts are currently awarded by defence. Of these, 22 per cent went to small to medium-sized enterprises in 2022–23. It is the some 200-plus SMEs in the Henderson alliance that represent those defence supporting industries and are the greatest employers in this sector.

Under the 2024 commonwealth's integrated investment program, Australia's maritime defence domain will receive the highest amount of commonwealth government funding, 38 per cent, for the decade from 2024 to 2034 into the future, and up to half of the Royal Australian Navy services. The submarine fleet is already based permanently in Western Australia, as will be the continuous shipbuilding business in Henderson. There are challenges—this is not without challenge—principally around the establishment of a nuclear maintenance base, nuclear support arrangements and, of course, skills in the nuclear space that we do not possess here in Western Australia or, in fact, in Australia. The skills development pathway and workforce planning that has been undertaken by the department is exemplary, and it has also been dovetailed and reinforced by the industry participants who came to speak to the committee about their belief that both the Department of Training and Workforce Development and South Metro TAFE are very well positioned to support the needs of the industry, which is a very encouraging sign. The issue, though, is around the skills work we do not currently have, and skilled migration may have to form part of the recruitment, attraction and retention arrangements for the Western Australian defence industry. Due to the nature of some of these specialist skills and the security requirements for those workers, we will look to our Five Eyes alliance partners to support that. It is a sensitive issue. There are only so many skilled people, particularly skilled leaders, in those technical areas around the globe, and we do not want to compete for too long with our United Kingdom and United States counterparts for some of those skills. We need to grow them ourselves organically, which is very well understood.

The biggest single issue that was found in the evidence we received was the concept of coordination. The state and federal agencies are multifaceted and have many, many different aspects of what they are trying to look at. It is not just about AUKUS; it is about defence in the north and the air force reorientation arrangements by which it is doing agile operations into northern Australia and working out, on modern threat levels, how it will respond to particular crises. These things will all require the support of the Western Australian government and industry. One of the biggest features of AUKUS is not just our defence projection and sustainment capability but our industrial base. The alliance in the world, particularly between the US and UK, requires an industrial base that can rise to meet any received threat. We are acutely aware of this, and so we feel that the coordination of the industrial base in Australia and certainly Western Australia needs to be undertaken with a little bit more veracity. There is an old phrase in the military, "unity of command". It is one of the principles of war by which there is one job, one boss. There seem to be multiple decision cycles here, and it is very hard for industry to get clarity about what the requirements will be and when. It is a perennial problem. These are the challenges we have identified. As I said, this discussion paper reflects a point in time. There are many things going on behind the scenes to make sure the coordination is organised and that we are moving this forward at the pace required to meet the need.

Of course, none of this could have happened without my fellow committee members, who have been very tolerant of me undertaking this pet project of mine in this area, and they have contributed in tremendous form. I very much thank the deputy chair, Merome Beard, member for North West Central, for her hard work, quite frankly, and for juggling her seat and her ambitions with the requirements of the committee. Of course I acknowledge all members. Emily Hamilton, member for Joondalup, thank you very much for your support. Ali Kent, member for Kalgoorlie, was a tremendous contributor and was always keen to be online if she could not be there in person, which is one of the great challenges for regional members. Of course, I also acknowledge Bill Johnston, member for Cannington, up here in the exit lounge. I have enjoyed his pithy comments to Earl Grey! Of course, no-one could have pulled this together better than the principal research officer, Vanessa Beckingham. Vanessa, thank you very much for the work that you have done. You truly are one of the best of your class. I can say that after 15 years of

watching this particular committee. Only one other person is your equal, I suppose, and Loraine Abernethie is her name. Of course, Jamie Bourne, you are very much a great addition to the team over there. Your insight, hard work and, quite frankly, capacity to discern the facts and the fiction to give us clarity about what we were trying to do and look into was very, very much appreciated, and we wish you well in your future. I commend the report.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

Thirteenth Report — Review of selected Auditor General reports 2019–2024 — Tabling

Mrs L.M. O'Malley presented the thirteenth report of the Public Accounts Committee, titled *Review of selected Auditor General reports 2019–2024*.

[See paper [3442](#).]

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Sixth Report — Annual report 2024 — Tabling

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [10.55 am]: I present for tabling the sixth report of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, titled *Annual report 2024*.

[See paper [3443](#).]

Mr G. BAKER: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the key activities of the committee for the period 1 January 2024 to 31 October 2024. The committee scrutinises instruments made under statutory delegation. It determines whether the instruments are within the power of the authorising legislation or otherwise in breach of the committee's terms of reference. The committee scrutinised 290 instruments, including 141 regulations and 57 local laws, during the reporting period. Motions for the disallowance of delegated legislation usually do not proceed if the committee receives satisfactory undertakings. The committee recommends disallowance only as a last resort. During the reporting period the committee received departmental undertakings covering one instrument and local government undertakings covering 20 local laws. The committee worked with Department of the Premier and Cabinet in updating appendix 2, "Region Planning Scheme Statutory Procedures Checklist", of the Premier's Circular, "Subsidiary Legislation—Explanatory Memoranda", as it required amendment. This was to reflect recent legislative changes.

The committee scrutinised a large number of applied national legislative instruments referred to it by virtue of the commencement of the Therapeutic Goods Law Application Act 2024. That act applies therapeutic legislative instruments made under the Commonwealth Therapeutic Goods Act 1989 as laws of Western Australia. All therapeutic legislative instruments made on or after 27 November 2023 are subject to disallowance and referred to the committee for consideration.

The committee has reported its position on cat local laws that were inconsistent with the Cat Act 2011 in every annual report in this Parliament. It identified further local cat laws of this type during the reporting period. It is disappointing that the same problematic clauses continue to appear in local cat laws. Committee time and local government resources are spent on avoidable issues, with many local cat laws being subject to undertakings for amendment.

The committee holds the view that Australian standards adopted into delegated legislation should be publicly and freely accessible. The committee investigated whether the Reader Room recently established by Standards Australia could be a useful method of accessing Australian standards that have been adopted by delegated legislation.

The committee trusts that the matters noted in this report will assist those making delegated legislation to understand the committee's processes and requirements. I commend the report to the house.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Seventh Report — Shire of Westonia Shipping and/or Sea Container Local Law 2024 — Tabling

MR G. BAKER (South Perth) [10.58 am]: I present for tabling the seventh report of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, titled *Shire of Westonia Shipping and/or Sea Container Local Law 2024*.

[See paper [3444](#).]

Mr G. BAKER: The report that I have just tabled advises the house of the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation that item 9 of part 3 of the Shire of Westonia Shipping and/or Sea Container Local Law 2024 be disallowed, and the reasons for that recommendation.

On 18 May 2023, the Shire of Westonia made the Shire of Westonia Shipping and/or Sea Container Local Law 2023. It was published in the *Government Gazette* on 23 May 2023 and came before the committee for scrutiny on 9 August that year. The committee identified that the local law had not been properly made in accordance with the procedures set out in the Local Government Act 1995. As is the committee's custom and practice, instead of moving a motion to disallow the local law, the chair wrote to the Shire of Westonia on 9 August 2023 seeking undertakings to repeal the law and, when remaking it, to correct a number of errors. One of those errors was that the law purported to operate retrospectively. The replacement Shire of Westonia Shipping and/or Sea Container Local Law 2024 was made by the shire on 20 September 2024 and was published in the *Government Gazette* on

4 October this year. It came into operation 10 days after gazettal. Although this law had been made properly on this occasion, item 9 of part 3 of the instrument still purports to make its conditions retrospective. As was explained to the shire in the committee's letter of 9 August, there is a general presumption against the retrospective operation of legislation. This derives from the common-law principle that holds that such laws offend the general principle that legislation is intended to regulate human conduct or to deal with future actions and ought not change the character of past transactions carried out upon the faith of the then existing law, and, in the absence of unambiguous contrary intentions, such law should be interpreted so as not to disturb the principles of common law and equity. I commend the report to the house.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS — HON TERRY “TUCK” WALDRON AND HON BRENDON GRYLLES

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [11.01 am]: Before I formally give the call to the member for Central Wheatbelt, I acknowledge Hon Terry “Tuck” Waldron, former member and minister, and Brendon Grylls, also a former member and minister of this house, both of whom I served with.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

Member for Central Wheatbelt

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt) [11.01 am]: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I also say that former member Hon Jacqui Boydell and her family are in the gallery, along with a daunting number of other people, so I am not looking up! Paul Brown—“Brownie”—is somewhere there, too.

I stand for the last time in this house with a mixture of emotions—amongst them satisfaction, pride, sadness and gratitude. After two terms in government and two in opposition, I have served in the Legislative Council and Assembly, spent nearly a decade as Deputy Leader and Leader of the Nationals WA combined, two of those as Leader of the Opposition, and some time as Minister for Water; Sport and Recreation and Forestry. I am rounding out my career with the prestigious role of being Whip for an opposition with a grand total of being six members strong in a chamber of 59 members. There have been a few firsts along this nearly 17 years, including being the first woman to represent the electorate of Central Wheatbelt, the first female to hold the role of Deputy or Leader of the Nationals anywhere in Australia, and Western Australia's first ever sport and recreation minister. I was the first Nationals Leader of the Opposition since 1947. I can assure members that that is not something one anticipates when one joins the Nationals WA!

I am from heartland National Party country, but no electorate should feel taken for granted, and I have always maintained that a candidate has to work hard, no matter their margin, to earn the trust and support of those they seek to represent. I have increased my primary vote at every election, including in 2021, during the COVID pandemic, when the popularity of then Premier McGowan and the Labor Party was unsurpassed. When I was preselected for the seat, following on from Brendon Grylls, I was told more than a thousand times, “You have some big shoes to fill!” I doorknocked in nearly every town comprising 27 local governments—more towns than that—spread across 100 000 square kilometres. I had great help and support, including from my mum and my dad and one Paul Brown, who is here today, who is slipping on the sneakers and about to hit the campaign trail with me once again. I was also backed by a marvellous group of local people who have become like my second family in this time, and I am so pleased that some of you have made it here today.

The course of my life over this nearly 17 years has run through the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, both professionally and personally, and it is sometimes hard to delineate the two in this most public of roles. Knowing that I had a strong network of friends and supporters across the electorate and the state has made the role far less daunting and vastly more fun. It may be clichéd but it is absolutely true that it has been an honour to represent the people and communities in the electorate of Central Wheatbelt from Northam to Southern Cross, Hyden to Boddington, Mukinbudin to Wongan Hills, York and everywhere in between. I have loved it. I have loved the challenges and opportunities of serving people who are practical and forthright, expect hard work and accountability and will rally in a heartbeat to help a neighbour or a stranger. I love the diversity in the electorate and I have loved working with our Aboriginal elders and community leaders—those patient and fiercely proud people with the longest enduring culture in the world. We all have a responsibility to walk alongside them and chart a better path forward together.

That diversity in my electorate extends to those who have made Australia their home, many of whom fled a war-torn Europe at the end of World War II and survived the harsh conditions of the Northam and Cunderdin army camps. We have families from Poland, Hungary, Ukraine, the former Czechoslovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Italy and many more. They have enriched our communities and helped build our region, as have those who have arrived since.

My upbringing in the small town of Wyalkatchem—West Yorkrakine, if we are being very specific—has played a significant role in shaping who I am and what I do today. I was surrounded by people who volunteered, took on leadership roles and made things happen on a daily basis. If they did not, our town and the opportunities we had would have been significantly diminished. Public service, volunteering, having a go and making a difference was

embedded in our psyche from a very early age, as was the importance of education. As I did in my first speech, I thank my mum and dad and our extended family for prioritising our education, whether that was through active participation in our primary and secondary schooling or creating space for us to pursue our studies beyond that. They made sacrifices to make this happen, and we are all extraordinarily grateful.

Education is the game changer, and in a state as wealthy and prosperous as ours, our public education system should be the best of the best. Sadly, that opportunity is not afforded to every child or young adult, either through economic or societal circumstance or, sadly, geography. Finding pathways to improve the access to and quality of education at all levels should remain a priority for every person who takes their place in this house.

During our first term in government, we delivered upgrades to Merredin College and Merredin Residential College in my electorate and a number of other colleges across the state to support the completion of secondary education closer to home. I fought for funding to purchase more land and update the accommodation at Western Australian College of Agriculture Cunderdin to give more students the opportunity to complete their schooling at a topnotch education facility with a focus on agricultural excellence. We delivered funding into Northam Senior High School for a state-of-the-art performing arts centre and much-needed upgrades to this 100-year-old school, and we delivered millions into Muresk Institute for upgrades to accommodation and to underpin the delivery of a tertiary agricultural degree, short courses and professional developmental opportunities for the sector.

At the other end of the spectrum, I worked closely with our local governments and community leaders in childcare to build support for a new model of early learning tailored to the wheatbelt. In 2011, with significant changes afoot for childcare funding coming in courtesy of our federal government, the then member for O'Connor Tony Crook and I hosted federal Minister for Early Childhood, Childcare and Youth Kate Ellis in the wheatbelt, driving her to Quairading, Narembeen, Kulin and Katanning, with representatives from all over the wheatbelt joining us to share their frustrations and concerns. After many meetings with Fleur Wilkinson from Brookton and the Wheatbelt Organisation for Childcare Services, Deborah Clune and her team, we were adamant there was a better way to deliver childcare services into the wheatbelt. A small-scale project led by the Shire of Brookton gathered support from other local governments and stakeholders and, with the work of Jill Cameron and a dedicated group of supporters, the Regional Early Education and Development Inc, or REED, is now embedded as a bespoke wheatbelt childcare provider. On this, I thank the then incoming Labor minister, Simone McGurk, for her support for this project throughout the change of government. It was a wonderful success story, and it will only continue to grow.

Creating the opportunity for our seniors to age close to home and in a dignified and supportive community has also been a passion of mine. It is not acceptable to me that our elders—those who have worked and built our communities, supported our families and enriched our lives—are often given no choice but to relocate to where they can access services and medical care. In a small way, working with our local governments and key stakeholders, I was part of securing funding to give our seniors a choice of staying in the wheatbelt, close to home. We delivered 71 independent living units across the central and eastern wheatbelt as part of the biggest investment in housing for seniors and those living with disability in our region.

The wheatbelt is often used as the stalking horse for local government reform—do not get me started on that! We have all been in governments that have flunked on policy implementation and execution. In my time, we have proven again and again that a collaborative approach can deliver great outcomes without the need for a big-stick approach. I sincerely congratulate the shires that contributed to and continue to work on creating fit-for-purpose housing. I make mention of Tuck Waldron, who is now the independent chair of this organisation. In the same wheelhouse, I will never forget the day that the then Premier and I opened the expanded Dryandra residential aged-care facility in Kellerberrin. It grew from a community-run lodge to a 39-room facility, including dementia-level care, allowing countless families to stay closer to their loved ones while they received the care that they deserved. To me, these investments are about putting our families and communities first, and every dollar spent has been worthwhile. They all have a common thread—they were all enabled by royalties for regions. I cannot let this opportunity pass without talking about this phenomenon, and there is no other way to describe it. Our detractors will say that it is nothing more than a slogan, but those who lived through the creation, development and delivery of royalties for regions will know that it is far more than that. Not a corner of our state has not been untouched by this program. It was truly exciting to be a part of the team that argued for the change and was then part of delivering it. Synonymous with Brendon Grylls and his leadership, we pitched the story that there had to be a better way of driving development and funding in regional WA. Instead of rolling into an election cycle and asking for a laundry list of projects, the concept was simple: come up with a way to fund them now and into the future and take a long-term view on regional development instead of waiting for election promises to drop like crumbs. We needed to think about it in the long term. Some of the wealth generated in the regions returned to the regions; it was so simple, yet so powerful. We said that local leadership should have more say in the decision-making that impacted their community. We invited government departments to think outside the square when solving wicked problems and we gave people and departments that wanted to do what had always been done a serious headache. Over time, royalties for regions shifted from a deficit funding model, filling in long-neglected gaps in infrastructure and services, to an investment and innovation model. It created hope for communities and people who felt forgotten and taken for granted and were far from the decision-makers and government.

In opposition, we gathered a dedicated little team, and we set about trying to do things just a little bit differently. Policies like the Country Age Pension Fuel Card, the local government fund, the Living Lakes Network, the Ord–East Kimberley expansion, the Pilbara Cities project, the exploration incentive fund, new aircraft and funding for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and backing for our community resource centres were developed by that little team just prior to and after the election. We crafted them in opposition and we delivered them in the first iteration of royalties for regions. They have fundamentally changed our state for the better. In my electorate at the time, the Southern Inland Health Initiative became the single biggest investment in regional health in our state’s history—over half a billion dollars. We now have a state-of-the-art telehealth network as a result, linking specialists, primary healthcare providers, doctors and patients within a moment. It also delivered upgrades and investment into infrastructure and piloted the Pingelly and Cunderdin primary healthcare services. In Cunderdin, we have more work to do. The community has spoken volumes with a petition containing more than 600 signatures, which was tabled today, calling for palliative care and overnight observation capacity. There are those in our health system who know that the premise of that project was a pilot and there was always the potential for additional investment to get the model right. I know that Lachlan Hunter and our team will continue to fight for what they deserve.

In Pingelly, the investment has created the ecosystem for transformational change in aged-care living and service delivery in our regions. The innovative Staying in Place initiative that has been driven by the local community resource centre under Lee Steele’s leadership, the dedicated Helen Morton and the Pingelly Somerset Alliance is now being replicated across the state, generating new jobs and providing care for those who want to remain living independently and close to their loved ones.

Outside of my electorate, I had the opportunity to tap into royalties for regions as I took on the ministerial portfolios of water, forestry and then sport and recreation. The irony of me holding those portfolios! I was from the wheatbelt where there was little water and few trees and anyone who knew me knew I had not an ounce of sporting talent. I am looking at you, member for Mandurah! I was the kid in the tunnel ball and flag races and D-grade on the nettie court. My competitive spirit was definitely directed elsewhere! Nonetheless, it was in water that I saw the biggest challenge and opportunity, and it was twofold. The first, which every Minister for Water will attest to, is to manage our most precious resource where the impact of climate change is evident and real. Second, to tap into an opportunity to drive economic growth and prosperity in regions that had undefined or poorly understood water resources. I can assure members that this did not involve a pipeline or a canal from the Kimberley!

We supercharged the groundwater investigation scheme and started digitising decades of data so that it was readily available for industry, government and community. But the most exciting project was the creation of a program called Water for Food, which invested \$40 million into 11 projects across the state to identify water and land resources and develop new land tenure pathways that could increase the value of Western Australia’s fresh food and animal protein production. These projects spanned everywhere from the north of the state to the very southern part of the state. It was extraordinarily ambitious. We pushed boundaries and asked communities to think expansively about their precious water resources. In the Kimberley, where there is an abundance of water, it was a different challenge to the food bowl in the Gascoyne, southern forests and Midlands. We made no excuses that there would be some challenging conversations and that we would need to work hard to garner community support to prove the case and find the right partners to help us deliver. I want to thank everyone who took that leap of faith, brought their expertise and experience to the table and shared the vision. We had some great successes. For those that did not come to fruition either as a result of a change in government or because the project simply did not work, learnings have been banked for the future. There was no place for timidity. Anyone who has been between business, a community or grower and water will attest to the intestinal fortitude required to navigate that challenge!

It allowed me to forge new friendships; in particular, the community of Mowanjum will have a special place in my heart forever. The glorious silver lining from this period is that I had the opportunity to work alongside my great friend and mentor Doug Cunningham and my dad, both of whom had a passion for the project and its transformative potential for our state. Growing up, I never envisaged that I would take the seat that my dad vacated in 2001 or work with him as a member and minister. It was truly special to share our passion for agriculture and politics on this project. As a state, we are internationally renowned for our mining credentials, and rightly so; the men and women who work in this sector drive our national economy. But there is still untapped opportunity out there in irrigated agriculture for a future ambitious government.

Before I move on from my time as a minister, I want to touch on the portfolio that most refer to as fun and games. Tuck Waldron and Colin Barnett had already put us on the path to delivering a world-class Perth Stadium when I took over the reins. If members recall, Tuck had embarked on the arduous task of touring the most modern and fan-focused stadiums in the world! It was a tough job, but someone had to do it! In all seriousness, the outcome of that fact-finding mission was to create a fan-first experience and world-class venue. It was well on its way to being up and out of the ground when I started.

Would you believe me when I say I was happy to be charged with negotiating the financial terms of the agreement with football and cricket as the two key tenants? I was delighted to front up to Parliament day after day for the scrutiny that was brought to bear by the now Deputy Premier and excited to front press pack after press pack,

which were fond of taking the bait from football that we would bankrupt AFL in the move from Subiaco stadium. History now proves that the stadium has been one of the most successful public infrastructure projects we have ever delivered, having hosted international music and sporting events and even the AFL Grand Final. I would like to thank Ronnie Hurst and David Etherton, two consummately professional public servants who took enormous pride in the project and its delivery for their work with me and my office during that time. I would also like to thank WA Cricket, under the leadership of Christina Matthews, for understanding the assignment and seeing the opportunity that the new stadium presented for world-class cricket in Western Australia. She is a legend! It was a privilege to play a small part in delivering this iconic project for our state.

As I move on from my time as minister, I acknowledge that I had a style that tested some relationships. There was, in fact, an entire editorial written about it in *The West Australian*. All I will say is that when you refuse to accept that things must be done the way they have always been done, there is inevitably a healthy tension. I actually consider myself relatively collaborative and consultative, but I have no time for people who seek power for its own end. That is not public service; rather, it is empire building and there is no place for that when you are working for the people of Western Australia.

With that, let me address an issue that I have spoken about in this house many times. It is no secret that I am unashamedly supportive of the industry that has been my family's life for multiple generations. Western Australia is exceptional at producing high-value and high-quality food and fibre, but that is at risk every day unless we have people in this Parliament who understand agriculture and its drivers, opportunities and challenges. Government has a responsibility to make decisions based on science and common sense. It has a responsibility to challenge ideologically driven policy with facts and to take a broader view than those with a narrow or singular focus.

It has been devastating for the people who are involved in the sheep industry to see it ripped from underneath them by a government that has shamelessly chased votes in inner-city suburbs on the east coast of Australia. Instead of taking pride in the fact that we have some of the most rigorous animal welfare standards and celebrating the marvel of science and hard work to produce first-class protein that the world wants and some of the best wool clip in the world, their own government has shut them down. Instead of thanking our stock agents, our shearers and our truckies for the role they play as cogs in a finely balanced supply chain, this government has sent a message: they are not valued or valuable. We need more people to understand what it takes to produce food and fibre, not less. On this, I give my commitment that the agricultural sector will always have an unequivocal friend and advocate in me and the Nationals.

Finally, before I acknowledge those who have helped me along the way, I want to share how I have navigated nearly 17 years in this place. It is not as long as some. We have had the privilege of listening to a number of valedictory speeches this week and they have all been varied and heartfelt. It has been a pleasure to listen to them. At the end of the day, all we have in this place is our integrity. For that to remain intact, we have to balance the threads that pull at our own heart, our party and our constituents' best interests. Over the years, the tension in those threads has challenged me from time to time.

I have used my voice on issues and matters that are important, but that has sometimes seen me at odds with our party or my electorate. This has never been done lightly or without the belief that we are elected to set the bar high, lead change, speak truth to power and challenge the status quo when it is needed. Accountability and integrity are two things that we can control in an environment and world in which there are so many variables that we cannot. I have participated in debates on stop and search laws, abortion access legislation, the Voice, justice for survivors of forced adoption, gender reassignment, redress for child abuse survivors, same-sex marriage, juvenile justice and voluntary assisted dying, just to name a few. Although I accept that there are those with strongly held views on all these matters, I hope the public and my peers have seen me approach each issue that we have considered by putting people at the centre of the debate.

We are powerful people in this chamber and what we say and do matters. I urge those who seek public office to be bold, brave and authentic. I can attest that it may test friendships and loyalties, but none of us should be here simply to bide time or make up the numbers. Temper that boldness and bravery by showing respect, kindness and compassion, even for your toughest of opponents. I can attest that your electorate and support base only grow stronger when you are prepared to do this.

Before I thank those who have been on the journey with me, I want to thank the amazing organisations that I have had the privilege of serving as patron or vice-patron over the years. These groups do amazing work—unsung heroes—and it has been my pleasure to have been associated with them and assist in some small way. To the Royal Life Saving Society of WA—they literally save lives—it has been an honour to be your vice-patron. Comfort Quilts Against Cancer, Northam Women in Business, Northam Army Camp Heritage Association, Perth Hills and Wheatbelt Band, Toodyay Race Club, Northam and Districts Historical Society Inc, Corrigin Agricultural Society, Northam Cricket Association and Northam Community Men's Shed are just a few. Everyone in these organisations is a hardworking volunteer and they do amazing work. The Country Women's Association of WA also has my continuing admiration and respect. The CWA has been empowering women and championing positive change for our communities for a century this year, and I am proud to stand in this place as a member.

I now go to those who have shared this roller-coaster ride with me. I have made the strongest of friends and held on tight to those people who knew me before my public life, some of whom are here today, and that is so very special to me. To my friends and colleagues in the National Party, you all understand what it is like to be a part of something bigger than yourself. This grand old party has been serving the people of our state for over 100 years. We are custodians of its legacy and future, which I know will be strong and effective for many years to come. To Brendon Grylls, the person who backed me before I was confident enough to back myself—a person of vision, drive and commitment to make a difference—you challenge us to be better, think more expansively and be agents for change. Thank you for your friendship and your leadership. Thank you to both you and Susan: I am so very lucky to have you in my corner. To Jacqui Boydell—fiercely loyal, forthright and great fun—who was my deputy and is my friend. She is someone who challenges and supports me to this day. Your amazing parents, Tom and Maggie, are stalwarts of the Nationals and the Carnarvon community, and are hard work embodied. I will never forget your generosity of spirit when it came to our party.

To Tony Crook, a genuine advocate for regional Australia, helping you become the member for O'Connor is one of my favourite memories of all time. I thank you and Karen for your contribution to public life. To Colin Holt, my former Council colleague, disruptor and friend, thank you. To Colin de Grussa, who has served in the Council and as our state president, I wish you well in the next stage of your career. To the members for Moore and Roe, who are sitting in front of me, I understand the assignment as no-one else might. You have my respect and gratitude for your service to the state. You are both quality individuals who have shown me great support and kindness, and I thank you for it. To you, Julie Freeman, Julie Kirby and our growing team of candidates, we have faced down adversity before. I have faith that as you steer a new path for the Nationals, there will be many who will be drawn to our pragmatic and commonsense approach to politics. Keep backing yourselves and stay strong. There are more chapters to be written for this little party that you lead. To Martin Aldridge, an extraordinary talent and friend, your policy brain is surpassed only by your work ethic. It has been a pleasure to serve with you. The Parliament and our party has been better for your contribution to public life.

The network of members and supporters who keep the wheels turning, volunteer their time, invest their own money and share their expertise are the beating heart of our organisation. Rob Tinetti, Heather Giles and their families—there are too many to mention—have gone above and beyond. Lisa Logan served as my electorate council president for a decade before heading back to the hills with her family to pursue her own political career. To Lachlan Hunter, whom I know will be standing in this Parliament next year as the member for Central Wheatbelt, you will be a force to be reckoned with as you embark on this next role.

We all know that none of us can do this job without a strong team. To those in my ministerial office—those whom I spent more time with than my own family and friends—thank you for your endless patience, good humour and dedication. I give particular thanks to the tenacious Nicole O'Keefe, the fierce Amy McAllister, Evan Stewart, Dan Nevin, Carolyn Hills and Simone Knox. Thank you for those who signed on when we came to opposition in 2017 and kept the energy and drive going in our little team, in particular the talented and committed Joshua Nyman, Alex Massey, Tay Alers and, later, Emily Evans and Heather York. To Theresa Middis, who worked in my electorate office, ministerial office and leader's office, you are one in a million. To the dream team in my electorate—you amazing women, starting out with Clare Creegan in the very beginning, and then Kath Brown, Michelle Alvaro, Rhonda Lawrence, Wendy Chambers and Georgia Brown—I receive nothing but praise from constituents and people who interact with our office. You do the hard work behind the scenes to solve the most challenging of problems, lend a kind and generous ear to those who need support and are fearless in your advocacy for our communities. I count you amongst my closest of friends and I simply could not have done the job without you by my side. Be proud of the difference you have made to the lives of so many who have sought our help.

To my friends, you know how important you are to me and how much I value your support and love. Thank you for being a constant in my life and allowing me to be Auntie Mia to your beautiful kiddos. I am lucky to have your unconditional support and for you to be willing participants in my car conversations at any hour of the day or night while on the road in my electorate! To Em, Nick, Harry and Ella, who are my safe haven away from politics and where I am just Immi, sister, sister-in-law and aunty are my most treasured roles. You inspire and amaze me, and I love you all dearly. Finally, to my dear Mum, who has lived through two political careers with all the conferences, meetings, doorknocking, polling booths, glare of the public and more when all she really wanted to do was spend time with her beautiful family, you have been my number one cheerleader, a role that you and Dad have played for both your daughters and now your beloved grandkids. You are far stronger than you give yourself credit for and we have seen your inner resolve to be our anchor in the wake of losing Dexter, and we love you for it. I have always tried to be true to what you both instilled in us: that if you think you can make a difference, you should.

To all of you in this place—I cannot see—members and staff alike, I genuinely wish you the best as the parliamentary term draws to a close. Aren't we so very lucky to have trod these halls together with the shared purpose of making our state the best place to live and work? Finally, to the people of the Central Wheatbelt, I thank you for the privilege of being your representative. It has been the experience of a lifetime. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Member for Cannington

MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington) [11.34 am]: The last of the last! I rise to deliver my final speech to the Parliament of Western Australia. I have 1 800 seconds to summarise 41 years of political activism. To start, I want to acknowledge the Whadjuk Noongar people as the traditional owners of this land and of the land of the Cannington electorate. I am very grateful to the people of Cannington for electing me four times. It has been an honour and privilege to represent you in the Parliament. My first loyalty has always been to the people of Cannington.

My next acknowledgement is to my family. My wife, Kate Doust, and I have a unique relationship. While we are not the only married couple in the Parliaments around the country, there are not many of us. When Kate was elected in 2001, I was elected as Australian Labor Party state secretary shortly after. Our kids were aged just nine, six and three at the time and it was difficult for them. Many families have both parents working and there are many fly-in fly-out families. It is not as if our family struggle was harder than the struggle of other families, but that does not mean our family life was easy. The toll on our children was huge. That our three kids, Bek, Zoe and Liam, have successful lives is a credit to their own endeavour and resilience. Kate and I are very proud of them.

When Bek got married, she had the great imagination to marry another Liam, but he is called “Rochie”, so we do not get confused between our son Liam and our son-in-law Liam. I think Rochie was happy to move to the United States after their wedding, literally on the other side of the planet, because he was able to get away from his in-laws. When he and Bek moved back to Perth with their two children, Kora and Tash, I am sure that made him nervous!

I am the eighth child of eight children of hardworking parents, Barney and Carmel. My father died when I was only two years of age, and my eldest sister, Mary, was just 15. My mum was a tough woman, but very caring of all of us. Raising eight kids as a war widow was no easy job. I am very pleased my eldest sister Mary, and her husband Ian McLean, have joined us in the chamber. It is a big effort to fly across the country to be here for this speech, and I appreciate it deeply. I hope that Andy, Marg, Stephen, Clare, Bert and Jo are watching, plus the various spouses, children, and grandchildren. There are more than 80 “Johnno’s” around the country!

In particular, I want to note my sister, Marg and her husband Eike. All of us love Marg and are proud that she was awarded an Order of Australia for her services to education. As I explained in my inaugural speech, my childhood shaped my politics; it is why I always support those who are doing their best for their families and our community. I also need to acknowledge the Cannington Labor branch members, some of whom have joined us today. All members of Parliament stand on the shoulders of others, and it is on their shoulders that I have been standing as the Member for Cannington.

It is said that politics is “Show business for ugly people”, which is probably why I have fit in so well. I have spent 41 years as a member of the Labor Party, including nine years at the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees’ Association of WA, 11 years in party office and 16 years in Parliament. I have had a charmed career, and I am always grateful for the opportunities that have come my way.

I got involved in politics to help change the world and I am pleased I have had some success. I finished year 12 in 1980, and I expected that I would go on to university and become a schoolteacher—a noble profession, I am sure you would agree. However, instead, I was accepted into the American Field Service student exchange program. That meant that while my friends started university in 1981, I worked full-time at the Department of Foreign Affairs in the basement packing mail bags for six months before heading to Indonesia in July of 1981, going back to high school for an extra year at SMA2, Government High School No 2, Bandung. Living in Indonesia certainly changed me forever, and not just because I learnt a second language. It changed my attitudes and it exposed me to a different life, a different religion and many different cultures. Keluarga Sumawiganda, the Sumawiganda family, accepted me as a son. I still keep in touch with Lerry, Rudy, Ben, Titan and Pri, my five “brothers”, as well as Ibu Sumawiganda. They still treat me as one of their family all these many years later. It is a joy to be with them, including their wives, children and now grandchildren.

The other students on the program also made a big impression. Tim Dalzell, my Kiwi mate from “Palmy North”, was with me in Bandung along with Maaiké Newhuis from the Netherlands. Sylvie Nys from Belgium, who now lives in Spain, Peter Diamond from Wisconsin, as well as Tania Teese, Mark James and Lucinda Chappell from around Australia. They are all still friends all these many years later. Penny Williams who was in Jakarta for her year is now the Australian Ambassador to Indonesia. What a job that would be. It was great to see her last year as part of the Western Australian delegation led by Premier Cook. I also want to acknowledge the many friends I had at SMA2—classmates like Nyta Pusparia and her sister Irene Apriyanthi. It was certainly an incredible experience.

I have been very lucky to make some great friends along the way in life. Dan Kennedy and I started in kindergarten together and we still keep in touch. Leon Hribar did an AFS program like I did, but he went to the United States. Steve Hodgkin is into cars, even more than I am. Paul Wentworth is still a true friend. I keep in touch with many of the guys from Daramalan. One of those guys was Stephen Conroy. We met in 1974 and we were always talking politics. One night in June 1983, Steve rang me to say he was heading off to a Labor Party meeting and asked whether I would like to come and join as well. It seemed like a great idea at the time, but I must say I had no idea where that decision would take me. At the meeting, I met Michael Kerrisk and Stephen Booth, who were at the

Australian National University with Steve. The four of us had much to learn, but we quickly worked out that we needed to take over the Australian Capital Territory Australian Labor Party. That is why we formed “the faction” complete with our own salute. Later, we were joined by Craig Shannon and although we never did manage to take control of the ACT ALP, we certainly took control of ACT Young Labor and I got to be ACT YL president in 1988. There were lots of others like Sally Standen and Ruth Webber who were also part of the team. We supported an engineer the New South Wales railways to be the ACT YL secretary, Mike Kaiser. Like so many of the people I have met over my Labor years, Mike is a contributor.

Stephen Conroy was the first of us to get a job in politics, going onto the staff of Ros Kelly. Ros introduced us to the whole pantheon of Labor icons of the 1980s from Bob Hawke and Paul Keating to John Button, Kim Beazley and Graham Richardson, just to name some. Later, Steve moved to Melbourne and became a dominating influence in Victorian politics. A senator for Victoria, he was Deputy Leader of the Labor Party in the Senate and a minister. When Steve decided to leave the Senate—we have just been texting about this—he famously just tabled his speech rather than read it live. It meant that many people missed the big story. In the speech, he outed my high school nickname. Given that I had been labelled as one of the leaders of the WA Labor right faction, it surprises some that my nickname at high school was “Johnno the Commo”. But for me, Steve is my mate, and while I cannot ski, it is always great to get together with Steve, his wife, Paula Benson, and their lovely daughter Bella. It is remarkable that we are still friends after more than 50 years. Perhaps our friendship has lasted this long because I live in Perth and he lives in Melbourne!

Michael Kerrisk went on to be the ACT ALP branch secretary and put the branch on a professional footing. Stephen Booth worked for the Australian Workers’ Union, including in Western Australia, and later worked for Victorian Labor governments. Craig Shannon, a close friend of both the Speaker and member for Landsdale, has worked hard for Labor in many ways. Craig’s parties at his rental properties in the 1980s were legendary. I cannot say out loud what they were called—of course, something to do with “Bond”.

We did not hang out with just the Young Labor types. I met a rising talent at the time, Margaret Quirk, who was a local branch member as well. I am proud to have served here in the Parliament with the member for Landsdale, the godmother of my son. In the 1980s, I met a staffer for Kim Beazley called Ed Dermer and we are still friends today. He served the people of this state very well as a member for the North Metropolitan Region. Canberra in the 1980s was a great place to meet staffers, including Morris Iemma, who would go on to be a NSW Premier, and my friend David Tierney who has had a very interesting life. In fact, the members of our Mt Ainslie branch included Gary Gray, Dr Craig Emerson and Bob McMullan, just to name a few. It was an exciting time. We all knew that the Hawke–Keating Labor government was changing Australia forever and for the better. Economic reform, industry reform, the accord, Medicare, superannuation and the social wage was the start of modern Australia, a dynamic, trading, multicultural country, setting a path to prosperity. Another Mt Ainslie branch member was the Labor legend the late Fred Daly. Fred had been elected to Parliament in 1943 and retired in 1975. He treated our group of activists with great respect. Fred was a generous mentor to us. One of his most important lessons was to make sure that at least one of us had read the rules. That became my job and I have continued to do that with the standing orders. He also told us to never assume how anyone will vote. He said you can believe that the person who says they will never vote for you under any circumstances is a “no”, but that everyone else is a “maybe”! Likewise, I met you, Madam Speaker. One night Ed Dermer invited me to join a dinner in Manuka with some of the members of the ALP national executive, and that is where I met the Speaker. The Speaker’s husband, Greg Roberts, is likewise another good friend. I have always been pleased to have Greg as my plus one at the V8 Supercars each year.

I have been able to do some really interesting things through politics. In 1985, it was the United Nations International Year of Youth, and two big international youth conferences were held, divided by the Cold War. The KGB funded the International Union of Youth and Students and held a conference in Moscow. Instead of going to that conference, I went to the pro-Western event, the International Youth Conference in Kingston, Jamaica. I met Michael Danby at the conference, who went onto be a federal member of Parliament. I also met Matthew Strasbourg, a staffer from NSW, and Ian Blandthorn, the assistant national secretary of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees’ Association. Steve Conroy asked me to nominate as the youth representative on the board of the Australian Bicentennial Authority. I still have the letter from Prime Minister Bob Hawke appointing me as a director. On the board of the authority from 1985 until 1989, I was given an education on the workings of a quango, learning that you are ahead of the game just by reading the meeting papers. That is a good lesson in life no matter what job you have.

In 1991, I went to Indonesia as part of the Australia–Asia young political leaders’ program. The delegation leader was Cameron O’Reilly who at the time was a staffer for the Minister for Foreign Affairs Laurie Brereton. Cameron and I are still friends and he is now a leading voice in Australia’s energy transition. Another friend from that trip is Jody Fassina, who was also a Labor staffer. Jody’s friendship endures through many changes. I also met Dean Smith on that trip.

In 2002, I was guest of the United States Department of State for the mid-term elections. It was a fascinating insight, but I also met some interesting people. Lizzy Blandthorn and Jason Clare were both part of the delegation.

I had been to the conference in Kingston, Jamaica in 1985 with Lizzy's father, and Lizzy is now a minister in the Victorian government. Jason Clare is now the federal Minister for Education. Simon Birmingham was also on that trip and is now a senator for South Australia, and even Barnaby Joyce was one of the crew.

One day, when I was assistant state secretary, I went to Fletcher Rowe and Associates. When I walked in, Ian Fletcher said, "I've met you before." He had been the first assistant secretary at the Australian Customs Service when I was a lowly payroll clerk, but he still remembered me. I have always appreciated Fletch giving me advice and suggestions over the years. I am pleased to say that not everyone that has helped me during my career has been a Labor person. I have always been up-front about my views—some people might suggest too up-front—but if you do not get along with people with whom you disagree, how can society function, and if you will not consider other people's views, how do you know your views are correct?

Bradley Woods started as CEO of the Australian Hotels Association at the same time as I started as assistant state secretary and we met soon afterwards. I am pleased that we are still friends. I always tell Bradley that he is my "second favourite Liberal", because Paul Everingham and I are also friends. Paul was the WA Liberal state director in 2005, which is not the usual path to becoming a friend of the Australian Labor Party state secretary. However, once Paul was off in industry, we struck up a great friendship. He was great to work with at the Chamber of Minerals and Energy during COVID. On that score, I want to acknowledge Claire Wilkinson from the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association and Warren Pearce from the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies for their contributions during COVID.

I am pleased that many people in business have helped me over the years. Hon Nick Griffiths introduced me to his university friend Neil Hamilton, and Neil Hamilton introduced me to Tony Howarth. They have both been great supporters over the years. My good friend Peter Clough, who is in the chamber, has always been a strong Labor man and at the time he worked for Western Mining when I was assistant state secretary. He put me in touch with many people in the mining industry, too many to name, who are happy to educate me on how mining works, how a mine plan is connected to commodity prices, how exploration is the key to sustaining projects and how mining services make a strong mining sector. These lessons have proved very valuable. Likewise, as state secretary, I helped Eric Ripper manage energy reforms through the party. He and his team helped me understand the complexities of the energy system and why an efficient energy system serves working people. This was the foundation on which I built my interest in energy policy, which is so fundamental to our economy.

Of course, my career through the SDA, to party office and into Parliament would not have happened without the support of many Labor stalwarts. I met the late Jim Maher, national president of the SDA, as a fellow director of the Australian Bicentennial Authority. His common sense advice and support were instrumental to my journey through the party. In 1989 I had decided to leave the public service in Canberra and move to Melbourne to see what might happen down there. On my last day at the customs service, Jim rang me up and asked me to come and work for him. Because Jim was also the Victorian SDA secretary, I assumed he meant in Melbourne. When I said yes, he said, "Great, you start in Perth next week!". So, I arrived in Perth the next week, to be met by the SDA's assistant secretary Joe Bullock and a senior organiser, Kate Doust. Yes, Hon Kate Doust is literally the first woman I met in Perth! At SDA, I worked with some great officials. Mark Bishop, SDA secretary, was very supportive of my career. Bill McIntosh, now a life member of WA Labor, was a great mentor. Hon Martin Pritchard and Stuart McLean were part of a talented team of dedicated officials. I also made friends with SDA officials in other states like Don Farrell and Ton Koutsantonis from South Australia.

At the SDA, I also served as vice president of the Trades and Labour Council—now UnionsWA. It was an important time, fighting against the first, second and third waves of anti-worker laws in this state. The late Tony Cooke, Steph Mayman, Tony Robinson, Sharryn Jackson, Fran Logan and Janine Freeman were just some of the people who I got to know as we worked to rid our state of those unfair laws. Peter O'Keeffe and Ben Harris would each in turn be the SDA secretary while I was the member for Cannington, and I thank them for their support. Union secretaries are in touch with working people; their thoughts and advice should not be undervalued.

I also got to know a man with "a brain the size of a planet", Dr Tony Buti, and I enjoyed sitting next to the Minister for Education for three years in Parliament. From the SDA I went on to be WA Labor's assistant state secretary in January 1998, and then state secretary in May 2001. This is how I met Raj Selvendra, a great friend and supporter. Sel is a true Labor icon. We all wish Ambiga all the best.

Inside the Labor Party there is an indestructible bond that I have always been pleased to be part of—the ex- secretaries' club. Mark Cuomo, Stephen Smith and John Halden helped me as part of that special bond. I was pleased to help both Patrick Gorman and Tim Picton while they were secretaries as part of the responsibilities of the club. However, I do not know that either of them really needed my help. I am looking forward to Ellie Whiteaker becoming a senator and joining the club very soon. The club includes ex-assistant state secretaries, and so Hon Sally Talbot and Cassie Rowe, the member for Belmont, are also members. I look forward to Lauren Cayoun becoming an MLC and joining soon as well. And then there is Lenda Oshalem, the most dynamic of all the assistant state secretaries. I hope that her immense talents can be found a role in public life in some way. Oh, that is right—

I also acknowledge Lenda's fiancé, the Minister for Mines and Petroleum! The ex-secretaries' club includes members from all around Australia, and I have always enjoyed talking with people like Tim Gartrell, Michael Brown, Mark Arbib and Stephen Loosley, just to name a few.

At the Labor Party, I worked with the late Jim Millar, Rob Meecham and Rob Mitchell to set up the Labor Business Roundtable to reconnect WA Labor and the business community. It must have worked, because 25 years later, it is still operating.

I do not have time to go through every campaign that I have been involved with, but there are a few that I want to mention. In 1999, I spent six weeks working on the Monaro state campaign in NSW. Our candidate was John Durst, a restaurateur. He needed a 23.5 per cent swing to win. We got a 23 per cent swing, and fell just half a point short. When John found out that I was into cars, he lent me his own car for me to drive on those country roads in New South Wales—a Porsche 911. It is not the car you expect to use as a Labor campaign worker!

When Geoff Gallop resigned as Premier and stood aside from Victoria Park, Ben Wyatt replaced him. I live in that electorate and thought about running myself, but Ben was clearly a better candidate. I wanted someone to be Ben's assistant, so I hired a Young Labor activist. Even 18 years ago I knew Varun Ghosh had a bright future. I am so pleased he is now a Senator for Western Australia. The 2007 Peel by-election was very tricky for WA Labor, but Paul Papalia was the correct choice. His service to Australia in the Navy is unsurpassed, and he increased the Labor vote. Again, I needed a Young Labor person to look after Paul. That was Terry Healy, the member for Southern River, who is not in his seat. In the lead-up to the 2007 federal election, Kim Beazley said to me that we should run an ex-military person for the seat of Stirling and I told Kim that I knew just the man. I had met Major Peter Tinley, AO, sometime before. Although Peter missed out narrowly in 2007, he was ready to step up as the member for Willagee, and I am pleased to have shared so many experiences with my friend Peter over our years together.

The period of opposition between 2008 and 2017 was very tough. Time in opposition is never fun, never fun at all, but it is the time of opportunity. It was a rare privilege to work with a talented group of people to hold the Barnett government to account. No successful opposition just whinges. It has to put together a genuine vision, and we certainly did that. What a talented group—Ben, Paul and Peter, as well as Mark McGowan, Roger Cook and Rita Saffioti, just to name a few. The whole team played their part. Mark McGowan became the dominating personality in WA politics like no one before him. No observer of politics in 2016 predicted how dominating Mark McGowan would become. The 2021 election was the biggest political victory in Australia's history. I met the Premier, Roger Cook, before I went into party office. Even then, in the 1990s, I knew Roger had the talent to go far. The Deputy Premier has no equal in being across policy detail, which is probably why the opposition never ask her a question. Rita was part of Geoff Gallop's opposition office from 1997, and we worked together right through my time in party office, along with Kieran Murphy and Bruce Campbell-Fraser.

WA is very lucky with the calibre of our cabinet: Hon Stephen Dawson, along with the Minister for Housing, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Training and Workforce Development and the Minister for Local Government, just to name a few. I have known them for many years, before they were in Parliament, and Western Australians know they will always do what is right for WA.

I acknowledge the people who were elected as part of the class of 2008. It has been great to serve with you, and particularly the Members for Maylands and Gosnells, who are leaving with me at the same time, and also all my PL friends. You know who you are, as the member for Landsdale said.

After the 2001 election, I needed to find a new executive officer to do the Labor Business Roundtable's admin work. Kate suggested I hire our neighbour, Fran Laine. Fran built the organisation a strong foundation. I used to threaten businesspeople that they were not allowed to offer Fran a job, but eventually that is what happened. I was very pleased that Fran came back to work with me after I was elected to Parliament, and Fran has been my electorate officer for 15 years. Fran has been indispensable. During my time as a minister, Fran was the real member for Cannington. After Fran left the Labor Business Roundtable, I needed to hire another hard worker, so I was pleased when Hon Samantha Rowe came to work, and I am pleased she is now contributing in the Legislative Council.

I have been very fortunate with my electorate staff. David Ashton, a friend and supporter, set up my office; a job he did well. My first full-time electorate officer was Geri Madden, and she stayed for over 10 years. Other staff have included Danae Synot, Jessie Yang and Grace Lamont, among others. Penny Bond worked with me in Cannington prior to the 2017 election, and then worked in my ministerial office. Now Penny is a lawyer and will probably end up as a High Court justice.

Joseph Stephens replaced Penny in my Cannington office. He is an incredible talent. He later came into my ministerial office as well. Joseph was replaced in my electorate office by Matt O'Keefe, who was stolen from me by the Minister for Housing, so I hired Matt's brother, Luke. They job shared with Ashley Wynhorst, until Ash went to work for Madeleine King. Now Shane Hill is with me. That steady and experienced hand is the former member for Geraldton.

Of course, Ron Sao worked for two years in my Cannington office. Ron grew up in the Cannington area, attending local schools, and his mum would bring him lunch in my EO most days. We all miss her after her passing. Ron first worked for me at the party office as a campaign organiser in 2004. Later he worked in the Gallop and Carpenter governments, before coming to Cannington in 2008. After working in federal and local governments, I was pleased he joined me in my ministerial office in 2017 as my deputy chief of staff. After the 2021 election, when Neil Roberts retired, he became my chief of staff. Ron is now WA Labor's candidate for Cannington for the 2025 election. I know he has the skills, education and experience to be a great member for Cannington. It makes it easier to retire from politics when I know that Ron Sao is ready to serve the Cannington community.

My seven years' service as a minister was a rare privilege. The workload is unbelievable, but it was made possible by my personal staff. They are all talented people: lawyers, journalists, clerical workers—even a diamond valuer! They are people like Mark Andrews, David Alexander and Hope Smith, to name a few. I thank them all for their efforts; I appreciate them all. Any achievements I had as minister were only because of the hard work of my personal staff. I particularly pay tribute to Vetti Kakulas and Belinda Linke, who both started with me in 2017 and were still there in 2023! I acknowledge the thousands of public sector workers in government departments and government trading enterprises who I worked with. Society can only function with a strong public sector, and I thank you for your service and support during my time as a minister.

I now come back to the Cannington community to talk a bit about the huge changes to the residents of Cannington over these 16 years. The 2007 census recorded about 36 000 residents in Cannington; the 2023 census recorded almost 55 000. In 2007, 35 per cent of residents were born overseas—in 2023 it was 51 per cent. In 2007, about 21 per cent of residents spoke a language other than English at home—now it is 45 per cent. Cannington is home to people from literally every corner of the world, with the top source countries being India, Malaysia, China, Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand, Singapore, Burma and Pakistan, as well as many people from the African continent. They join previous waves of migrants from the United Kingdom and Italy.

Cannington is not only more ethnically diverse, but also more religious. About 50 per cent of Western Australians told the last census they had a religion; however, in Cannington, almost 63 per cent are religious. While Catholics are still the largest religion, 10 per cent of locals are Muslim, which is four times the state average. Hindus, Buddhists and Sikhs are just as common as Anglicans. This is all part of the dynamic change to the Cannington community. When I host—or used to host—the student leaders from local high schools such as Lynwood Senior High School, Sevenoaks College or St Norbert College at Parliament for lunch each year, those young leaders would tell me that multiculturalism is the best thing about their schools.

Cannington is now a community of first home buyers, parents with school-age children, skilled trade workers and people with technical degrees, and Cannington is Western Australia's most multicultural community. It strikes me that it is hard to recognise the huge shift in what it means to be Australian if you are not exposed to the changing Australia every day, like I am in Cannington. If you want a taste of the "real" Australia, do not go to the beach or to a farm—come out to Westfield Carousel! Multiculturalism is Australia's superpower. It allows us to be strong and vibrant. Yes, we need to manage the challenges of growth, but managing growth is a much better problem to have than managing economic and social stagnation.

I am very proud of the work I have done on behalf of the Cannington community. I am not going to list everything that I have helped with, but the current Metronet project to remove level crossings is clearly the highlight. In 100 years' time, this project will still be benefiting the Cannington community. My job as the member for Cannington has been to work for our community and help local people to find solutions to the problems in their lives. There is always more to be done, but that is the real work of politics.

The process of politics is under attack from many quarters. I think the breakdown of discussion and debate is a serious challenge for public policy. How can you debate a policy if everyone you talk to agrees with you? How can you have a debate if you label anyone who disagrees with you? It does not make sense. Once upon a time, we agreed the facts, then argued about the consequences. Now, we live in a post-truth world. How can complex policy issues be progressed if conspiracies and innuendo are given the same value as facts and analysis? What is the point of election policies if costings and timelines are considered just boring details? We can all do better.

To close, in the movie *Invictus*, Morgan Freeman playing the role of Nelson Mandela sends Matt Damon in the role of Francois Pienaar a copy of the poem *Invictus* to inspire him for the Rugby World Cup final. *Invictus* is the poem that Nelson Mandela had used for inspiration during his 27 years on Robben Island. This is not well known, but this was a Hollywood variation. Mandela in fact sent Pienaar *The man in the arena*, an extract from a speech by Teddy Roosevelt, the then US President, that was delivered at the Sorbonne in 1910. So, my last words to Parliament are from *The man in the arena* —

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds;

who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.

I am honoured to have spent time in the arena.

[Applause.]

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 27 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MR S.N. AUBREY (Scarborough) [12.10 pm]: I am going to wind back a bit in the interesting story that I was recounting yesterday before being interrupted by question time. I was rushing a bit yesterday, so I want to wind back a bit and repeat a little of what I had to say.

In the Premier's Statement, the Premier noted that school upgrades are a key part of infrastructure that is to be delivered this year so that our kids have the best education opportunities. One particular school upgrade will be one of my proudest achievements as the member for Scarborough—that is, the \$10.6 million upgrade of Scarborough Primary School, which has added a two-storey classroom block, expanded the undercover area and added a new car park for the staff. This upgrade was a major election commitment made in 2021 that, once completed, removed several transportable classroom buildings from the oval, a four-square space and basketball courts. These play spaces are incredibly important. Scarborough Primary School is the third-smallest school in our state by land size. Further to this, the early childhood block upgrade provides modern teaching spaces for a group of kids. Play is an important part of young students' development, and this classroom provides our “groms” in our community the best education opportunity for years to come. I acknowledge and thank Principal Sarah Quantock, staff, admin and the Scarborough Primary School community for their advocacy and incredible work supporting kids in our community.

Delivering this upgrade has been an incredible achievement for me as a local member, but there is a story I wish to share from my engagement with Scarborough Primary School that is just as important to me. Shortly after my election as the member for Scarborough, I attended the Anzac Day ceremony at Scarborough Primary School. At this event, school captain Toloa Madden, who struggled with a stuttering condition, could not speak. Wanting to show him that we all struggle with public speaking, I sent Toloa a letter explaining how nervous I was to give my inaugural speech and inviting him to Parliament to watch my speech. In that speech, I acknowledged and thanked him for his service as a leader at Scarborough Primary School and in the Scarborough community. Later that year, I was elated to receive a letter from Toloa inviting me to attend a speaking competition at which he was a speaker that included many local schools in my community. I was able to attend and it warmed my heart to see him give an eloquent and passionate speech about how he had overcome his stuttering condition. Later that year, I was able to be at his graduation and was proud to see him nail his speaking role at the graduation ceremony as a student leader. That is one of my many cherished memories as a local member and a constant reminder to me of the positive effect that we can have.

That positive effect is something that I learnt from another member of this house. Many members will know that I grew up in Mandurah, mostly because Minister Templeman takes great pride in telling anyone who will listen. I take a moment to acknowledge the great man, who is significant in stature if not in height, for his 20 years of service to Western Australia, his local community of Mandurah and his positive influence on me. In his valedictory speech yesterday, he quipped that he would not go through his achievements as there are not many. We know that is a joke; Minister Templeman has made significant impacts on this state. I want to comment on this.

Yesterday, at St John's Primary School graduation, a student leader quoted another politician who came from an acting background. He said —

The greatest leader is not necessarily the one who does the greatest things. He is the one that gets the people to do the greatest things.

That was said by Ronald Reagan. I would argue that many of the minister's greatest achievements are the impacts and influence he has had on the people in his community of Mandurah, the people of Western Australia and the people in this house—me included. Twenty-two years ago, Minister Templeman was the local member at my primary school graduation at North Mandurah Primary School. He taught my brother and sister at that school before he was elected as the member for Mandurah. He was a household name when I was growing up, and when I cast my first ever vote, it was for the member for Mandurah, David Templeman, in 2013.

In my inaugural speech, I said —

I am grateful to Minister Templeman for being kind and genuine towards an impressionable young man who was finding his way in the world. I hope to live up to being the same calibre of local member as Minister Templeman—to be that beacon that shines brightly for the people of Scarborough and who can show people that there is a better future for all under a Labor government.

I have been immensely proud to work alongside Minister Templeman for these last four years and to learn from him. I have learnt how to remain an authentic and passionate local member—one who gives students and the people in our local schools the positive inspiration and perspective on our democratic processes that he gave me. I am proud to say that I have worked hard to live up to that example.

As Minister Templeman continues to do as a minister, I have welcomed student leaders from all my local schools here to Parliament for lunch and into this chamber for question time. I have also done everything humanly possible to attend every school graduation across the 14 schools in my electorate. It can be hard, but I generally miss only one a year—cue groans from my regional colleagues! I know how important it is to show up, because I have always remembered Minister Templeman showing up for my graduation. There is one school graduation that I will unfortunately miss this year, and that is at Lake Gwelup Primary School. Today, I take a moment to share words to the school and a poem written by student leader Sophie Wellman, who attended a leadership lunch here at Parliament only a few weeks ago. I share these words through you, Acting Speaker.

Lake Gwelup Primary School, I have had the privilege to be a part of your school community in Gwelup and attend many events across your school year, such as the most wholesome thing I have ever experienced in my life—a kindy to year 3 assembly. I joined you for National Walk to School Day this year. I was able to see many of you compete in your sports carnival. I have had the privilege of meeting and working with your parents and citizens association and board, watching your choir performance at the WA Primary Schools' Massed Choir Festival, hosting your student leadership at Parliament for lunch, and only last week I joined you for your integrity and excellence assembly. It is with deep regret that I cannot be at your graduation this year, but I want to ensure that you know that I have been proud to witness you all grow and prosper at Lake Gwelup Primary School. I acknowledge Principal Lynne Anderson, admin, teachers, the board and P&C, and the broader school community, who go above and beyond every day to ensure that all students get the best education and have the best opportunities in life.

Congratulations to all year 6 students who are graduating this year. I wish you all the very best as you move into high school. I know that you will be feeling excited, but you might also be feeling a little anxious. But as you go into high school, I hope you remember that we, the community of Lake Gwelup Primary School and the community of Gwelup, of which you are the future, will always be there to support you and help you grow to meet your amazing potential. Good luck—you have got this, and we have got your back.

I will now share a poem written by Lake Gwelup Primary School leader Sophie Wellman, titled *Parliament House*. According to my notes, she wrote —

To Parliament House we went,
With Haddie sipping lemonade,
The first drop of sugar, sweet and sharp,
Eyes wide with wonder.

Luke was delivered caviar —
A whole bowl, and not a single pearl spared,
His excitement overflowing, as salty pearls melted on his tongue,
The taste of fancy things filled our imagination.

We learned our way through the dining hall. Forks and knives from the outside in,
Sirloin steak and pesto pasta on offer,
A feast of olives, oysters, salmon even,
The elaborate flavours filling the air,
Formal and proper manners from school put to good use,
We lead by example as we feasted in the hall.

Ms. Piercey, the rule-breaker, leaned in close,
Elbows on the table. And we smiled, secretly proud of her little rebellion,
As we quietly smirked and listened to the compelling stories from Stuart Aubrey.
Through the towering windows, city gardens stretched,
Green up until the sky,
With a view of what we might experience in years to come.

In Parliament we observed, A near-brawl almost breaking,
Like the surging and clashing of six-foot waves,
Power and pride colliding with each other,
As the world of each other could be at stake.

We met the Western Australia Premier Roger Cook,
A quick chat, a graceful smile, and the sense
of history in the making all around us,
In the room where words hold weight.

A private tour followed, steps silent (except for Will's shoes),
 rules tight, minds running free.
 We walked through halls where voices echoed.
 We left with full hearts (and stomachs) with stories to tell,
 A Parliament-Grade pen as a reminder of the memories we had,
 The taste of laughter, of learning and light —
 Nothing of that day will we ever forget,
 Parliament's walls echoing still, farewell.

That amazing poem was written by an incredible student leader, Sophie Wellman, who is from a wonderful group of year 6s at the remarkable Lake Gwelup Primary School. To all of you at Lake Gwelup Primary School, I wish you a wonderful, safe and happy holiday period.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr S.N. AUBREY: I want to take a moment to acknowledge and thank team Scarborough, some of whom are here in the gallery today, including Ella Lindsay, Sophie Kerr, Lucy Morrison, Jayden Williams, Shae Ramage, Cheryl Harry and Harry Brooking. I have been very grateful for your support over the last four years and to see you grow and succeed in so many ways in your careers and lives.

I acknowledge my family: my mum, Christine; my sister, Rhian; my brother, Paul, wherever you are; my brother-in-law, Rohan; my nieces, Peyton and Darcy, and my nephew, Jack; my nanna, Jean Okely; my aunty and uncle, Jenny and Tom; my cousins Mikhala and Mathew; and, of course, the only girl whom I will ever love, my husky Kaya. My role has taken me away from you in many ways. I am grateful for your constant support and love as we share in the sacrifice required for me to serve the people of Scarborough and WA. Thank you.

I acknowledge my extended family in the community of Scarborough. To the Scarboro Surf Life Saving Club, especially my surrogate family Michele, Andy, Shannon and Georgia, I say hello! I love you and I appreciate you. To my Ocean Heroes family—you are extraordinary people who give so much to improve the lives of some of the most vulnerable in our community. I am so proud to be an ocean hero and part of the Ocean Heroes family.

To the people in my weirdly named four-person group chat Boom vs Revo—Daniel De Giosa, Xander De Haan and James Postle—I cannot express how important each of you are to me. Having friends who allow me to just be my weird self outside of this role means the world to me. I love each of you and I appreciate how much you bring to my life—brrr.

To my Labor colleagues, mentors and friends, we are a family. We sometimes argue but we are united in our Labor values and our drive to make a difference in this state. I look forward to standing back in this house with all of you next year to continue to work hard to do what is right for Western Australia. Thank you.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.21 pm]: I rise today to give a contribution to the Premier's Statement. One thing that I have learnt in my almost eight years in this house is that our communities are made up of some amazing people. To start with, I would like to highlight two amazing people in my electorate in Sally Howell and Kylie Steed. I will read a prepared statement written by their friend, Steven. It states —

In 2010, Sally Howell and Kylie Steed discussed the idea of starting a dance/movement to music group targeting kids aged 1-5. Both parents to young children themselves at the time, Sally and Kylie started the Jump and Jive program at the Greenwood Uniting Church as an outreach program for other young mums (and the occasional young dad) and their kids. These half hour dancing and movement music sessions on a Tuesday morning quickly grew in popularity with the church's main hall filling to capacity week after week, something that was achieved through nothing more than word of mouth and the weekly church newsletter. Before long, a second timeslot was created and additional leaders, also young mums, were recruited, along with numerous volunteers who helped with setup and morning tea. Over the years there have been several other dedicated young mums who have volunteered to lead the Jump & Jive sessions—Maggie Johns, Kym Fraser, Helen Van Kampen and Danielle Summers—just to name a few, but Sally and Kylie were the program creators and directors, devoting countless hours each week putting together song lists, choreographies, schedules, arranging volunteers and purchasing all of the required props, music, uniforms and morning tea requirements.

As a not-for-profit program, Jump & Jive relied heavily on the generosity of volunteers to function. Whilst Sally and Kylie were reimbursed for their expenses, the majority of the \$5 per family session fee went towards the Church's other outreach programs, further enriching the local community and helping families in need. The combined efforts of all involved have raised well over \$100,000 in the past 15 years—all of which has gone to supporting the church's vital outreach programs, mainly through the Trinity North Community Care program.

Whilst it was with some sadness that Sally and Kylie have chosen to close the book on this amazing journey, we should take a moment to celebrate their incredible achievements and positive impact they

have both had on the many hundreds of local families who have been touched and inspired by their example over the past 15 years. Their leadership, generosity, energy and community spirit will be deeply missed by the church and wider community, but hopefully inspire a new generation of young parents and kids to 'Jump and Jive'.

To Sally, Kylie and all the past leaders and numerous volunteers—thankyou for your amazing years of service to your local community. We wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

I want to put on the record my personal thankyou to Sally and Kylie.

Volunteers are the beating hearts of our community. It is with great pride that members of Parliament are able to assist volunteers and community groups with various forms of investment. As I said, I have been the member for Kingsley for almost eight years now. It is with much pride that I have seen major investment in my community.

Given that I was just talking about Greenwood, I will start there; it is a great starting point. Greenwood College is one of three public high schools in my community. In the eight years before I was elected to Parliament, the former Liberal–National government invested a total sum of \$2 million in that school. The school was built in the 1970s.

Mr R.R. Whitby: My old school!

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: It is the minister's old high school! It looks pretty much the same as it did when the minister was there, particularly the science rooms!

I was really proud when this government invested in the science rooms—actually, the science rooms were completely gutted. The science rooms were called a storage facility, but they existed in a corridor with shelving in it. We were able to completely gut that science block and totally transform it into a modern, exciting, clean, light, airy and functional space for the kids at Greenwood College. One thing that I learnt about Greenwood College almost immediately was that its teachers and staff are dedicated to the students who attend. They go above and beyond to ensure that the students get the best education and opportunities. I played a very small part in giving them some of the best science facilities. I am really proud that the McGowan and Cook Labor governments did not stop there. At the last election, I was able to secure a commitment to achieve one of the things that Greenwood College desperately needed. Greenwood College is a volleyball specialist school. I have learnt a few things about volleyball over my years. For Hansard, this is called a dig; I am doing a volleyball movement! No, it is not called a spike, it is called a dig. Maybe I have it the wrong way around! Anyway, they tried to teach me about volleyball.

The main thing I learnt was that the gymnasium was not fit for purpose. Greenwood College is one of only two or three volleyball specialist schools in the state. Volleyballs would hit the ceiling and become stuck because the gymnasium was not built for volleyball games. We embarked on a campaign. The former Minister for Education literally used to run away when she saw me coming because I would harass her about the need for a new gymnasium at Greenwood College. I was so proud at the last election when we were able to make a commitment to a new purpose-built gymnasium, or sports hall, with a very high ceiling at Greenwood College. Further, we also committed to refurbish the existing gymnasium to make it into a dance and music facility. That means that the amazing national award-winning cheerleaders at Greenwood College will be able to move from the dance room, which had a structural pole in the middle of it, which is not a good thing for cheerleaders who are trying to rehearse their dance routines, into an amazing newly retrofitted dance space. On top of that, we were going to use the newly freed-up room to create a STEM facility. Some other modifications were also required to the administration and student services facilities. Apart from the over \$2 million that we invested to redo the science facility, we have invested an additional \$18 million to create a new sports hall, to refit the existing gymnasium into a dance and music room, to create a STEM facility and to do other upgrades at Greenwood College.

This is an amazing achievement for my team and for Greenwood College. I really want to thank Minister Buti, the Minister for Education, for acknowledging that the work that was needed at Greenwood College could not be re-scoped. Rather than re-scoping it because of current construction pressures, we took the time to go through a budget process and increased the budget to ensure that the kids at Greenwood College got what they deserve at their school. I want to thank the Greenwood College community. I know this has been a long time coming. It had been asking for some of these changes for a good four or five years before I became the member of Parliament. I am so proud that the new sports hall is now coming out of the ground at Greenwood College and that we have already seen some changes to the student and administration facilities.

While I am talking about Greenwood, we also had some investment in the local primary schools. We provided \$25 000 for court resurfacing at West Greenwood Primary School. As a sports-mad mum with sports-mad kids, I fully understand the need to have really good sports facilities in primary schools. I have a very active nine-year-old boy who just loves everything to do with sport. Whether it is soccer, AFL or basketball, he is there; he is getting involved. If schools have courts like those that were at West Greenwood before our investment, it is not fun to play on them because there are potholes and tree roots have caused the ground to buckle. It is also not fun for the kids who fall over and scrape their knees on the old bitumen courts that we all used to play on when we were growing up. I was really proud to provide \$25 000 to West Greenwood Primary School.

Greenwood Primary School did not miss out. It has an amazing sustainability focus, so when I was asked for funding for some rainwater tanks, I was happy to oblige. I am a firm believer in teaching our kids from a very young age the value of water, the value of our limited resources and the value of looking after our environment. These rainwater tanks have provided not only valuable water to the school, but also a very valuable learning experience for the students at Greenwood Primary School.

Liwara Catholic Primary School also had a little investment of \$15 000 for its kindy area. We created a bike skills path so that the kids could learn and practise their bike skills. It is important for young kids as they grow up to get out on active transport and understand the road rules so that they can have some independence and have some fun active transport and not always have to rely on mum and dad and the car. I was really pleased to provide that funding to Liwara Catholic Primary School.

Leaving the topic of schools, Greenwood is just one suburb that has many amazing community groups. I just spoke about one church group and its amazing jump and jive leaders. The Greenwood scout hall was a great venue, but it had some serious deficiencies for the scouts and also for the Greenwood Toy Library. I was really proud to attend with the Minister for Local Government; Youth, Hon Hannah Beazley, the recent opening of the expansion of the Greenwood scout hall. We invested \$600 000 to expand the Greenwood scout hall, particularly the outdoor space, which is really important for scout activities, which are run all year round. Some spaces are needed for them to be run in, particularly in winter or in very hot weather. We also expanded the storage facilities; it now has a massive new shed to store its buses in. When lots of kids want to be involved, putting air conditioning and additional lighting into the hall was really important. I am really proud that we were able to invest \$600 000 in the Greenwood scout hall.

Moving away from Greenwood, the neighbouring suburb of Warwick is a tight-knit community in my electorate of Kingsley. It has a primary school and a high school. Hawker Park Primary School said to me that it needed a space to provide additional services to its kids. Those additional services could involve anything from occupational therapists who come in to provide one-on-one services for kids to psychologists and chaplains. Even the guitar teacher had no space and had been conducting lessons with individuals or small groups in what I call the wet area. I do not know what they are called now, but I am old; I am sure the member for Balcatta remembers the wet areas in our schools. That was not only inappropriate, but also impacted on the surrounding classrooms. One of my proudest moments in my first term was being able to say to the principal at Hawker Park Primary School, Dr Irma, that the McGowan government was going to fund \$1.1 million to create the Hawker hub. The Hawker hub name stuck and that is what it is still called. It provides a hub for our community. It is a space where people can get one-on-one services, such as those I have just outlined, or where break-out groups can come. It is also a really great space for the parents, the parents and friends association and the board to utilise. Thank you to Dr Irma and her team for coming to me with the idea and championing it with me so that when I went to the minister to outline the idea, I had all the facts and details that I needed to ensure that we could fight for the Hawker hub.

Another challenge in Warwick is to do with kids and sport, as I have mentioned. We have the wonderful Warwick Stadium in the suburb. I used to play basketball there when I was a teenager and I can say honestly, hand on heart, that I think the backboards that I played with when I was a teenager are still there. I was really happy to provide a \$200 000 investment for Warwick Stadium. We provided not only new backboards for the old courts, which were new courts when I was a teenager, but also stadium seating. Basketball is a growing sport for fans.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: Being able to house double the number of people at NBL1 games is really important. I have had a number of basketball-friendly people in my electorate, including the members for Burns Beach, Joondalup, Belmont and Victoria Park and my good friend the member for Cockburn, just to name a few. I think I have recruited a couple of others into the basketball family. The member for Rockingham is also a big basketball fan and I convinced the member for Hillarys to come along to one of her games. The fact that we were able to have so many people watching girls and boys play at the NBL1 state level is great. For those who are old enough, this is the state basketball league level that is literally the level just underneath the Perth Wildcats and the Perth Lynx. To be able to accommodate more people in the stadium was one of the really proud moments I have had from being a member of Parliament and I really look forward to working with the Warwick stadium community into the future.

Warwick Senior High School is another great little institution in Warwick. It is actually co-located on a site with the West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre. If members ever want to see how a mainstream school and an education support school can work beautifully together on the one site, please get in touch with me because I am sure that Lesley, the principal of Warwick Senior High School, and Carol, the principal at West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre, would be very happy to give members a tour of the campus. These two schools are co-located on the same site and we were able to make investments in both the schools, which benefited both cohorts of students. The biggest one for the West Coast Education support school was probably the creation of the change rooms at the pool. Prior to our investment, some change rooms were not particularly close and certainly not fit for purpose for an education support school with a number of kids with physical disabilities. We were able to create this change room to basically be like the changing places that we have seen around the state thanks to various

ministers for disability. A changing place is sort of a bigger toilet facility with a hoist attached to the roof that allows the carer, teacher or education assistant to hoist the student up to enable them to get changed. We were able to invest in a pool hoist to get the students into the pool, which was really important as well. In talking with the teachers, parents and education assistants of that school, I was told that the ability for these kids to get into the water and participate in physical education in the water is unmatched. Therefore, I am really proud that we were able to deliver that.

In the mainstream school, a number of projects will also benefit the education support school, including a new STEM facility and a new performing arts facility. I was out at the school a couple of weeks ago to see the performing arts centre coming out of the ground. It was literally just a few blocks on the ground, but last week, when I was at the West Coast Education school graduation, I looked over into the distance and saw that there was now this big steel frame coming out of the ground. I am really proud to have been able to deliver that to Warwick Senior High School as well.

I have been involved with a lot of other investments in my community. One of the things that people often say to me is: “Are you exhausted, because you seem to be everywhere?” I am, but it is with absolute pride and joy that I serve my community to ensure that we get these investments. We have some amazing sporting groups in my community. The Kingsley Amateur Football Club and the Kingsley Junior Football Club both received some investment at the last election. It was really important to have a new digital scoreboard that could be covered over. It was also really important to have a patio over the stairs so that even during the winter games, the football club fans could sit and watch the games without getting wet. Equally, once the football season finishes, the cricket season starts. Admittedly, they are not at the Kingsley Oval right now—they are at Chichester—but the cricket fans can also sit under the patio during the very long cricket games. I realised how long they were when I went down to watch one a couple of weeks ago! I am really proud to have been able to deliver that into Kingsley. I have lots of amazing primary schools in Kingsley, and we delivered commitments to all of them, including court upgrades.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 6855.]

HON MIA DAVIES

Statement by Member for Moore

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [12.44 pm]: Today I give thanks to my good friend, Hon Mia Davies, MLA. Mia is one of those exceptional people who has contributed greatly to public life and significantly to Western Australia. Hon Mia Jane Davies was elected on 22 May 2009 as the Nationals WA member for the Agricultural Region. The girl from Wyalkatchem has certainly made her mark. It was during that first term in Parliament that Mia and I met. She was the member for the Agricultural Region and I was the shire president of Dandaragan. Mia was a frequent visitor to our shire. Her commitment to the communities that she represented impressed me greatly. Mia Davies is the reason I joined the Nationals and eventually ran for the seat of Moore. Mia served in the Legislative Council until 2013, when she then contested the Legislative Assembly seat of Central Wheatbelt. She won that resoundingly.

From then on, she served as parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Regional Development and Lands, and later as Deputy Leader of the National Party and cabinet minister, holding the portfolios of water and forestry from December 2013 and adding the portfolio of sport and recreation a year later. In March 2017, Mia Davies became the first female to lead the Nationals WA. In fact, Mia Davies was the first ever female leader of any Nationals parliamentary party in Australia.

Mia led the party to the 2021 election. Following that election, Mia took on the mammoth task of becoming Western Australia’s opposition leader—the first time any National had held that position since 1947. She held that position until January 2023. She was pivotal in the National Party’s successful retention of North West Central in the 2022 by-election. Mia is a loyal, tenacious and fierce politician. She is held in enormous respect right across Western Australia. Mia’s hunger for community service and change does not stop here. She is now the Nationals’ candidate for the new federal seat of Bullwinkel. Mia is more than a fantastic parliamentary colleague; she is a loyal and steadfast friend.

WHITFORD JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB

Statement by Member for Hillarys

MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys) [12.46 pm]: This year we celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Whitford Junior Football Club. This incredible milestone highlights decades of dedication, passion and community spirit by local players, families and volunteers. As the proud patron and sponsor of the biggest, and arguably best, junior footy club in Western Australia, I am filled with immense pride in everything that this club stands for. Whitford is not just about its numbers, although they are impressive. With the largest Auskick centre in WA and the first, and still the biggest, girls Auskick program in the state, the club is leading the way in making footy more inclusive and accessible for everyone.

What makes Whitford truly special is the sense of belonging that it fosters; from the players and parents to the coaches, volunteers and committee members, the club is powered by people who care deeply about their community. Not many junior clubs are as organised, driven and passionate as this one. The club's presence is felt everywhere in the 6025 postcode and one will always spot someone proudly wearing the iconic blue and white jumper. While the club exists for everyone to enjoy Aussie Rules football, over the years, it has also been a pathway for a number of players who have gone on to enjoy success in the AFL and the AFLW.

My commitment to this club remains unwavering and I want to say a big thankyou to club president, Glenn, and all of the committee. Their dedication, time and passion are why this club continues to thrive, shaping the lives of young players and strengthening our community. Here is to the next 50 years of the Whitford Junior Football Club. Let's go, Wildcats!

POST NEWSPAPER — BRET CHRISTIAN

Statement by Member for Cottesloe

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [12.48 pm]: I rise today to recognise the *Post* newspaper and its founder, Bret Christian. It is a cornerstone of local journalism in the western suburbs of Perth. Since its founding in 1977, the *Post* has been an unwavering voice for our community, reaching over 112 000 readers weekly with its fair, clear and original reporting on local issues. This success is driven by its founder, owner and editor, Bret Christian. Bret embodies the very best of old-school journalism by being meticulous in his fact-checking, steadfast in his apolitical stance and deeply committed to presenting balanced perspectives. His leadership ensures the *Post* adheres to rigorous editorial standards, distinguishing fact from opinion while valuing both privacy and public interest.

The newspaper's independence has been its hallmark. At a time when large conglomerates dominate the media landscape, the *Post* remains locally owned and fiercely independent, championing the issues that matter most to its readership. The *Post* has been almost a lone voice in the media landscape in highlighting the egregious changes to our state's planning laws, which have enabled completely inappropriate high-rise developments in the western suburbs. It provided a forum for the people affected by those terrible decisions to highlight their concerns.

The newspaper celebrates local successes and highlights the many people making positive contributions to our community. Its journalists are active observers at local council meetings and make sure that the community is informed about important council decisions and issues. Madam Speaker, the *Post*, Bret Christian and his team remind us of the crucial role a free press plays in fostering civic engagement and accountability. I encourage all members to support and celebrate our local media outlets that so profoundly enrich and inform our community.

BUSHFIRE SEASON

Statement by Member for Collie–Preston

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.50 pm]: I rise today to prepare us for bushfire season. I would like to start by saying a huge thankyou to Minister Dawson who has been an outstanding Minister for Emergency Services. Being his parliamentary secretary for the last two years has been an absolute privilege. I commend the Department of Fire and Emergency Services for the incredible work it continues to do to keep our state safe and I would like to thank all the bush fire brigades preparing for what is expected to be a very busy fire season.

I just wanted to mention a number of the bush fire brigades in my electorate: Allanson Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Argyle Irishtown Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Beelerup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Boyanup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Buckingham Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Burekup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Capel Bushfire Brigade, Shire of Collie Bushfire Brigade, Collieburn–Cardiff Bushfire Brigade, Dardanup Central Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, West Dardanup Bushfire Brigade, Donnybrook Volunteer Fire and Rescue Service, Eton–Australind Volunteer Fire and Rescue, Elgin Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Ferguson Bush Fire Brigade, Gelorup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Harris River Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Joshua–Crooked Brook Bush Fire Brigade, Kirup Brazier Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Lowden Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Mullalyup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Mumballup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Preston Road Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Thomson Brook Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Upper Caple Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Upper Ferguson Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Waterloo Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, Wellington Mills Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade and Worsley Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. They do incredible work in the electorate of Collie–Preston.

I met with a bush fire brigade recently and thanked them for their service. They said, "That's great and we really appreciate it Jodie, but help us get the message out about preparing for bushfire season." They said, "Our brigades fight fires, but we need residents to help us with fire prevention so that we might not be needed in the first place." Here is their advice and my promise to them.

I want to highlight that 93 per cent of Western Australia is bushfire prone but only 1.95 per cent of households have a recorded plan. Please take 15 minutes to prepare your "My Bushfire Plan". Prepare your emergency kit and leave rather than stay and let the emergency services volunteers—our heroes—do their incredible work.

DARKAN HOTEL*Statement by Member for Roe*

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.53 pm]: It is with immense pride and heartfelt congratulations that I acknowledge and celebrate the incredible achievement of the Darkan community in reinstating its beloved pub the Darkan Hotel. Established in 1906, this historic establishment has been a cornerstone of Darkan, serving as a social hub and meeting place for generations. When the hotel closed its doors in 2022, it left a void that was deeply felt by all. However, the spirit and determination of the Darkan residents have brought this cherished institution back to life.

The journey to reopening the Darkan Hotel began over a kitchen table, where a group of residents shared a vision. This vision, born from a deep sense of community and a desire to preserve their heritage has now come to fruition after two years of hard work and dedication. The process was not without its challenges, but the unwavering commitment of the Darkan Hotel community board made up of Karen Harrington, Ryan Wilkie, James Campbell, Janelle South, Steven Hulse, Helen Lubcke, Jeremy King and the entire community made it possible. One of the first steps in this remarkable journey was the formation of a company by the Darkan Hotel community board. With the support of 42 investors, sufficient funds were raised to purchase the hotel freehold. This collective effort demonstrated the power of community spirit and the shared belief in the importance of the Darkan Hotel. The renovation of a building over 100 years old presented numerous challenges, particularly in terms of electrical and plumbing work, yet the community's resilience and determination saw them through these obstacles.

The reopening of the Darkan Hotel is more than just the revival of a building; it is the reinstatement of a key social hub. I congratulate and celebrate this momentous effort, which I understand is not quite complete. Plans for more accommodation catering to various demand and price points are in progress. The Darkan community has shown that with vision, determination, and a united effort, anything is possible.

TAMALA PARK LANDFILL — ODOUR MANAGEMENT*Statement by Member for Burns Beach*

MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach) [12.54 pm]: Residents in my electorate who live near the Tamala Park landfill site have been subjected to increasingly overpowering odours. Despite repeated complaints and community outcry, the Mindarie Regional Council, which is responsible for managing the site, has failed to act decisively or responsibly to address this issue. After exhausting all avenues, I was forced to raise this matter with the Minister for Environment and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Working alongside my community and me, the department has and continues to carry out multiple inspections and odour assessments of the site to ensure that the Mindarie Regional Council is taking appropriate action to mitigate the impact of the odours. Let me be clear: the actions being taken by the council are long overdue and this issue is a direct result of the council's inability or unwillingness to get its house in order. My community deserves action, not excuses. Following the latest meeting with the department at which we were joined by representatives from the Tamala Park Odour Action Group, we will be working together with the community to establish an odour diary program. I am calling for local volunteers to act as community odour sentinels and to help the department by maintaining a diary of the odours that infiltrate their homes. Those diaries will help the department to capture accurate data about the impacts and provide insight into the effectiveness of actions being undertaken on the site. Residents who are interested in volunteering for the program are encouraged to reach out to my office to express their interest and discuss the program in further detail with me. As the member for Burns Beach and a resident of Catalina, I urge those impacted by the odours to step forward, document their experiences and assist the department with its response to this ongoing issue. Thank you.

MID-WEST ELECTORATE*Statement by Member for North West Central*

MS M. BEARD (North West Central) [12.56 pm]: As the parliamentary term comes to an end and with just 100 days until the next election, as the Liberal member for North West Central, I am driven to continue the fight for our regions as I contest the newly created seat of Mid-West in 2025. As many are aware, the Western Australian Electoral Commission has abolished our seat of North West Central, which covers more than 820 000 square kilometres, and the seat of Moore to form the new seat of Mid-West, which will cover 410 000 square kilometres and 22 shires. The new Mid-West seat encompasses the Shires of Carnamah, Carnarvon, Chittering, Coorow, Cue, Dalwallinu, Dandaragan, Gingin, Irwin, Meekatharra, Mingenew, Moora, Morawa, Mt Magnet, Murchison, Perenjori, Sandstone, Shark Bay, Three Springs, Upper Gascoyne, Yalgoo and Menzies. It is a vast and diverse geographical area with many industries such as pastoral, farming, mining, horticulture, fishing and tourism that contribute significantly to our state. I have experienced firsthand the strength, resilience and innovation of the people who call this region home. As a fourth-generation country girl and business owner, I understand the extent of our challenges and opportunities and the desperate need for a strong regional focus. I will continue to fight hard for better outcomes for our regions that have been failed by this Labor government that has broken promises and not delivered, nor

listened closely or consulted adequately with our communities. I am here for the long haul. My commitment is to ensure that the voices of the new Mid-West electorate are heard loud and clear in the Parliament with commonsense prevailing. As someone who lives it and knows it, I would be honoured to work together with our regional communities as their Liberal member of Parliament for the Mid-West to build a stronger and more vibrant region that thrives for generations to come. I look forward to meeting those who proudly call the Mid-West electorate their home.

ROCKINGHAM GENERAL HOSPITAL

Statement by Member for Rockingham

MRS M.R. MARSHALL (Rockingham) [12.58 pm]: I am proud to rise today to share the well-deserved achievement of the hardworking staff at Rockingham General Hospital who were recently recognised for their commitment to compassion, empathy and innovation when caring for patients. The South Metropolitan Health Service Excellence Awards were held last month and I am delighted to share that the Rockingham Peel Group, which covers Rockingham, Murray, Mandurah and Kwinana health services, won six of the 10 awards, with five going to Rockingham hospital. They included an award to Rockingham's Mimidi Park inpatient mental health unit that won the excellence in clinical care award and the Southern Star overall team award; the Rockingham midwifery team that won the excellence in developing and engaging our staff award; the Rockingham integrated cancer service that won the excellence in strengthening partnerships award; and Mirko Hessel, a clinical nurse coordinator in radiation oncology who won the Moorditj Dookoorniny Award for individual of the year. At the WA Health Excellence Awards earlier this month, Rockingham hospital was a finalist for three awards and won the excellence in person-centred care award for the emergency department's musculoskeletal diversion pathway.

I caught up with the Rockingham integrated cancer service and midwifery teams recently and I saw firsthand their commitment to delivering high quality services locally. The cancer service has built collaborative partnerships with the private sector, other healthcare partners, non-government organisations and the local community to significantly improve the care provided to local people with cancer. This innovative approach has led to safer and more timely services that are delivered closer to home for local patients. Having given birth to Bowie at Rockingham only four months ago, I have a deep appreciation for their maternity team, in particular, midwives Katie, Brooke, Sarah, Toneya, Cynthia and student midwife Alyssa. Their recognition in those awards demonstrates their commitment to improving birthing experiences locally and is a direct result of their complete transformation of team culture over the past two years. Without a doubt, Rockingham General Hospital is delivering tremendous services to the Rockingham community. I want to congratulate and thank the staff on their recent achievements and their ongoing commitment to caring for our community.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS — ANISH BADGERI; LOUISE SECKER; LOUISE HOLDING; JOSHUA THOMSON, SC; ALISON HARRIS

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: Members, I have some acknowledgements to make ahead of question time. On behalf of the Minister for Education, I acknowledge Mr Anish Badgeri, the inaugural Geoff Gallop John Monash scholar for 2025. Welcome.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I also acknowledge Ms Louise Secker, one of Anish's former teachers, and Mr Joshua Thomson, SC, and on behalf of the member for Belmont, acknowledge Ms Louise Holding in my gallery. On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, I acknowledge the shire president of Cunderdin, Councillor Alison Harris.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

FIRST HOME BUYERS — STAMP DUTY EXEMPTIONS

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

Before I ask my question, I would like to put on record my concern for the people of the Shire of Dandaragan and especially the township of Cervantes who are under threat from fire. I also note the situation in my electorate at West Toodyay where another fire emergency is unfolding. To all those firefighters and everybody in those areas, please keep safe.

I refer to answers from the Minister for Commerce this week that expose the government's abandonment of first home buyers during the crippling housing crisis and to reports in *The West Australian* today detailing how the cost-of-living crisis is pushing young people to breaking point.

- (1) How can the Premier defend his government's inaccessible support for first home buyers with the number of those receiving stamp duty exemptions collapsing from nearly 9 000 in 2021–22 to just 4 000 last financial year?

- (2) By refusing to raise the stamp duty exemption threshold to at least keep pace with the median house price, is the government turning its back on first home buyers and young families in Western Australia?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question and join all members of Parliament in extending our thoughts to members of the community who are vulnerable to bushfires today and to the great firefighters, both career and volunteer, who are involved in combating those blazes. It provides us with another reminder that summer is upon us. Please, everyone, make sure you get a bushfire plan prepared, if you can; make sure you are ready. It is going to be another hot summer.

- (1)–(2) I turn to the member's question. I think the community of Western Australia knows that no other government in Australia has done more for cost-of-living pressures than my government. In addition, everyone knows that no other government has put more measures in place to support young and first home buyers to get a roof over their head. It starts off with our stamp duty exemption for purchases off the plan and making sure people can be part of some of our great department developments taking place across the length and breadth of the metropolitan area and the state. Members will note the changes we made in the budget for first home buyers exemptions and concessions for purchases. We increased the threshold to make sure that more homes are captured under those arrangements so that first home buyers have the opportunity to get into an existing dwelling. Of course, we know that the best way we can continue to build capacity in the real estate market is to build supply, which is why we have made so much land available for property developers to bring more supply onstream. That includes 8 000 hectares of land that is in and around our transformative Metronet infrastructure projects. That means that for the first time ever people have the opportunity to get into a unit or smaller townhouse in an area that is serviced by our great Metronet network.

In addition, we know that the best way to help a young person, to give them an opportunity, is to give them a job—a good, well-paying and secure job. My government has been absolutely focused on making sure that we have the jobs for young people—over 320 000 jobs created since we came into government in 2017—and of course our fee-free TAFE provides an opportunity for young people to get a trade or a qualification so they can get the savings and the deposit they need to get into their first home. That is why we created fee-free TAFEs. It means that we can really target the opportunities for young people, such as enrolled nurses, to get those trades. Under the previous government, they would have had to pay up to \$10 000 to get that qualification. Under my government, it is free! That means that we are sending the right signals to these people—continue to back themselves, get into TAFE, undertake some of our free courses, get a great job, get a roof over their head and get a start in life.

We know that it is hard out there in the community, but we know we have a great opportunity. Because we have kept the finances strong, we can provide cost-of-living relief. We can provide fee-free courses. Let us contrast that to those on the other side of the house. When they were in government, they destroyed the state's finances; there was debt and deficit as far as the eye could see. As a result, they hiked up fees and charges and land tax. They increased utilities by 93 per cent. They increased fees for some TAFE courses by 500 per cent! They dealt an entire generation of Western Australians out of the economic equation. The fact of the matter is that my government is absolutely laser focused on making sure we give young people the opportunity to get a job, making sure we have the policies so they can get their first home, and making sure they have an economy in which they can continue to thrive—the strongest economy in Australia and the best lifestyle in Australia.

FIRST HOME BUYERS — STAMP DUTY EXEMPTIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Is the Premier's refusal to meaningfully increase the stamp duty exemption threshold simply because his government lacks a plan to address the housing affordability crisis for first home buyers?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I assume the member is referring to either his plan with regard to stamp duty or maybe he is referring to the Liberal Party's plan for stamp duty. Of course, we do not know, because they are a shambles. They cannot talk to each other. We last week heard them confidently tell the Western Australian people that the alliance would have a protocol on which they would agree. That was last weekend. What was happening for the three years before that? What a shambles and what a joke! It would be funny if not for the fact that we are now just three or four months away from an election. The Western Australian people have an opportunity to pass judgement on those who cannot even agree with themselves when it comes to the Liberal Party.

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Point of order.

The SPEAKER: Order! Points of order are heard in silence.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: I refer to standing order 78 on relevance. This question is about first home buyers, not the opposition.

The SPEAKER: I will not uphold the point of order. The question is about first home buyers and government policy and I think a comparison with opposition policy falls within the ambit of that answer.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr R.H. COOK: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I think it absolutely falls into the ambit of the answer because the member opposite was asking me about first home buyer policies. He was essentially referring to his own policy or potentially the Liberal policy. Perhaps he was referring to that blancmange of misunderstanding, conflict and division that is the alliance partnership at the moment.

As I was saying, four months from now, we will have an election. The choice for the Western Australian people will be between a government that does what is right for WA, a government that has driven jobs, a government that has a laser focus on cost-of-living measures, a government that has invested in our world-class healthcare system and a government that is getting on top of the housing challenges, and the other option, which is a hopelessly divided and shambolic alliance between the Liberals and Nationals. That is before we get to the complete mess that is the Liberal Party, whose leader is being challenged vicariously by someone outside this place who is in it for himself and who is conspiring as we speak.

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Speaker, the Premier has deviated a thousand miles away from the question that was asked by the Leader of the Opposition.

The SPEAKER: I will take that as an opinion rather than a point of order.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr R.H. COOK: I will finish by saying that we know that the Liberal leader is being undermined daily by a conspiracy run by people inside her own party. I ask: who do people trust to look after first home buyers? Who do they trust to make sure that people have a job, an opportunity to train and an opportunity to benefit from a government that looks after the state's finances and can therefore provide cost-of-living relief? Only a WA Labor government can look after first home buyers and only a WA Labor government can ensure that we lock in the state for the future.

STATE ECONOMY — INVESTMENT

893. Mr S.N. AUBREY to the Premier:

Before I ask my question, on behalf of the member for Mount Lawley, I would like to welcome deputy principal Christine Ashkenazy and the school leaders of Mount Lawley Primary School, who are here in the public gallery today.

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to doing what is right for Western Australia.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how the Cook Labor government has ensured that the state is in a stronger position today than eight years ago?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house whether he is aware of any risks to Western Australia's nation-leading progress?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question; it is an important one. The last day of Parliament gives us an opportunity to reflect, focus and make sure that we understand the importance of having a government that the state needs because it is capable of focusing on the issues that matter and has a proven record of delivering outcomes. The state needs to be led by a government that is unified and absolutely focused on the things that matter to the people of Western Australia. This week, we have seen the alternative government's true colours. Quite frankly, it is frightening. It represents a risk to the people of Western Australia and everything that has been achieved over the last seven years.

Because it is the final day of Parliament, I thought I would take the Parliament through some of the achievements of this government in this term. Household electricity credits have provided households with \$2 100 in assistance in recent years. We provided \$150 for primary school students and \$250 for high school students under our WA student assistance payment. We delivered cheaper public transport through two-zone capped fares, free rides for school students, free transport for everyone on Sundays and, of course, we are coming up to our new summer of free public transport. The regional airfare cap is one of the policies that we are most proud of; it is keeping travel affordable for regional Western Australians. Of course, the WA rent relief program is helping vulnerable tenants to stay in their homes. Then there was the \$3.2 billion for housing and homelessness during this term. We have delivered more than 2 500 social homes and more than 1 000 are under contract or construction. We have provided \$144 million in grants for community housing across the state and delivered initiatives like the Subiaco East and Smith Street

housing developments. We are supporting regional housing via the \$80 million infrastructure development fund and the remote communities fund and by unlocking lazy land. Major planning reform is underway to cut red tape and boost housing supply. We are subsidising apprentices and supporting businesses to bring in skilled construction workers.

Madam Speaker, it goes on. In the health system, a record \$14.3 billion has been invested in health and mental health since 2021. We added 709 new beds to the system in the past three years, the equivalent of a whole new tertiary hospital. A new world-class women's and babies' hospital in Murdoch is in the pipeline, along with improved maternity services at Osborne Park Hospital. Despite global health workforce shortages, we increased our health workforce by more than 30 per cent. This includes more than 4 400 new nurses and 1 800 new doctors. We stabilised the health system following the pandemic, with ambulance ramping down 22.5 per cent and elective surgery wait times down 31 per cent.

We have strengthened the economy. Through some of the toughest global conditions, Western Australia has not only prevailed, but also thrived. Our economy has grown by nearly a quarter from pre-pandemic levels and unemployment has averaged below four per cent for the last three years—a record for this state. More than 320 000 new local jobs have been created during our time in office and we are diversifying our economy at a rate never seen before.

We have transformed the transport network, with 72 kilometres of new rail and 23 stations being delivered through Metronet. We brought railcar manufacturing back to Western Australia. We have invested in major road projects around Perth and regional WA. We expanded the cycling network all over the state.

That just scratches the surface of our achievements. It has been a busy term, but our government is focused on the economy and focused on jobs. The government has protected the state's finances so that we can now make investments, look after those who are doing it tough, continue to support our health system and continue to grow our housing stock.

The progress and the promise of the future is all at risk if Western Australians waste or risk their vote on the Liberals or the Nationals. We know that they are hopelessly divided. They are a shambles. We know that the Liberal Party is in almost terminal civil war at the moment. We say to the people of Western Australia: stick with WA Labor, stick with WA and stick with our future.

COST-OF-LIVING RELIEF

894. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the cost-of-living crisis affecting WA kids, with reports that one in five young people were experiencing extreme financial hardship, including going without meals, while the number of families desperate for housing support has surged 26 per cent this year.

- (1) Does the Premier agree with a new children's policy centre that the government's cost-of-living relief so far was a bandaid solution?
- (2) Does this not demonstrate a fundamental disconnect between the government's policies and the real-life challenges affecting Western Australians?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) No, I do not agree with the member. She is wrong. Whichever stakeholder group or whatever else she found in Canberra, they are wrong too. We know that Western Australia is a strong state. It has the strongest economy in the country. It has the fastest growing economy in the country. It has the fastest growing population in the country. Western Australia is progressing. Thanks to a WA Labor government, Western Australians can be confident about the future. Woe betide anyone who would contemplate voting for the other side in this election because all of that would be at risk.

When I was elected Premier in June 2023, I made a commitment that I would maintain this economy as the strongest in the country and that we would help those who are doing it tough. That is exactly what we have done. I thank the member for the question because I was curtailed by time when I was last outlining our list of achievements. This gives me another opportunity to focus on our cost-of-living achievements. We have delivered over \$75 million worth of student assistance payments. We have made VacSwim free over the 2024–25 summer holidays. We have provided over \$2 100 in electricity credits for all households over four years, along with free public transport for school students, two-zone capped public transport fares, fare-free Sundays and free transport for the summer of 2024–25. We have introduced a \$300 school clothing allowance for families in need and capped regional airfares. We have kept household fees and charges well below inflation. While we are there, under the Liberal–National government, power prices increased by a whopping 90 per cent. It increased water usage and rates by 67 per cent and increased car registrations by an average of \$183 year in, year out.

We have also doubled the KidSport grant from \$150 to \$300. We have introduced free electricity from 9.00 am to 3.00 pm for those who are doing it tough. Our rent relief program provided up to \$500 in

financial assistance. It goes on. We have introduced laws to ban rent bidding and limit rent increases, and reintroduced the seniors safety and security rebate after members opposite axed it. We introduced a new payment to support foster carers and grandcarers. We made TAFE free for a whole range of courses and provided financial assistance for regional nursing students and other apprentices. Why were we able to do this? How were we able to provide these cost-of-living measures? It is because we did the hard yards. We protected the state's finances and provided budget repair, and we are now in a position to make sure that we can repay the people of Western Australia for their hard work.

We have a range of measures in place. Unfortunately, I could go on, but I will not. Hang on—KidSport is now \$500. It is going on! We understand that a lot of people are doing it tough. That is a reality that we accept on this side of the chamber, which is the reason we have done so much on cost-of-living relief. When members who are in the Parliament today are facing people in their communities, they can tell them that their WA Labor government has provided over \$1 billion in support. That is \$1 billion back into the pockets of Western Australian households across 20 different programs and initiatives across the length and breadth of this state. Those in the blue and green chairs can say that too if they like, because I am sure they would like to deliver that message to the people of Western Australia too—that their WA Labor government will always do what is right for WA.

COST-OF-LIVING RELIEF

895. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. If this government is doing so much, why are Western Australians going backwards when it comes to financial hardship under this government's watch?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Last week, I had an opportunity to meet with a range of major banks in Sydney as we discussed the outlook for Western Australia, and they would actually conclude the exact opposite of what the Leader of the Liberal Party has just alleged. They say that of all the states in Australia, Western Australia is in the best position. We have the highest economic growth, the lowest unemployment rate and the highest standard of living, because our cost of living is significantly lower than that in other states. We are in a good position, but we know that not everyone is thriving or benefiting from these economic times, so we continue to make sure that we provide cost-of-living relief, because we will always do what is right for WA. We will keep our economy strong and always help those who are doing it tough.

STATE FINANCES — GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

896. Ms K.E. GIDDENS to the Treasurer:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's stewardship of the state's finances over the last eight years.

- (1) Can the Treasurer outline how the strong leadership of the Cook Labor government has resulted in a massive turnaround in the state's finances?
- (2) Can the Treasurer advise how this government's strong, stable leadership compares with that of the Liberals and the Nationals WA?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for that question. Many people in this house were not here when we were in opposition, but the hallmark of the Liberal–National government was a divided, broken government. We had a Liberal Party that was divided and a National Party that hated the Liberal Party. In eight years of opposition, nothing has changed. We have an opposition that had the opportunity to spend eight years to prepare for government, and, now, with just over 100 days until an election, it is a divided Liberal Party with two camps—exactly what it delivered when it was in government—and a National Party and a Liberal Party at war with each other, with no common policies and no common program. As a result, we had a completely dysfunctional cabinet and Expenditure Review Committee process under the Liberal–National government. There were two separate cabinet processes, two separate ERC processes, and then we had a completely broken Liberal Party in government. We know the different factions that existed in that Liberal Party. As a result, what did the government deliver? It delivered a recession. It delivered debt that climbed from \$5.6 billion to what was projected to be \$43 billion. There was a slowing economy, so that government ran the state's finances into the red—operating deficits—increased debt at an unsustainable level and crashed the economy. That is because members opposite could not agree on how to manage the government. Today, they cannot agree on how to manage an opposition.

What impact did we see on households? As the Premier has just outlined, we saw increase upon increase on household fees and charges—\$2 100 in nominal terms. We saw electricity and water prices increase and, of course, TAFE fees went up 500 per cent. As the Premier said, they left the people in the suburbs and in regional WA behind. We saw apprenticeships and traineeships plummet. We saw young people

not being able to get a trade. We have reversed it all. We have free TAFE and a record number of people going through training in this state. We have seen cost-of-living relief and over 300 000 jobs created in this state. We saw the Aaa credit rating coming back to us from the two major rating agencies. We have saved \$5 billion in interest payments, and, as the Premier said, across the board, we have seen incredible economic figures. There is a 5.8 per cent increase in state final demand for the financial year just ended. Importantly—this is a point that we heard last week from some of the institutions—across the board, we have strong business investment. The key difference with the other states is that their growth has been dominated by government investment. In WA, government investment is actually much smaller than business investment. That is a good sign. The business community is willing to invest in Western Australia. We have a record number of people wanting to come to WA. Honestly, if it were as bad as the Leader of the Liberal Party wanted to portray, you would think everyone would be leaving WA instead of a record number of people coming to WA. There is record business investment of 13 per cent. Government and dwelling investments are up and household consumption is up. All the indicators are that things in WA continue to dominate the national landscape. Tomorrow, I will be meeting with the federal Treasurer and the other state Treasurers, and I will again highlight just how well WA is going compared with the other states.

As I said, when members opposite were last in government, they were a divided mess. There were two clear groups in the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA that did not talk to each other. In eight years, they have done nothing to correct that. In the last three years, we have seen the Liberal Party practically blow itself up. We have a situation in which there is clear division. We do not have a shadow Treasurer. We are 100 days out from the election and there is no shadow Treasurer! I point out that over \$6 billion at least of commitments have been made by both parties—at least. They refuse to have their commitments costed by the Treasury. There is no shadow Treasurer, and they are not going to trust the Treasury to do their costings. I mean—who is going to do it? That businessman?

Mr J.N. Carey: Get the businessman!

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Get the businessman! If they knew who the businessman was, maybe they could ask the businessman to do their costings. The elusive businessman is out there somewhere in the shadows with the cowards, as the Leader of the Liberal Party said.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: He is with the shadow Treasurer! We are 100 days out. There is no shadow Treasurer. They are not going to send their commitments to Treasury, because we have an incredible situation whereby they will not trust the Treasury to cost their election commitments—billions of dollars of commitments. We saw the Leader of the Opposition ask about a commitment. We still do not know whose commitment wins on the day. Let us say members opposite win government. Whose stamp duty commitment will they deliver? We have no idea. As I said, it is eight years later, and the opposition is worse than it was even a few years ago. It is deeply divided. The Leader of the Liberal Party and Basil Zempilas cannot coexist, and because of the dysfunctional relationship between the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA, the opposition has been unable to form a credible alternative government. That is something we will continue to highlight. Elections are a comparison and contrast; it is a choice, and we will continue to highlight the dysfunctional, chaotic and divided nature of the Liberal Party.

NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE — EXPANSION

897. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's recent meeting with Australian Rugby League Commission chief Peter V'landys in relation to a Western Australian National Rugby League licence, and reports that the Australian Rugby League Commission is asking the WA government to commit to up to \$500 million. During a cost-of-living crisis, is it appropriate for the Premier to commit to anywhere near that amount?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. It gives me a chance to talk about one of my favourite subjects, so I apologise to the chamber: this may take some time!

No numbers of that nature were discussed with the NRL. The number referred to by the member comes from sports reports on the east coast. If that is the full length and breadth of his research in preparation for question time, I urge him to source his information from more reliable sources. However, there is only one state in this country that can put the N in NRL, and that is Western Australia. There is only one state in this country that can expand that competition to a whole new set of eyeballs in a whole different time zone, and that is Western Australia. It is therefore not surprising that the NRL is deadset keen to see a Western Australian team in the national competition. It is also no surprise, given my youth, that I am right on board with that!

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: I am very keen to see an NRL team in Western Australia, but we will make sure that we do that on terms that are good for Western Australia, because I will always do what is right for WA. We will make sure that we get the sort of agreement with the NRL that will mean we can continue to grow options for sport engagement in Western Australia. We also know that —

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: We also know that having a team in the NRL will increase our economic activity, because every time a team comes over for a WA home game, they will bring supporters with them, so it will be a great win for the Western Australia community. We also note that the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition wrote to the NRL endorsing the idea of a Western Australian team. There are a lot of reports around the expansion of the NRL competition, and it is a matter of public record that the Prime Minister wants to see the competition expanded to Papua New Guinea.

It is interesting. I could continue for some time, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: I hope not.

Mr R.H. COOK: I know the Minister for Housing is keen to answer a question that I think he is anticipating! Papua New Guinea is the only country on earth that has rugby league as its national sport, so from that perspective I can understand why, in light of the great alliance our country has with Papua New Guinea and other Pacific nations, the Prime Minister would be keen to see a Papua New Guinean side, but that does not exclude the idea of a Western Australian side at some point in the future as well. We will continue to engage with the NRL in relation to this exciting proposal, and we will make sure that, if possible, we will craft an agreement that is in the best interests of all parties.

NATIONAL RUGBY LEAGUE — EXPANSION

898. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier rule out being taken for a ride, along with the Treasurer and WA taxpayers, by Peter V'landys?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

This gives me an opportunity to highlight two contributions to this important debate: one from the Leader of the Opposition and one from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. The Leader of the Opposition has said that, as we enter a period of considerable population growth, the opportunity exists to inspire even more junior players with a vision of one day playing for a WA NRL team. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who is also the shadow Minister for Sport and Recreation, encouraged the NRL to favourably consider the case put forward by Western Australia and to note his support for the Western Australian bid. He said that our state has the facilities, the talent, the market and the dedication to field the best team in the league.

I could not agree more. On this last day of Parliament, we have a moment of unity with members opposite, on the opportunity to be in the NRL. That is an opportunity that the government is pursuing, and we will do so in the best interests of Western Australian taxpayers.

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL

899. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to building the new women's and babies' hospital.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the new women's and babies' hospital project, which will include expanded services throughout Perth, will benefit women in the northern suburbs?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of any risks to the delivery of this project?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Kingsley for the question. I know she is a very strong advocate for access to a broad range of maternity and birthing options, as well as reproductive rights for women in Western Australia.

The Labor government is very proud to be delivering the brand new women's and babies' hospital at the brand new site in Murdoch. We know that King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is well past its safe use-by date. It is 100 years old. It was ahead of its time 100 years ago, when Edith Cowan and May Holman took the brave step of supporting women in childbirth with a dedicated women's and children's hospital, but it is now well and truly past its time. We also know that Osborne Park is perfectly placed for a major expansion to support the inner northeastern suburbs. Our plan will be better for women

who birth in the northern suburbs. They will have greater access to a range of choices, including a brand new family birthing centre, a mother's and babies' unit for women experiencing mental health issues immediately post-birth, and more maternity access. Higher risk women will also be able to birth there, including those who will need to go straight into a neonatal intensive care unit.

There will also be a brand new women's and babies' hospital at Murdoch, which has now been endorsed by the Royal Flying Doctor Service as being better for women and babies in regional Western Australia who have to transfer. There will be brand new neonatal beds at Perth Children's Hospital and 2 000 new car bays at Fiona Stanley Hospital, because we know how constrained the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre site is. If you have ever sought to access Perth Children's Hospital with a grumbly, unwell toddler in the back and you do not want to call an ambulance, you know how difficult it is. We know why that is difficult: it is because of a contract signed by the former government that will constrain parking at that site for years and years to come.

We have seen mountains of evidence for the government's plan, and the government has been open and transparent with the community about where we are building and why. We have tabled the business case and the Infrastructure WA report. Personal briefings have been offered to the Leader of the Liberal Party by the director general of the Department of Health. During estimates hearings, the director general outlined the potential for disruption and risk at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital. There has also been evidence from leading neonatologists, who have trashed the Leader of the Liberal Party's claims of death and disability. I refer also the clinical consultation report and the support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, yet —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: — the Liberal Party continues to rely on a small group for advice, and on unendorsed material, to dictate its policies —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Vasse, please come to order!

Ms A. SANDERSON: — instead of broadly consulting with the sector, which is what the government does. It consults with everyone before it makes decisions. We know that the Leader of the Liberal Party has said she wants to make this election about maternity services. We are ready. We are ready with our plans. Where are her plans? We are ready with what we are taking to the community. We have been very open with the community. The Leader of the Liberal Party needs to explain how she made that decision, who she has listened to and how her party intends to deliver a hospital on an already constrained site. Where will she relocate the outpatient services currently run in G block? Which elective surgery will she scale down and cancel? How will she guarantee access to emergency departments at the children's hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital?

Ms M.M. Quirk: When is she going to shut up?

The SPEAKER: Member for Landsdale, I hope there are no further interjections from you during question time. Thank you.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The community has seen for the last eight years, and it sees now, is that the Liberal Party is void on ideas and policies. It is at war with itself and its coalition partners. It is afraid to make decisions. The member for Vasse, the Leader of the Liberal Party, needs to come clean on how she will deliver that hospital at QEII. The time is now. The so-called party of business is seeking to undermine investment in Western Australia and the economic success. All of that economic success allows us to build this new infrastructure. It is time to be up-front and come clean. Is she going to cancel the Osborne Park Hospital expansion? It is time to be honest with the community of the northern suburbs.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: The time is now for the Leader of the Liberal Party to be honest and up-front about what she will do with Osborne Park Hospital and the Murdoch site. The community is waiting.

HOUSING — APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION

900. **Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Planning:**

I refer to an article in *The West Australian* on 6 November that reports that Property Council of Australia research shows that out of 12 500 apartments already approved for construction since 2020—that is four years ago—only 2 140 apartments have been built or have had construction commenced. Furthermore, Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows —

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cannington, please do not interject while the question is being asked.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Furthermore, Australian Bureau of Statistics data shows that over 30 000 residences were approved for construction in 2013–14 and 2014–15 under old planning laws whilst just over 17 000 were approved last financial year under the government’s new planning laws.

Given these facts, how can the minister possibly continue to claim that the changes to the planning laws were necessary to improve the supply of housing in Western Australia?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for his question. I have been on the public record multiple times on this issue. We heard the member for Cannington refer to this. The member cannot make that comparison. COVID radically reshaped housing markets.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr J.N. CAREY: In particular, we have seen massive cost escalations; a single home has gone up 30 to 40 per cent. The cost of medium to high-density multi-dwellings has gone up well beyond that. Anyone in the private sector will tell the member it is because of those cost escalations that the viability of medium to high-density product is under enormous strain. We are seeing market failure because of cost issues. We understand that the best policy settings need to be in place to assist the market failure. The first has been the creation of our infrastructure fund, which is providing funding for both water and power headworks to enable projects to get off the ground. We have done that. We also know that any delays in planning approvals can make or break projects. I want to be very clear—it can make or break projects. Industry across the board like the Housing Industry Association, Master Builders WA and the Property Council representing small to large project builders have endorsed our planning reforms because it is about trying to create the streamlining of approvals. The member for Cottesloe shows absolute ignorance of current market conditions.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please. You have asked the question. Please continue with your answer, minister.

Mr J.N. CAREY: Western Australia is not alone. Every state in the country is facing the same winds when it comes to medium and high-density housing. We have the best policy settings in the country for planning reform. The member cannot make comparisons with that timeframe prior to COVID when market conditions were very different.

HOUSING — APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION

901. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Housing:

I have a supplementary question. Why does the minister not admit that his fixation on blaming and attacking local councils has contributed to a complete failure to tackle the real issues limiting housing supply in Perth?

Mr J.N. CAREY: Can I just say that in the upper house yesterday, there were clear examples given of local governments altering the recommended reports on proposals, which meant that developments were substantially delayed up to a year behind the timeframes. Clear evidence was there. I do not need to say this. I would rather quote the Liberal candidate for Cottesloe, Sandra Brewer, who said —

“These reforms not only enhance the efficiency and professionalism of our planning systems but also present a multitude of opportunities for investors, a crucial factor in ensuring a robust rental supply,”

Streamlining the approval process and optimising the allocation of planning resources will lead to quicker decisions and improved transparency.”

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr J.N. CAREY: That was the Liberal candidate for Cottesloe. You cannot get any more resolute than that! It is like, “Lay down. This is the way.” The reality is that this side of politics has a clear plan for boosting housing supply. That side of politics consistently and actively, through a number of Liberal Party candidates, opposes additional housing supply in Western Australia.

HOUSING — SUPPLY — INNOVATION

902. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the Cook Labor government’s implementation of innovative initiatives to support the delivery of more housing.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the impact of these initiatives as highlighted by recently released data?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of any other recently released data?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

(1)–(2) Yes. I know of housing data, and I am aware of other data that is being made available this week. I will refer to both.

The Housing Industry Association scorecard has come out and found that Western Australia now ranks second for strongest homebuilding market in the nation. HIA Executive Director Michael McGowan notes —

Western Australia has surged up the rankings of HIA’s Housing Scorecard and could potentially take out top position in 2025

The data shows that Western Australia has the second strongest attached housing sector in the nation behind South Australia. Detached housing approvals in WA were the first to recover from the post pandemic trough, most recently sitting at 18 per cent above the decade average. Western Australia’s performance is the best it has been since 2013, a decade ago. Under the Liberals, we saw the housing market decline radically. COVID hit and our policy reforms are making changes.

This is really important. I quote the Housing Industry Association CEO, who said that the ability of Western Australia’s policymakers to ensure a pipeline of relatively affordable residential land has been a major drawcard for recent arrivals. I am not saying that; it is a ringing endorsement by the most credible housing organisation in Western Australia. It says we are doing it right.

People in this chamber may be shocked but other data has been leaked in this recent week. I know my colleagues will be shocked, but the data says that I am more popular than Roger Cook! The data members can see here—do not let the crayon fool you—talks about the John Carey effect and through this incredible graph says, “We love John Carey.” I cannot say who the businessman is who funded it! After being hounded by journalists, who have done an extraordinary job this week, I can confirm that it was one Betty Confetti, my greyhound. Can I say that it is true that I am subservient to Betty Confetti.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: I draw the question of relevance to the answer that is being given. I do not know that a picture of a greyhound is actually helping the debate.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! Minister, if you could come to the relevance please.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.N. CAREY: I was talking about data, Speaker.

It is true that I see Betty Confetti every day. In fact, I am subservient to her because I feed and walk her every day. I want to assure Western Australians that despite seeing Betty every day, not once have we discussed the polling—not once! I know that Betty has the crayon in her mouth in this picture, but not once while her nose was above me in my bed did I ask to her in any shape or form: Who did that polling? Who paid for that polling? I have no idea.

I chose that example because it shows, respectfully—this is a serious point—that the data and polling released this week is ridiculous. It is absurd. No-one in Western Australia believes that Basil Zempilas did not know about the polling or was not involved in the polling. He has misled the public and journalists. He has blatantly lied to Western Australians. There is a real choice —

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Points of order are heard in silence!

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Speaker, the member has drifted from the topic. He is not talking about data now at all.

The SPEAKER: I think he was asked for a point of comparison. I think he has come to some sort of relevance, but could he complete his answer, please.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.N. CAREY: The point I am making, respectfully, Madam Speaker, is that we have seen an extraordinary week in politics. I actually think every Liberal voter in the community will be devastated by what they are seeing from a party that is now in ruin, and that ruin has been driven by Lord Mayor Basil Zempilas. Everyone knows, including Liberals, that Basil Zempilas does not get out of bed without Cam Sinclair’s approval. Basil Zempilas is completely involved in this and the leader —

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: Madam Speaker, this has no relevance whatsoever to the original question that was asked.

The SPEAKER: I think relevance is a matter of perspective. Minister, question time has gone for quite a long time and I would like other people to have the opportunity to ask questions, so if you could conclude your answer.

Questions without Notice Resumed

Mr J.N. CAREY: The final point I make is this: this side is very clear on our housing plans and drive for reform; the other side has no focus and has lost its way. We have a Liberal leader now who is constantly, daily, balancing challenges and a Liberal candidate for Churchlands who refuses to meet the basic requests of the Liberal leader. One side is chaos and only one side, this side, is fit to govern.

HERITAGE — TRAMWAY BRIDGE

903. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Heritage:

I refer to the Shire of Carnarvon —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members! We are getting close to the end but please try and keep it a lid on it.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Heritage, we have got the point!

Ms M. BEARD: I refer to the Shire of Carnarvon and the need for the recent partial closure of the state heritage listed 105-year-old Tramway Bridge due to structural issues identified in a preliminary report undertaken by the shire.

Given the shire has already allocated funds to the restoration of the historical bridge, which links to the One Mile jetty precinct and is significant to tourism in the town and region, will the government commit to assisting the Shire of Carnarvon in keeping the Tramway Bridge open and conserving this significant piece of regional heritage and tourism icon?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

This is my last question. I thank the member for the question.

The bridge that the member mentioned and of course the tramline that connects to the old Carnarvon jetty has a great deal of historical significance to both the region and the state. I am aware some issues have arisen around the state of the bridge, first of all, and the impact of that on the potential continued operation of the tramline. I can assure the member that I am happy to meet with the shire and have a conversation with them around the current state of that particular asset and, of course, look at opportunities to see it being protected.

I am also aware, as the member would be, that money has been allocated to the jetty. From memory, they are allocations from state and federal governments to ensure that the integrity of the history of the jetty itself is preserved and, indeed, interpreted. I understand that project needs to reach its fruition.

Mr P.J. Rundle: There's no jarrah left.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: What is wrong with the member?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I like you. That is why I cannot be awful to you! I note the mutterings of the member for Roe.

The SPEAKER: I think that was actually awful.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: As I said, member, I am happy to have a conversation with the shire. Ultimately, the tourism and heritage opportunities are important for the region. I know that that particular precinct is important so I am very happy to meet with them. I am not sure whether the shire has officially written to me yet—half my office is here. I am looking—no, it has not.

The SPEAKER: They are online; I am sure.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have the cast of *Fraggle Rock* here today!

I think that is the best way to do it. If the shire would like to write and seek to meet with me, I am happy to do that.

POLICE — RECRUITMENT

904. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's commitment to addressing the challenges in the regions to keep the Western Australian community safe.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this government's record growth for our police force is protecting regional Western Australia?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of anyone who is undermining Western Australia's hardworking police force?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for the question and her support for the Western Australia Police Force, particularly her local officers whom I recently visited in her company.

- (1) I can confirm that the Western Australia Police Force has more officers than ever before in history, as of today, and we are growing that number at a record rate. Today there are 7 264 police officers in Western Australia. That is 764 more than when the Liberal Party and Nationals WA were in government. As I speak, there are 344 officer recruits at the training academy. Members know, because they have heard me say it many times, that the academy is at capacity and will be training in the order of 1 000 cadets every 12 months.

I have good news on the other side of the ledger with attrition. Those who are resigning has returned to numbers not seen in more than a decade. Last month, there were 20 resignations of officers, which is the same number that resigned at this time in 2012. This month, to date, with a couple of days left in the month, there have been 10 resignations. We are growing the police force at a huge rate. That means that right across the regions we can afford the commissioner with as many police officers as he requires to address community safety right across the state. The member for Geraldton knows that I was in Geraldton to launch one of the things the police are doing to keep our community safe, particularly the regions, which is the summer regional crime crackdown, commencing in the beautiful midwest and the magnificent city of Geraldton. We did that with the member recently and it will be rolled out further afield in coming weeks.

The state government has also delivered the toughest anti-bikie laws in the country, as a legacy of the Attorney General; the toughest child sex crime offender laws in the country, another legacy of the Attorney General; and the toughest gun crime laws in the country.

- (2) Am I aware of anyone undermining the Western Australia Police Force? Sadly, I do have information that would suggest there is someone actively out there doing that. It is the same person who the Minister for Planning referred to. Unfortunately, I do not have a Betty Confetti story. It is not funny. Cameron Sinclair, whom we are reliably informed by members of the Liberal Party has a power over the Liberal candidate for Churchlands that requires him to seek permission before he gets out of bed in the morning, is the leader of Ammo Marketing. That is his company. Until moments ago, when the claimed stepping aside occurred, Cameron Sinclair was the campaign manager for the Liberal candidate for Churchlands. Members may not be aware that he is the campaign manager for someone else. He is the campaign manager for the Western Australian Firearms Community Alliance—the gun lobby group in Western Australia. He owns the WAFA website. Ammo Marketing proudly tells the world that one of its achievements was building an automated tool to allow gun owners to make submissions during the consultation period for the Firearms Act reforms. He also signed the petition to repeal the Firearms Amendment Bill, along with 11 other Liberal candidates—although, he is not a candidate; he just controls one. He is also the person who helped architect the campaign to actively attack firearms reform at the outset. Personally, he spread falsehoods about me online. He is the person who designed that. That is the individual who, we understand from the story in which he claims to have stepped aside from the campaign for the Liberal candidate for Churchlands, is reportedly still working for the Liberal Party in other ways.

The campaign manager for the Liberal candidate for Churchlands opposes the toughest gun laws in the country, which were, in part, designed to respond to the appalling murders in Floreat—a suburb in the seat of Churchlands. Those laws were amended as they were passing through the upper house to address matters like the collection of Glocks, and ammunition for Glocks, and to address matters like being able take firearms from family and domestic violence offenders at a very early stage in their interactions with the police. That is what those laws do. They are being opposed, shamefully, by the Nationals WA. At least the Nationals are aboveboard and out of the shadows on it. I had a question to the Liberal candidate for Churchlands that I posed a week or so ago. We all know that he has a platform. It is not like he is always hiding in the shadows. He has the ability to tell people what he actually supports and what he opposes. Here it is, Liberal candidate for Churchlands—number one of the Ten Commandments tomorrow. Give us the answer: do you support the toughest gun laws in the country, which are designed to elevate community safety to the number one consideration, or do you support your campaign manager's campaign against those laws?

CUNDERDIN HEALTH CENTRE

905. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:

I refer to the over 600 people who have signed a petition calling on the government to provide palliative care and overnight observation services at Cunderdin Health Centre and the multiple meetings the shire has had with the WA Country Health Service over the last six years.

- (1) Further to the grievance I raised with the minister in September, has the department briefed the minister on this proposal?
- (2) Will the minister meet with the president of the shire and the councillors to discuss this proposal?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

(1)–(2) I have not been briefed by the WA Country Health Service on the proposal but I understand it has had multiple meetings with the shire, including six this year. That is very good engagement from WACHS. My understanding is that the shire raised concerns about the current situation and the distance from the emergency department to Cunderdin Health Centre, and on the use of the facility. No, I have not been briefed. I am happy to meet with the shire and to work with it about its concerns.

CUNDERDIN HEALTH CENTRE**906. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Will that meeting happen before Christmas; and can we get a guarantee that the community will get a seat at the table for all planned and future developments of this health service?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I appreciate that the member is probably asking this question in her next iteration of campaigning for the seat of Bullwinkel, but I can guarantee that my office will make contact with the Shire of Cunderdin. I cannot guarantee a meeting before Christmas but I can absolutely commit to reaching out to the shire.

LESTER PRIZE — PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD — MEMBER FOR BELMONT*Statement by Speaker*

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [3.08 pm]: I will make one little announcement. I congratulate the member for Belmont who has just been told that she has won the people's choice award in the Lester Prize.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: I have personally seen the portrait and it is magnificent.

LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY*Speaker — Personal Explanation*

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.09 pm]: I rise under standing order 148 to give a personal explanation in relation to an article of 8 November 2024 in which I was quoted as saying —

... the Speaker threw out the typical rule book so they could ram the legislation through Parliament before the election.

I accept that the Speaker has worked within the standing orders of this place. My intention was to highlight that the standard convention had been thrown out by the Premier and the government, which had not allowed for proper debate. I apologise for any inference that the Speaker had not followed correct parliamentary procedure.

The SPEAKER: Thank you. That is appreciated. Before I give the call, the Clerk needs to table a late paper.

PAPER TABLED

A paper was tabled and ordered to lie upon the table of the house.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT*Consideration*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.10 pm]: Before we broke for lunch, I was just walking the chamber through a number of investments that have occurred in my electorate over the last eight years. I think I had just spoken about the Kingsley Amateur Football Club and the Kingsley Junior Football Club.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Sorry, member. Before you get onto the next part of your speech, it would be appreciated if members could keep the noise down in the chamber. If you want to have a conversation, there is plenty of room outside to take it. Carry on, member.

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: The Kingsley Amateur Football Club received \$15 000 for a new scoreboard and the Kingsley Football Club received \$60 000 for a new undercover area at the Kingsley Park oval, which I am sure is also utilised by the Kingsley–Woodvale Cricket Club.

I return to our schools. Creaney Primary School received \$25 000 for a nature playground in its kindy area. I was so lucky to have been at the school the day it got approval from WorkSafe Western Australia for the kids to go on it. The second that fencing came down, those little kids were up on that nature playground and having an absolute ball. One of the amazing things about the schools in my community is that I have not one, but two special education schools that are co-located on the site of a mainstream school. The Creaney Education Support Centre received \$10 179 for education support and learning environment upgrades. This is so important for those kids to ensure that they get a fully rounded education in primary school to prepare them for high school and beyond. Halidon Primary School received \$15 000 for ICT equipment. Dalmain Primary School had some very old, noisy and not very

effective air conditioning. We invested \$120 000 into Dalmain Primary School for air conditioning and, again, court resurfacing. It just goes to show the age of the schools in my electorate that they all need this resurfacing done. During my earlier term in government, Goollelal Primary School received a substantial investment to upgrade its undercover area. After the last election, we were able to give it a little top-up of \$2 000 for new IT equipment, specifically for the sound system in the undercover area. The Montessori School Kingsley also received \$12 625 for a nature playground.

Hamersley was one of my new suburbs at the last election, but that did not mean that I did not give it as much attention as other areas. I was very pleased to provide \$11 000 to Hamersley Habitat Community Garden. If members are up my way, please visit Hamersley Habitat. I call it the little oasis in suburbia. It is beautiful. You literally walk through an alleyway off Beach Road, which is a very busy road in my electorate, and you find yourself in this beautiful garden with fruit trees, a frog breeding ground and learning spaces for primary school children and groups that cater for people with disabilities. I want to say to the Hamersley Habitat crew who work there on a Friday morning when I have visited and whom I know, and to those who work there the rest of the time, that they have done an amazing job. Well done for all the work done there. We provided \$25 000 to East Hamersley Primary School for technology and equipment upgrades, and \$160 000 to Glendale Primary School to completely redo the plumbing and toilets at their school because the kids were having to deal with the sewage backing up and flowing out.

I go from Hamersley to the other end of my electorate and Woodvale. We are delivering a skate park at Chichester. It has been a long process, as we have had to deal with sound impacts on surrounding residents and I, along with the council, had to make sure that we did not cut down any trees. I have been assured by the council that the work is due to start soon. We have delivered a new \$1 million STEM classroom for Woodvale Secondary College and provided \$5 000 for equipment at Edgewater Woodvale Junior Football Club with my good friend the member for Joondalup. We provided \$23 000 to North Woodvale Primary School for iPads, \$8 000 to Kingsley Westside Football Club for additional equipment, \$30 000 to Woodvale Primary School for furniture and equipment upgrades, and \$15 624 for the kindy area upgrade at St Luke's Catholic Primary School. We also delivered \$30 000 of equipment to the Woodvale and Greenwood Little Athletics Clubs. If members have ever been involved in Little Athletics, they would know how much work those volunteers do—so I was really happy to help with that.

I have not gone through even half the things and I am almost at my full 30 minutes, but I want to run quickly through some of the wider things we have done as a state government in just this year. It will be rapid fire. We have provided a \$700 electricity credit; a free summer of public transport; free school student transport; free Sunday transport; a two-zone fare cap, which is really important for people in Woodvale and Joondalup, north of my electorate, for coming into the city; free tickets for the Perth Royal Show and Perth Zoo; and free swimming lessons. The KidsSport voucher is something really close to my heart and its value has increased to \$500 per child to cover sports fees, uniforms and essential equipment. Small businesses have also received an electricity credit.

I am glad that the Minister for Training and Workforce Development is in the chamber right now. The one initiative that will absolutely hold us in amazing stead moving into the future is the provision of fee-free TAFE courses. I do not think people understand the impact that this will have on our kids. TAFE is not a second option. TAFE is an amazing place at which to learn the myriad skills that we need in WA. I really want to put this on the record and applaud the minister because this will give the kids in my and many other electorates the opportunity to achieve beyond their wildest dreams, and it will provide Western Australia with a really great foundation to move forward by providing skilled workers in the areas of housing, construction, community services, nursing, child care and education assistants. On behalf of my community, I thank the minister, because without fee-free TAFE courses, those kids were looking at paying up to 500 per cent more for courses under the previous Liberal–National government. Thank you.

MRS M.R. MARSHALL (Rockingham) [3.18 pm]: I am honoured to also rise today to reply to the Premier's Statement that he delivered at the start of this parliamentary sitting year. It is the first Premier's Statement during my shortened term as the member for Rockingham following the by-election last year. It is tough to speak today following all the valedictory speeches this week. I have been touched by the personal stories and recollections of members from both sides. It has filled me with inspiration and confidence to continue serving my community with the tenacity shown by those retiring members. It was particularly special to be in here for the Speaker's valedictory speech earlier in the week. As only the eighteenth woman elected to this place, she leaves a lasting legacy and has been a great mentor to me throughout my political journey. When I was elected as the thirtieth woman to this Parliament, there was a majority of female representation in the Legislative Assembly for the first time. We have come a long way since she was first elected and she leaves a lasting legacy for us.

As we get close to the end of 2024 I would like to reflect on how we have achieved the vision set out in the Premier's Statement at the start of the year. As the member for Rockingham, I would like to celebrate some of the local achievements there. Having been elected in July last year, this has been my first full year in Parliament and I am proud of what we have achieved. This government has restored the state's AAA finance rating. Just last month, CommSec's *State of the states* report ranked Western Australia as the best performing economy in the nation. This

responsible management of the finances means we have been able to provide Western Australian households with cost-of-living support, invest record amounts in health, housing and homelessness, and build critical infrastructure that has helped grow the economy, support local jobs and set up our state for generations to come.

All members in this place would be hyper aware that cost of living is the biggest issue facing our communities. Easing cost-of-living pressures is our government's number one priority and we have spent more than \$1 billion across 20 programs to provide relief measures that cover the breadth and depth of Western Australia. Heading into Christmas, I know families in Rockingham will be feeling the pinch and I am proud that our second electricity credit for 2024 of \$350 will be rolled out to all household bills from 7 December. I take this opportunity to give a shout-out to some of the amazing community service organisations in Rockingham that deliver support to the most vulnerable in our community—the CREW, the Coastal District Care Centre and the Salvation Army. All three are highly respected and are coordinating additional relief in the lead up to Christmas, through food hampers and presents for kids. I partnered with a couple of them last year to support their food donation drive, and I look forward to doing so again this year. To help spread extra joy over Christmas we announced that the summer of free public transport is back this year, saving regular commuters hundreds of dollars and helping Western Australians get out and about over summer.

This year we have done everything we can to boost Western Australia's housing supply, improve housing affordability and bolster support services for those doing it tough. We have boosted funding to the state's homelessness service providers; provided an incentive to owners of vacant properties to offer them to Western Australians on the long-term rental market; relaxed residential design codes to allow exemptions for granny flats; and continued to deliver the WA rent relief program, which provides tenants at risk of eviction up to \$5 000 in direct rental support to keep more people in their homes. Our government's investment in social housing has already delivered 2 500 social homes since 2021, with more than 1 000 social homes currently under contract or construction. While the state government is focused on boosting housing supply as a statewide approach, we are also committed to delivering further housing in Rockingham moving forward. In October we announced the release of more than 600 hectares of land for new residential housing across Karnup and Eglinton, which is the largest land release in 10 years by DevelopmentWA. Across the two suburbs this land will deliver more than 6 000 new residential lots with the potential for up to 900 social homes. Karnup is a well-connected suburb with growing amenities and infrastructure, and these homes will help support our growing local population as a result of AUKUS.

This year we expanded state government funding to provide the homelessness engagement, assessment and response team to Rockingham through St Patrick's Community Support Centre. The HEART team works with highly vulnerable people to support and transition them into safe accommodation and housing. St Pat's is a well-respected and valued service organisation in our Rockingham community and this announcement demonstrates our commitment to working collaboratively with the community service sector to prioritise targeted relief for those in need.

We are also a government that is delivering on a bold vision of infrastructure for the future. The state has many key projects, but the two most relevant to Rockingham are Westport and the Henderson defence precinct. Rockingham is already a key economic centre for the south west metropolitan region, thanks to its close proximity to the CBD, the Westport precinct and the Henderson defence precinct. We have great local infrastructure like the railway and hospital, and we are home to the largest industrial estate in Australia. But most importantly we are host to the country's largest naval base in our backyard at HMAS *Stirling*. With AUKUS commitments expected to boost Rockingham's defence industry and create thousands of new jobs across the local and regional community, we are well positioned to become an economic powerhouse. The Rockingham industrial zone is already a national leader in sustainable industrial development and is set to become Perth's industrial core for decades, focusing on industries like renewable hydrogen, critical minerals processing, shipbuilding and sustainment. The RIZ provides access to land in the state's premier heavy industrial area, the Western Trade Coast. The area is a specialised centre for chemicals and resource-based processing and has been developed to ensure that strategically important industry has access to serviced, well buffered and appropriately zoned land close to Perth and Fremantle. It is important that we invest in infrastructure that allows us to capitalise on these opportunities—infrastructure like Westport, which until recently had bipartisan support to take our state's container trade industry through to the next century. Unfortunately, that is no longer the case, but our government knows that transitioning WA's container trade from Fremantle to Kwinana in the late 2030s will get the best value for the taxpayer and the best outcome for the state. Western Australia is a trading state and our container port supports the entire state economy. We cannot let our only container port run out of room and we cannot afford to find ourselves in the situation where future generations are forced to pay more for everyday goods because containers have to be taken to the east coast and brought back here by road and rail. Westport will be one of the largest infrastructure projects undertaken in WA and will create thousands of jobs during the construction phase. Another major piece of infrastructure benefiting Rockingham is the establishment of a consolidated defence precinct at Henderson, which is a vital next step in advancing continuous naval shipbuilding in Western Australia. This project will support our local defence capabilities and create and sustain around 10 000 highly skilled local jobs over the next two decades.

As I have mentioned a lot in this place, I strongly believe in the transformative power of education. One of the reasons I was motivated to join the Labor Party as a young 19-year-old was the poor state of our TAFE system that was making vocational training unaffordable and unachievable for my friends and peers. Rockingham has traditionally had a high rate of youth unemployment, and I can vividly remember in my late teens that friends were struggling to find apprenticeships. Since 2017, when we came into government, our government has supported TAFE by freezing fees initially, then slashing them and going even further to make most courses fee-free or very low cost. It was quite shocking to hear from the Premier in question time earlier that it used to cost almost \$10 000 to become an enrolled nurse under the former Liberal–National Party government. Now, with the fee-free training program, it is free. We all know that we need more nurses, so removing that financial impediment is a great outcome for our communities.

More than 130 fee-free TAFE qualifications and skill sets are available through this scheme, with priorities in areas of skills shortage such as construction, early childhood education and care, healthcare, aged and disability care, technology and digital skills, hospitality and tourism, and agriculture. To help boost the construction industry this year we created the new construction training fund that will encourage more apprentices into jobs within the construction industry and help apprentices with cost-of-living pressures by providing a milestone payment during their apprenticeship, along with an additional \$1 000 rebate at the start and end of their training to cover the costs of tools and equipment required. Importantly for Rockingham, we are making a number of defence training courses at TAFE free, including the women in defence industry scholarship program, which is being delivered at South Metropolitan TAFE. There has truly never been a better time to be a young school graduate in the southern suburbs, with many training opportunities available to set up people for a well-paying and secure job in defence and the defence industry. Our investment in TAFE will ensure that Western Australians are trained with the skills for the jobs of the future.

It is also a great time for those who wish to reskill. Recently I had the privilege of attending a training graduation for Strategix with the Minister for Training and Workforce Development, Hon Simone McGurk. It was powerful to hear the stories of some of the graduates. One of the people graduating said she thought she would always be just a mum, but now she is able to enter the workforce. The following week I was at one of my high schools and an education assistant there was at the Strategix graduation, so she has already secured employment, which is great to see.

It is important that we provide quality education at all levels and it is important that no child is left behind, regardless of their circumstances or postcode; everyone should have access to the highest quality education. I am proud to be working with the Minister for Education on delivering two really important projects for our community—\$60 million for the Rockingham Senior High School and the Rockingham SHS Education Support Centre redevelopment and \$40 million for the Safety Bay Senior High School redevelopment. Our teachers and staff already do a wonderful job and I know they will deliver even better lessons in new state-of-the-art facilities at these two schools. The Cook Labor government announced recently that through the schools clean energy technology fund we are supporting public schools in Rockingham to go greener and reduce their energy costs. This includes Cooloongup Primary School, East Waikiki Primary School and Rockingham Beach Primary School all receiving solar upgrades.

Having a strong public health system that delivers accessible quality care is important to my community, and our government is committed to delivering world-class healthcare for every Western Australian. This year we delivered a record additional \$3.2 billion investment in health to deliver more beds for our hospitals, more nurses and doctors, and further reforms to address ramping and surgery wait times. Our investment in health has increased WA public hospital capacity and added more beds, including 30 additional beds at Rockingham, improved patient flow and upgraded digital systems. We are also further strengthening access to health services in Rockingham through budget funding for the mental health emergency centre and behavioural assessment urgent care centre at Rockingham General Hospital so that Rockingham families can receive appropriate quality care close to home. We are making it easier to access emergency services by expanding WA's virtual emergency department to include mental health services, which will reduce emergency department visits and ambulance ramping.

As the Minister for Health reiterated in question time just before, we are committed to building the Women's and Babies' Hospital at Murdoch, the only responsible location for it to be built. This will mean Rockingham families will have access to expert care closer to home. It means more birthing and maternity choices for local women and families and more accessible specialised gynaecological services for Rockingham women.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank and congratulate the wonderful staff and leadership at Rockingham General Hospital for their recent successes in the 2024 awards season, in particular the cancer and midwifery teams who have led the way for innovation, compassion and empathy when caring for patients.

Like members of my community, I want Rockingham to be a safe place. Our government is committed to community safety in Rockingham and already we have introduced tough family and domestic violence legislation, which includes new offences and mandated GPS tracking for perpetrators; doubled the recruitment programs at Rockingham police station, resulting in more cops on the beat; passed nation-leading firearms laws, keeping us safe by reducing the number of guns in the community; and enacted the nation's toughest laws to fight against serious and organised crime, including Australia's toughest knife laws. There is always more to be done, but our community is safer thanks to this government.

Only Labor governments invest in Rockingham. Rockingham deserves the best. I am pleased that the Cook Labor government supports my vision for Rockingham and is committed to delivering investment for my community, supporting our ecotourism ambitions and ensuring we are ready for AUKUS. Recently, we released the *Cape Peron recreation master plan*, with \$1 million in funding to deliver toilets and cafe facilities in this beautiful natural reserve, our Kings Park by the sea. We are also delivering \$2.75 million to upgrade the Penguin Island jetty, making it safer and more accessible for visitors and staff to the island. We are also supporting private investment in Rockingham, like the recently opened Tyrecycle facility, and opening up new industrial land at Latitude 32.

Our government is committed to improving road safety and making sure that we invest in projects that will help get people on our roads home safely. Through the black spot program, works are currently underway at the Read Street–Malibu Road intersection. These upgrades include moving the pedestrian crossing further away from the roundabout and extending the 40-kilometre-an-hour school zone. Our local community has been asking for these upgrades, in particular the Safety Bay Senior High School community and local traffic wardens, Conrad and Jan, have been big advocates for this project, and we are delivering for them.

This year we also provided \$2 million for necessary upgrades to the Ennis Avenue–Dixon Road intersection to improve safety conditions for drivers and assist with easing traffic by extending and adding both slip and acceleration lanes. These works have been recently completed and it has made a real difference to improving traffic flow on a key piece of Rockingham’s road network.

We are committed to improving community sport and recreational infrastructure in Rockingham. I am proud that we have delivered part of my \$10 million election commitment to the City of Rockingham to deliver additional courts and much-needed maintenance work at the Mike Barnett Sports Complex. A total of \$2 million of that commitment has already been delivered for roof and ventilation upgrades, which are already making a difference to players in the stadium. The other \$8 million is still set aside in the budget for the council to deliver the further indoor courts to meet the growing demand for indoor ball sports in my community. I look forward to working with the City of Rockingham on this project and hope to be able to make more achievements in this space soon.

We are also supporting sporting facilities through funding projects under the community sporting and recreation facilities fund. Works began recently on the new facilities at Stan Twight Reserve, which will support our growing Safety Bay Stingers Football Club and the Shoalwater Bay Cricket and Sporting Club. This year we announced more than \$1 million through the CSRFF for the new change rooms at Anniversary Park, home of the Rockingham Rams Football Club.

Female participation in sport is booming, as are inclusive all-abilities teams. Given the ageing nature of infrastructure in Rockingham, these projects are really important for improving access and inclusion at these growing clubs.

It has been a big first year for me in this place. It has been a big year both professionally and personally. With the arrival of my first child, Bowie, it has at times been difficult to juggle the roles of parent, local member and parliamentarian, but I would not have it any other way. It is truly a great privilege to serve in this place, especially serving in a government like ours that is doing what is right for Western Australia. It is a great privilege to be a mum and to use this role to help make Western Australia and Rockingham better places for my child to hopefully inherit one day. I am confident this government is on track to do so and am really proud to outline some of the ways we have delivered on the Premier’s vision statement for the year.

Rockingham is also a big boating community. For those who are unaware, my electorate is bound on almost three edges by coastline. Late last year our government announced \$750 000 towards the Palm Beach west boat ramp launch facility upgrades, which is really important for those in my committee accessing the beautiful Cockburn Sound.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mrs M.R. MARSHALL: Our government is also committed to supporting a marina in Rockingham. Our Department of Transport has been actively engaging with the proponent to reset that project, as I know it is a priority for my community.

In conclusion, it has been a big first year in this place. I feel like I have learnt a lot, I have achieved a lot and I hope to be able to do more. Hopefully in 100 days’ time I will be back in this place with some of the wonderful leaders and mentors who have inspired and supported me so far in this journey. I am confident this government will continue to do what is right for Western Australia and I commend the Premier’s Statement to the house.

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) [3.36 pm]: It is my absolute pleasure to make a contribution to the consideration of the Premier’s Statement. There is just so much to talk about on this final sitting day. As this term of government draws to an imminent close and we all wait to head home, I am delighted to highlight just a few of the fantastic initiatives of the Cook Labor government and also the McGowan government. We have done some truly fantastic transformational things. The list is huge, but most notably we have done a lot on infrastructure. My community, like so many others, has been the beneficiary of the vision of the Deputy Premier; Minister for Transport of Metronet. That has been transformational. We have a train station in Redcliffe, which is very popular and well

utilised. A big part of that has been the initiatives we have made for free public transport for students travelling to and from school, free transport for everyone on Sundays and the introduction of a two-zone fare cap, so no trip will cost more than \$4.90. We have gone about this enormous infrastructure program by putting local content back into the state through the manufacture of railcars. That had been previously shut down under the Liberal government. This local content has produced a huge number of jobs. That was a key driver in stimulating our economy and has brought about a fundamental shift to make Perth really focused on public transport, which is fantastic. We have also noted that people are experiencing hardship due to cost-of-living pressures. We have made a concerted effort to provide relief to utilising public transport and it has been so welcome by so many people in my community.

Another major announcement that was welcomed is the Tonkin Gap project. I worked closely with the Tonkin Gap Alliance, keeping updated on how the project was progressing. This was the site of a notorious bottleneck, and my community especially was really impacted by it prior to the completion of this project. It impacted all the suburbs in and around the airport. That has been really welcomed. There are additional traffic lanes, new bridges and upgrades to interchanges; it is a great improvement. There is also a new shared path and enhanced lighting and landscape. It is really terrific.

I am really thankful to the Deputy Premier because, in her capacity as the Minister for Transport, she came and met with me a couple of years ago and heard directly from my community, who were really impacted by the noise from the existing Tonkin Highway. When I spoke to her about the additional lanes, I said that of course they were going to be welcomed as they would alleviate a lot of traffic and congestion pressure, but I also noted that it was really difficult for people to enjoy peace and quiet in their own homes because the noise was well above the current acceptable standards set by Main Roads itself. As a community, those people worked tirelessly to advocate to ensure that their voices were heard. I am really grateful that the minister was able to include noise walls on the bridge across the river, which is fantastic.

Another initiative that has been thoroughly welcomed in my community under our Labor government is the Wilson Park upgrades. I thank the Minister for Sport and Recreation, who has been absolutely amazing in this capacity. He is one of the best people in this place, and I have had the absolute honour to work with him as the Whip. I truly treasure that experience. In his capacity as minister for sport, he has been so generous with his time in listening to me advocate for sporting facilities in my community. He has come out to Wilson Park on a number of occasions to see the impact of the funding for those upgrades. Wilson Park is utilised by literally hundreds, if not thousands, of children and adults playing netball. To say that the courts were derelict prior to this upgrade is probably not an overstatement. As a state government, we put in about \$513 000 under the community sporting and recreation facilities fund upgrade, and there was then a second stage of funding in which Lotterywest put in an additional \$2 million. That funding went towards brand new courts and state-of-the-art lighting. It is wonderful to see that they are now being utilised all weekend during the winter, and there is now a spring season of netball down at Wilson Park, which both my daughter and husband enjoy. It is just terrific.

I have already mentioned the Airport Central train station, which was a \$1.86 billion investment into my community. Importantly, we have also had a \$5 million upgrade to Belmont Police Station. This is really important. This is not just about making a police station look more attractive. This was vitally important because it gave our local area the capacity to have additional resources based in Belmont. Prior to this upgrade, there was no capacity to house more police in our area. It has been really important to make sure that we can have more people in our local station. We have upgraded all the technology, so they have a huge amount of TV screens to access all the closed-circuit television cameras from around the City of Belmont.

Mr P. Papalia: They're a great team, as well.

Ms C.M. ROWE: They are a terrific team, and they are really dedicated police. I know all the police across the force are dedicated, but they are especially terrific. Thank you, minister; I am glad that they can be acknowledged.

I turn from the big things to the little things. I turn from huge Metronet investment through to electricity credits of \$700 just this year, which takes the total up to \$2 100 that we have given our communities to support them through this cost-of-living crisis, along with police station upgrades and rent relief programs—a huge win for my community since over 45 per cent are renters. I could go on, but I know that we are all very much looking forward to the wind-up speeches.

I take this opportunity to wish all the retiring members all the very best. It has been an absolute privilege to be the government Whip, and I thank everybody for their assistance.

Members: Hear, hear!

Question put and passed.

INFORMATION COMMISSIONER BILL 2024

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

PRIVACY AND RESPONSIBLE INFORMATION SHARING BILL 2024*Returned*

Bill returned from the Council with amendments.

Council's Amendments — Consideration in Detail

The amendments made by the Council were as follows —

No 1

Clause 6, page 18, after line 21 — To insert —

(ea) a department of the staff of Parliament referred to in the *Parliamentary and Electorate Staff (Employment) Act 1992*;

No 2

Clause 6, page 18, line 24 — To delete “(e).” and insert —

(ea).

No 3

Clause 41, page 38, line 26 — To delete “application” and insert —

request

No 4

Clause 155, page 122, line 14 — To delete “5th” and insert —

3rd

No 5

Clause 155, page 122, line 19 — To delete “5th” and insert —

3rd

No 6

Clause 214, page 172, line 16 — To delete “5th” and insert —

3rd

No 7

Clause 214, page 172, line 22 — To delete “5th” and insert —

3rd

No 8

Clause 234, page 184, lines 13 to 15 — To delete the lines and insert —

(2) In section 32(3):

(a) delete “party, or the closest relative of a dead third party,” and insert:

party

(b) delete “subsection (2).” and insert:

subsection (2)(a).

No 9

Schedule 1, page 200, line 7 — To delete “purpose,” and insert —

purpose for which it may be used or disclosed under this Schedule,

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I seek leave for the Council’s amendments 1 to 9 to be moved en bloc.

[Leave denied.]

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I move —

That amendment 1 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr R.S. LOVE: It was said that a briefing on these amendments would be given to the opposition. That never arrived and never took place on the basis that because the amendments had not passed, it would not be worthwhile to give a briefing. However, that leaves us in a situation in which I have absolutely no idea of the context of these amendments. With regard to clause 6, can the Attorney General explain to me the import of inserting “a department of the staff of Parliament referred to in the *Parliamentary and Electorate Staff (Employment Act) 1992*,” and what effect that will have on that department?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: This amendment came about after consultation with the presiding officers. Clause 6(2) provides for those entities that are not public entities for the purposes of the bill and therefore not subject to the privacy of responsible information sharing provisions. Clause 6(2) was amended in the other place to include a new paragraph referring to a department of the staff of Parliament referred to in the Parliamentary and Electorate Staff (Employment Act) 1992. This amendment makes it clear that a department of the staff of Parliament—that is, the department of the Legislative Council, the department of the Legislative Assembly and the Parliamentary Services Department—is not a public entity for the purposes of this bill and therefore not subject to the operation of the bill.

Parliamentary departments should be treated the same way as both houses of Parliament, or a joint committee or standing committee of either house. This exemption is consistent with their treatment under the Freedom of Information Act 1992, which this legislation will subsume. The amendment arose following further consultation with the clerks of the Parliament.

Question put and passed; the Council’s amendment agreed to.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I move on to the second amendment, I remind people in the gallery that no photos are to be taken of the chamber without the permission of the Speaker. Thanks.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY — by leave: I move —

That amendments 2 to 7 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr R.S. LOVE: This looks to be renumbering and minor correction in application of said request. Can the Attorney General confirm the purpose of these amendments?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: That is correct. I concur with the Leader of the Opposition’s position.

Question put and passed; the Council’s amendments agreed to.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I move —

That amendment 8 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Perhaps the Attorney General can explain what this amendment is about. We are asking, at section 32(3), to delete “party, or the closest relative of a dead third party,” and insert “party”, and to delete “subsection (2).” and insert “subsection (2)(a).” Perhaps the Attorney General can run through the requirement.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I will start with the motive behind the amendment. The amendment makes it clear that section 32(3) of the Freedom of Information Act can only ever apply to a third party that is a child who has not turned the age of 16. This further minor amendment is to correct the drafting inconsistency anticipated to be made to clause 234(2) of the bill. That clause amends section 32(3) of the Freedom of Information Act, dealing with consultation about the personal information of a deceased person, to replace the requirement to consult with the closest relative with a requirement to consult with the nearest relative, as defined under the Guardianship and Administration Act 1990, so we have consistency there. Section 32(3) previously contemplated that the closest relative could be a child who has not turned 16. However, the new definition of “nearest relative” refers to a person who has attained the age of 18 years, such that the nearest relative of a dead third party could never be a child who has not turned 16. The amended clause 234(2) will address this inconsistency by deleting “party, or the closest relative of a dead third party,” in section 32(3) of the Freedom of Information Act, and inserting “party”. As I said earlier, the amendment makes clear that section 32(3) of the Freedom of Information Act can only ever apply to a third party that is a child who has not turned the age of 16.

Question put and passed; the Council’s amendment agreed to.

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I move —

That amendment 9 made by the Council be agreed to.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Once again, could the Attorney General explain the reason and necessity for this amendment?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY: I thank the Leader of the Opposition. IPP 4 in schedule 1 of the bill aims to protect the security of personal information. IPP 4.2 previously provided that an IPP entity must take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information if it is no longer needed for any purpose, unless the IPP entity is expressly required or authorised to retain the information by, or under, another law. That drafting is consistent with the equivalent information privacy provisions in Victoria’s privacy legislation and the policy intent is consistent with the guidance issued by the Victorian Information Commissioner that personal information has to be destroyed or de-identified if it is no longer required for the purpose for which it was collected or could be used or disclosed under the Victorian IPP. IPP 4.2 has been amended in the other place to provide that an IPP entity must take reasonable steps to destroy or permanently de-identify personal information if it is no longer needed for any purpose for which it may be used or disclosed under this schedule, unless the IPP entity is expressly required or authorised to retain the information by or under another law. This amendment clarifies the intent of IPP 4.2 that personal information will only be able to be retained by an IPP entity for a purpose permitted under the IPPs, most notably IPP 2. The drafting is consistent with Australian Privacy Principle 11.2(b) of the commonwealth Privacy Act 1988.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

The Council acquainted accordingly.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: That concludes consideration in detail.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

Special

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [4.00 pm] — without notice: I move —

That the house at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

This adjournment motion will bring to an end the forty-first Parliament of Western Australia. Our first meeting of the forty-first Parliament for this year was on 13 February. Of course, the first sitting day of the forty-first Parliament was 29 April 2021. A joint sitting was held on 1 February to fill a Senate vacancy, with Senator Varan Ghosh elected following the resignation of Patrick Dodson. In 2024, we have had 55 sitting days, so we have been in this place for 55 days this year, plus three days for estimates. The total number of sitting days of the forty-first Parliament was 326. We had 18 sitting weeks this year, with the total for the forty-first Parliament being 72. This year, we sat for approximately 375 hours. The total sitting hours for the forty-first Parliament was 2 156, plus what we have just done.

There were 47 bills introduced this year and a total of 181 bills introduced to this place over the forty-first Parliament. We have passed 55 bills this year, with 175 passed over the forty-first Parliament. We have passed a number of pieces of legislation this year, including ones that provide protection for consumers of towing services, introduce P-plater passenger restrictions and involve firearms reforms. The new residential tenancy legislation will better protect both tenants and property owners. New laws will also help protect the WA community from knife crime. Reforms have also been made to better protect residents in retirement villages. We also streamlined environmental protection laws. During this term, landmark abortion law reforms were made, marine safety legislation was strengthened to apply to drug and alcohol impairment, and planning reforms were made to cut red tape and boost housing supply. We also stopped puppy farming. Let us not forget the range of laws we put through to ensure that Western Australia could not only survive but also thrive during COVID. As we know, the Attorney General has been prolific. Since 2017, around 70 pieces of legislation have been introduced by the Attorney General and passed.

This year, 859 questions on notice were asked; for the term of the forty-first Parliament, there were 1 811. There were 866 answers provided to questions on notice this year, with approximately 1 800 questions answered across the four years. There were 907 questions without notice asked this year and over 3 500 for the forty-first Parliament. We had 17 MPIs and weren't they great! There were lots of brief ministerial statements; I topped it again with 63. There were 353 this year and a total of 2 099 for the Parliament. There were 24 petitions presented this year—I hope that includes the five or something that came in late today—and 73 across the whole Parliament. There were 846 papers tabled this year, with 3 411 tabled during the Parliament. This year, there were 28 committee reports, and for the Parliament, 81.

It is important at this time that we acknowledge a number of important officer holders and staff. Speaker, I acknowledge you and your tremendous tenure as Speaker of this place over the last four years.

Government members: Hear, hear!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I think everyone is appreciative of the tremendous role that you have played not only as Speaker, but also, of course, as the longest serving member in this place and, indeed, as was mentioned earlier, for your reforms to make this a more family-friendly place. That has been appreciated by all.

To the Deputy Speaker, the member for Forrestfield, you have again done a tremendous job and tremendous work. We thank you sincerely.

I thank all the Acting Speakers—the members for Kalgoorlie, Carine, Rockingham, Dawesville, Landsdale and Albany. An interesting Acting Speaker is the member for Landsdale! I hope I have got them all. Thank you to our Acting Speakers, who ensured that this place has indeed functioned so well.

To our Lester Prize-winning Whip, what a great achievement!

[Applause.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: As I have said before, I want to acknowledge the member for Belmont for her tremendous job as government Whip—far better than the member for Balcatta and even slightly better than me when I had the job! Seriously, thank you to the government Whip. To your assistant, Jason Timms—a magnificent young fella—we thank him sincerely. I also acknowledge the deputy Whip, the member for Joondalup—another tremendous worker in this place.

I acknowledge and thank the Leader of the Opposition, Shane Love. I also acknowledge my nemesis in this place, Peter Rundle, who has been the manager of opposition business. Peter, I want to thank you sincerely; we got on very well and we have been able to do all the things that need to be done behind the chair. You have been wonderful. I thank you; it has been tremendous.

There have been a few opposition Whips, but I want to acknowledge, of course, Mia Davies, the retiring member for Central Wheatbelt, and wish her well. Thank you for your work. Do you remember that text I sent you talking about the huge increase in pay that comes with this magnificent job? No-one has yet taken me up on my amendment to the superannuation scheme. I think that might have actually slipped by us. That is sad, but never mind.

I also acknowledge the Liberal Whip, the member for North West Central. I also thank and acknowledge the chief of staff of the Leader of the Opposition's office, Heather York. I also acknowledge the Leader of the Liberal Party and thank you for your support in areas and matters to do with the running of this place.

To the Premier's office staff, Ben Coates, Daniel Pastorelli—good luck “Pasto”—David Cooper and Morena Evans, and to the parliamentary and executive government services team of Kate Colleran, Amelia O'Sullivan, Cass Gregoriadis and Grace Hutchinson, thank you very much for your wonderful work.

To my ministerial staff, who I referred to rudely during question time as the cast from *Fraggle Rock*—what an appalling thing to say; they are not—you have been marvellous. I want to acknowledge them. I thank my chief of staff, Tarnya Widdicombe, who has just been tremendous. Thank you, Tarnya.

[Applause.]

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Kym “Skeeters” Coolhaas is great. I took her out to the member for Darling Range's electorate one day and we went out to this dusty plain that we are going to build a sports pavilion on, I think. I said to Kym, “Look, Kym, don't worry. You go home early and I'll handle this last little number.” Before I could turn around, she was zooming up the road, kicking up gravel dust. Thanks, Kym.

Danielle McKenzie has been tremendous in our office.

Rebecca Neilson has supported me right through as Leader of the House. There is no more beautiful person you can meet than Rebecca Neilson. Megan MacLean has been a great member of my staff; I thank you, Megan, you are brilliant. Amy Owen has just come back from having a bub. Thank you for your tremendous work, Amy; you have been magnificent. Melissa Kelly joined when I took on the role of Minister for International Education and is going to the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. Melissa, you are a brilliant jewel in the education sector. Thank you so much.

Greta Yapp is the most amazing young woman who just takes everything in her stride. Greta, thank you sincerely; you are brilliant. Thank you, Heloise Bayao, for your wonderful work in the front office taking all those calls. Demi-May Renfree, or Demi-May Champion as she is now called, having married recently, thank you; you are brilliant. Thank you, Matthew Jankowski. We call him Matthew “Dangles” Jankowski. He has the most interesting pair of earrings ever to be found. He is a great young fellow and I thank him sincerely.

I also gave a shout-out to Kelly McManus. I know she is here today. What a brilliant woman. Kelly was in my electorate office for many years and then she was in my ministerial office. She is now earning a lot more money, by the way, Premier, in private enterprise! Kelly, thank you so much for your wonderful loyalty over so many years.

I also want to acknowledge Gary Hamley, who was my chief of staff. Gary served in the public service for over 50 years. He served with me in politics on both sides. Gary retired a few years back. If you are listening, Gary, I thank you again. You made a great contribution to the people of Western Australia through your public service.

I quickly thank some people who have put up with me in my car going to Mandurah and other places. I do this on behalf of all the ministers.

I missed two out! I knew that would happen. Did I miss Caroline O'Neill? How could I miss Caroline O'Neill? That is disastrous. How did that happen? Thank you so much, Caroline, for your work in the arts and culture sector; you have been brilliant. I mentioned Matt, so that is okay.

I mentioned the drivers. These people put up with a lot. Ministers can be pretty cranky and some of them snore. Some go to events and say, “I will be in and out”, but as they meet former Chief Justices and judges, the driver is still waiting about 10 hours later! I acknowledge the manager of the executive transport services, Geoff Piper. Thank you, Joe Spano. I thank new driver Tjerman Gunawan, and Marina Johari, who has been there for a long time. Thank you to Lodi and also to Rumin, who has just joined them.

My great mate Zak Tomovic has put up with so much. Zak knows where all the great eating spots and the great toasted cheese sandwiches are and where to get a great kebab. Old Zak, good on you. Just watch your health, my son! That wonderful Glaswegian Steve Whitehead is a great bloke.

Ms R. Saffioti: He knows all the shortcuts.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: He does know all the shortcuts. Team leader Warren Mack is a great bloke. Phil Cestrilli and Richard D'Mello have joined them more recently. Then there is Terry Kennedy and Tom Marshman—Tom the Canadian. Tom and I had an ongoing fight about Smooth FM. Tom hates it; I love it. Tom, I won. Craig Lampard joined recently and is one of the most beautiful gentlemen you could ever meet.

Wilfred Pohto, you are a beautiful man. I hope he does not mind me saying this, but he was a transplant recipient nearly 20 years ago, and he is the most beautiful person. I really appreciate you, Wilfred.

Ms S.F. McGurk: He tells me I am his favourite.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: That is what he tells me, too!

Thank you to the wonderful George Raniszewski and Maurice Silvestri who drive for the Premier.

We sincerely thank Mathew Bates in this place; congratulations again on your appointment. I am glad I did not adjourn the house early; I gave your poor predecessor, Kirsten, kittens when I did that! We all love Liz, of course, the Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Assembly. Isla Macphail, where are you? I know you are here. Thank you, Isla. Thank you so much, Catie Parsons. Thank you, Molly Rogers-Thomson. Thomas Moorhead, the Sergeant-at-Arms, thank you. He always wakes us up in the morning as Sergeant-in-Arms with his loud voice; he yells very beautifully. I love it. I just wish the Speaker would have worn the wig and gown! We should have brought that back! Thank you, Denis Hippolyte and Lisa Bellano—I wanted to mention Denis and Lisa. The Legislative Assembly committee office has 12 staff. Thank you so much Jesc Requero, Rachel Wells, Nikolas Carbone, Lachlan Gregory and Darren Seet. To all the staff who do all the work in this chamber and support us, thank you so very, very much.

I acknowledge of course the wonderful Catering Services staff. The catering staff and I —

Mr R.H. Cook: It's a complex relationship!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I have had a complex relationship with them over time, Premier. When I finish in this place, I will probably have to sue them because of the state that I am in! I say to Enno Schijf, the Catering Services manager, and Mark Gabrielli, the dining room manager, and to all of your staff, you are just wonderful. Thank you so much for making us so fat! Thank you. I appreciate you. You are marvellous. I did not want to single out or pick favourites, but to Maria Ogden and Deb Gregory, you are beautiful people. Thank you, Deb and Maria.

To all those in Finance, I think I am the only one who hopes there is an extension to the election date so that I keep getting paid a bit longer! To Rachel Germano and all the team in the Finance department, thank you so much.

Human Resources, under Tina Hunter, has six staff. Tina and your team, thank you so much.

Angelo Giaros and all the 16 staff in the IT team, thank you for your work.

Library and Information Services has eight staff. Irena Sikorska is the manager of Library and Information Services. Thank you so much. They have done a tremendous job.

The staff in Parliamentary Education are gems; they do all the hard work. I know all members are appreciative of the education team here. To Jordana Leavesley and all the wonderful staff in education at Parliament, you do a fantastic job.

Reporting Services has changed since I first got here. For those who have been here for a while —

Mr R.H. Cook: They had feather quills!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Feather quills! They used to send us a little package of what we had said, and we would go through with a red biro and change it and fix it up. Now, I can honestly say that since Reporting Services went to digitised speeches, I have never read a speech of mine digitally. The reports could be wrong! I hope that is not the case. Seriously, Reporting Services puts up with a whole heap. I know during COVID it was very difficult, too. Thank you. Also, to Laurie Mansell, I know you are retiring this year. Laurie, thank you.

The Security staff and their manager, Tony Paterson, are magnificent. Tony is great. Thank you.

The Reception Services team is the team at the front, led by Stephanie Nguyen. Thank you. That is another department that is different. Speaker, you would remember, of course, that back in the day you would always get called on the pager, but we do not get that anymore.

The SPEAKER: I know it.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: “Calling Mr Quigley. Mr Quigley, come to the chamber. Mr Quigley, you are required in the chamber.”

The SPEAKER: They were the two most appreciated ladies here.

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: They were. All of those people have been tremendous and, as members, we want to send our deepest appreciation to all of them.

I say again to all the members who are retiring from this place, we wish you very well and thank you for your service to the people of Western Australia. It has been very significant. I thank you for what you have done for the people in your electorates. I want to refer to those who are continuing, and I will be biased. To those who are continuing and contesting, I want to wish you the very best. You are a magnificent group of people and you have worked very, very hard and very much deserve to be re-elected at the election on 8 March. I wish you very well. I think that is all.

I started a tradition by accident when I came to this place. I hope I have covered everything; I feel like I have missed something. I did that by accident because I thought this speech was quite boring, not that it was not important, because it is important to acknowledge people. At the end of 2018, I decided that I would do a song. That went feral—not feral, viral! It is a good line. I have used that a few times and I still get away with it. That went viral and I did a few others. I have had a few greatest hits over the last seven years. I think my best one was *Hello Speaker, My Old Friend*. That did go feral and viral! That was the one for which I got things from people from all around the world. The *Darjeeling Times*, member for Riverton, said I was the coolest politician in the world. It is true. I can show you the evidence!

The SPEAKER: So did the member for Perth's dog!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: Everyone was asking me what song I was going to sing this year. Nadia Mitsopoulos from the ABC did a poll. People rang in and made suggestions. I do not know where Nadia is. I am sorry, they were really good suggestions, but I discarded them. Sorry, Nadia. They were all right, but when you do a song, you have to try to make sure you can sing the bloody thing! Some people sent things like AC/DC and stuff. I settled on a song that is in two parts, Premier. The first part is a look back over the last 24 years at some of the things that have changed in the world and the way we do things. That is the first part. The second half—the last couple of stanzas—are blatant job seeking. I am actually after a job. After 8 March, I am gone; I have nothing. We are not on the old superannuation scheme, are we? It is a sore point! So the second half is a blatant attempt to seek a job. I am sure members will pick it up. I do not know about technology, but there is a little start to this. I might bugger it up, but if I do, it does not matter. It is a late-1960s song. Here we go. I hope this works.

[Audio played.]

Members get the idea —

I used to look like a young Marlon Brando
But for me the years haven't been fair
I now look like Danny DeVito
With a belly and not very much hair
... on my head, ha ha ha!

The years they've gone by so quickly
When I started, we still used to fax
But at least we've now got our fair share
Of the goods and services tax
Oh, yes we have—they really hate us over there!

I remember the toilet roll tussles
And the madness down supermart aisles
I've sat here during COVID year tensions
I've seen Cold Play and Harry Styles
Oh, yes, I have, they're very good!

So where have the years gone, my lovely?
They've gone quickly and way, way too fast
The Liberals still meet in a phone box
And this speech will be my last
Oh, yes it will, in this place

This is a dodgy one —

We've just had presidential election
Donald Trump has made a comeback
And now he's returning to the White House
He'll probably eat Dave Michael's cat
And my dog; that's very sad!

I take my bags to go shopping
'Cause we banned the plastic shopping bag
And I lament that my beloved Fremantle
Still haven't won a premiership flag
Oh, no, they haven't—very sad

And now I don't need to leave home
To buy things that I adore
Amazon is no longer a river
It delivers parcels to my front door
Every time, they're very nice

And there's another woman in my life, my lovely
 Her name's Siri and she's very discreet
 She gives me directions when I'm driving
 As she guides me straight to the right street
 Oh, yes she does, oh la la la

The newspapers are all disappearing
 We now get all our news from online
 And if your Nanna lives a long, long way away
 We don't call her, instead we FaceTime
 Oh, yes we do, all the time

I get medical advice from Google
 I can TikTok and do Instagram
 And AI now writes all me speeches
 And MyFamily always knows where I am
 I cannot hide, oh, no, I cannot!

Oh, I came here with no qualifications
 Some would say that I leave with none too
 But for months and months I've been wracking my brains
 About what the bloody hell I can do
 When I'm gone from this place

I could become a movie extra
 Now we're building a film studio
 But I can't be an underwear model
 Because I've let myself go

I could work in a delicatessen
 But most of them have gone as well
 Or the Premier might smile upon me
 And appoint me as Agent General
 To London, oh, yes, it's a good idea

So goodbye my friends in the Parliament
 I'm free and now I can roam
 Thank you for your friendship and kindness
 But screw you guys, I'm going home!

[Applause.]

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.28 pm]: I think the worst job in Western Australia is to follow that effort from the Leader of the House! I do not consider him my nemesis, but I want to say well done on your contribution last night and today, of course. It has been great to work with you over this time. I thought about it the other day. After the Leader of the House's recent outburst when I asked him a question about the East Fremantle oval, I thought about getting a T-shirt made that said, "Congratulations! Well done on your career. From Wokey Boy", but I ran out of time. I am more than happy to extend time in the Parliament today to support his motion about the Gold State Super fund.

I want to reflect on one of his speeches when we had private member's business a couple of years ago. I recall him talking about coming to my farm and throwing a chop on a string into the dam to catch some yabbies. I want to inform the member that now he is departing Parliament, I have beefed up the security and I have a couple of CCTV cameras in case a stray Mandurah numberplate comes through the front gate. But well done; it has been great to work with the member. I appreciate our relationship and the way that we have managed to work through it over the last four years. The chamber has run pretty well and I certainly appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, well done on your fantastic career. It has also been great to work with you. You have done well over this four-year period to not kick anyone out. I know that the Leader of the Liberal Party has tested the friendship on a couple of occasions —

The SPEAKER: And a few ministers.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: — but you have done a great job in the right spirit. I also want to thank the Deputy Speaker for his efforts. He nearly blemished the Speaker's record the other day when he called the member for Cannington three times in one hit. The Deputy Speaker has been called Madam Speaker, Acting Speaker and Deputy Speaker. He has done very well under all those names and alongside all our Acting Speakers. We appreciate the efforts of the members for Kalgoorlie, Carine, Dawesville, Landsdale, Albany and Rockingham. Well done to them for their contributions.

I want to thank the government Whip, the member for Belmont. She has been great to work with, as has her offsider, the member for Joondalup, and also Jason in the office. Jason has been great to catch up with each morning. We have had a good working relationship. Of course, the member for Central Wheatbelt was promoted to opposition Whip after 15 years, so well done Mia!

As mentioned by the Leader of the House, I especially want to thank Bec Neilson. She has been great to work with. She kept the show running and made sure that we all stayed on track. A lot of stuff goes on behind the scenes and when we have someone as conscientious as Bec, it works well, so I want to thank Bec.

On behalf of the opposition, I want to thank the Legislative Assembly staff. I will quickly list them: Mathew Bates, Liz Kerr, Isla Macphail, Catie Parsons, Molly Rogers-Thomson and Thomas Moorhead. I also want to acknowledge Kirsten Robinson and Scott Nalder, who were part of the furniture here for many years, and the great effort that they put in. It was great to work alongside them, but I certainly welcome back Mathew from Darwin. He and his team do a great job. I also thank the staff from our Legislative Assembly office: Denis Hippolyte, Lisa Bellano, Jesceline Requero, Rachel Wells, Nikolas Carbone, Lachlan Gregory and Darren Seet. They do such a good job. We see them every day and their efficiency and good nature is really appreciated. We have 12 Legislative Assembly committee staff, who we also very much appreciate.

Like the Leader of the House, I also want to thank all our Parliamentary Services staff right through the line. We have over 200 staff in Parliament House who make our jobs much easier. I thank Rob Hunter, the Executive Manager, Parliamentary Services, who has five in his team; Patricia Traegde, the Deputy Executive Manager of Parliamentary Services and Director, Member and Operational Support; and Belinda Corey, the Director of Parliamentary Information and Education and her team. Thanks to Building Services and Hugh McCaffrey and his team of 12 staff; Catering Services with 30 staff in that team, including Enno and Mark—we all appreciate them; Finance with Rachel Germano, Chief Finance Officer, and her seven staff; Human Resources with Tina Hunter and her seven staff; Information Technology with Angelo Giaros, Chief Information Officer, and his 17 staff; Library and Information Services with Irena Sikorska and her eight staff; and the Parliamentary Education Office with Jordana Leavesley and her six parliamentary education staff. We certainly see the great job that they do with our school kids especially as they come through the Parliament House.

Thanks to Reporting Services with Adrian Beattie and his team of 34 staff, including the Hansard reporters. Of course, thanks to Laurie who is retiring this year; well done to him on his great effort. Thanks to our Security Manager, Tony Paterson, and his 12 staff, and the four staff in the reception team led by Steph. We very much appreciate their efforts and I thank them on behalf of the opposition.

Last year when I made this speech, I acknowledged that we had a new Premier, a new Leader of the Opposition and a new Leader of the Liberal Party. It is great to see that they all made it through to the end of the year! I want to congratulate those three leaders especially. I do not think any of us in this room understand the sacrifices that they make and the workload and the stress that they are under, but I certainly do not underestimate it. The people of Western Australia probably have no real understanding of the amount of work that they put in. On behalf of the people of Western Australia, well done to the three of you.

I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition and his team of staff led by Heather York, chief of staff, who is in the public gallery. They do a fantastic job behind the scenes, so we very much appreciate their efforts. Over the last four years, I have been trying to offload the position of secretary of the Parliamentary National Party without any success. I also thank Michelle Rousseau and especially Lisa Logan, our executive officer of the parliamentary Nationals WA, for their support.

On a personal note, I would also like to thank Sally Haslam, Nat Nicholson, Jill Fitzpatrick and Dorothy Henderson, who are my electorate staff from Narrogin to Esperance. They do a great job of helping me out. All of us in this place appreciate our electorate staff well and truly.

Another personal note of thanks goes to my wife Andrea and my boys, James and Sam, who give me great support. All of us here know of the stress that our families are under with this role that we have and we need that background support. Yesterday, we heard the Leader of the House talk about Donna and the kids and how he was going back to support his family after they had given him great support. To all our families, well done. I wish all our retiring members the best of luck in their future endeavours. It has been great to listen to all our valedictory speeches over the last few days and hear about what has happened in their lives and electorates. I wish all our retiring members the best.

We are all heading off to school graduations in our electorates, no doubt, to attend as many as we can. I have probably got about 12 coming up. Last year I mentioned I had 51 schools in my electorate and now after the redistribution it has gone up to about 60 schools. We cannot get to all of them, but from my perspective, getting to those school graduations is a great part of our role. Of course, speaking of the redistribution, I have always said to the member for Mount Lawley that my electorate of Roe is 5 912 times the size of the Mount Lawley electorate, but now, as he departs, I can let him know that after the redistribution it will be over 7 000 times the size of Mount Lawley. I am looking forward to covering that extra bit of the electorate.

Speaking of the election, I wish everyone all the best in their attempt to get re-elected. We are all heading back out there and 8 March is the big day. Even though we have enjoyed sitting next to the member for Mirrabooka over the last few years, we hope there is a shift of the seats, preferably to around the other side. I wish everyone all the best in the election. Have a safe and happy Christmas. We need to make sure that we all drive safely and our families are safe on the metropolitan and regional roads. The Leader of the Opposition talked today about the fires in his electorate at the moment and we wish everyone there and all our volunteers and firefighting people, whether it is in the electorate of Moore or anywhere else around the state, all the best for the summer ahead. We appreciate their efforts. I hope to be back here in April next year. It has been a great four years. On behalf of the opposition, Merry Christmas to everyone.

[Applause.]

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Premier) [4.42 pm]: I acknowledge there is a genuine tension in the final day of Parliament between people's sense of obligation to listen to the final speeches and the call of fresh crayfish, so I will keep my remarks short. Today marks the final sitting day of 2024 and the final day of the forty-first Parliament of Western Australia. As far as 2024 goes, it has been an extremely productive year. The Legislative Assembly passed 173 bills this term and 53 bills this year. The house sat for around 370 hours this year. The forty-first Parliament has certainly been one of the most eventful. There have been a lot of new Labor members in 2021. The member for Midland became the first woman to be appointed Speaker and, in 2022, when COVID-19 was spreading, we had the first ever question time using video. We experimented with didgeridoo sounds instead of the traditional bells and following the passing of the Queen, the WA Parliament now refers to His Majesty the King. There has also been significant change in leadership. Following the retirement of former Premier Mark McGowan, I became Premier. The member for Central Wheatbelt, Mia Davies, was opposition leader until she stepped down in 2023 with the member for Moore, Shane Love, taking the reins and becoming the Leader of the Opposition. Meanwhile, the member for Cottesloe, David Honey, was the Leader of the Liberal Party until 2023 when the member for Vasse took over.

Now, at the closure of the forty-first Parliament, we acknowledge several retiring members. That includes you, Madam Speaker, who have been a member of Parliament since 1996.

The SPEAKER: Since 1994.

Mr R.H. COOK: Is it 1994? There you go. Ben Coates gets sacked!

Madam Speaker, we have all had the great opportunity to listen to the valedictory speeches of our members who are not recontesting. They have all stood out as exemplary and great speeches, each providing an insight into the member's values, their personality, experiences and journey. I think they did the Western Australian public proud with their contributions. I thank and acknowledge all of you.

I acknowledge you, Madam Speaker, in particular. I think you have done an outstanding job in this role. I had the opportunity to serve under four Speakers now. I know you should not dare declare favourites, but you are the best.

Our WA Labor government delivered an enormous legislative agenda over the term. We passed more than 140 laws to improve the lives of Western Australians. When it came to community safety, we delivered a once-in-a-generation rewrite of our firearm laws to get guns off the streets. I acknowledge the Minister for Police in that endeavour. We introduced the toughest anti-bikie laws in the country; I acknowledge the Attorney General. We made tougher laws for P-plate drivers; I acknowledge the Minister for Road Safety. We banned the display of Nazi symbols. We put laws in place to protect victim-survivors of family and domestic violence. We created protected entertainment precincts to make night-life safer and we cracked down on assaults on retail workers. When it comes to housing, we overhauled our planning system to speed up housing builds and we made renting fairer for tenants. We introduced stronger regulations for short-term rental accommodation and boosted stamp duty concessions for first home and apartment buyers. When it comes to the environment and heritage, we reformed our environmental approval laws to fast-track job-creating projects and we banned native forest logging. When it comes to fairness and transparency, we decriminalised abortion, made our electoral system fairer and more transparent, banned puppy farming, modernised the state industrial relations system, lifted compensation outcomes for dust disease sufferers, progressed local government reforms and increased public transparency and accountability by giving the Auditor General more access to sensitive information. These are highlights for what I believe is an ambitious and important program of legislation.

We also saw the retirement of several ministers. I take the opportunity to first of all acknowledge Madam Speaker, and, of course, Hon David Templeman, Hon John Quigley and Hon Sue Ellery. I have had the opportunity to work with those people for some time, and it was an absolute honour to serve with them as ministers in the cabinet that I served in under Hon Mark McGowan, but also as Premier now. I very much look forward to returning, potentially, after 8 March to work with a new cabinet team.

We say that this is the tip of the iceberg. When we present in Parliament, people see this element of our work, but as members know, this is just the tip of the iceberg. When we are here, we are here only by the dint and determination of a whole range of people, those who provide for our democratic processes: the staff in this office, the staff in

Parliament, everyone who contributes to this great institution and, of course, the people who support us in our ministerial and electorate roles. It is humbling to consider the effort that goes into providing us with the extraordinary privilege of being able to be representatives in this place.

I thank the clerks and chamber staff, the Parliament House staff, security, reception, cleaners, kitchen staff and gardeners. We walk past these people every day, going about our lives. Often when I see young schoolchildren come into this place with their eyes wide open in wonder and awe out of respect for what we do here and for this institution, I realise just how special this place is.

I acknowledge the Leader of the House, Minister Templeman, who has done an amazing job over many years and the Leader of the House in the Legislative Council, Minister Ellery, and the deputy leader in the Council, Minister Dawson, for managing the Council's agenda.

I acknowledge in particular my office staff, who have done a great job. My notes read "including those who support me here in Parliament". I think they added that piece! I take this opportunity to acknowledge Daniel Pastorelli, my chief of staff. As much as I admire him, he has indicated to me that he no longer wishes to serve in that role. I find myself in the odd territory of saying, "I wish him all the best in leaving us behind!" He is an outstanding Labor candidate and, if he is successful at the election, he will make an outstanding member for Landsdale.

I acknowledge the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party. As was observed by the member for Roe, the manager of opposition business in this house, it is tough work being the leader of a political party, but being the leader of a political party in opposition is one of the toughest jobs in the business. I watched Hon Mark McGowan and Hon Eric Ripper over many years. It is hard work that requires dedication, determination and discipline. I acknowledge you, pass on my deepest respects and wish you all the very best for the election, if not every success! I also acknowledge the member for Central Wheatbelt and the member for Cottesloe, neither of whom will be recontesting their seats, for their long and important service.

I acknowledge the executive government service and the team from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, who support me in every way and make sure that we have a government about which we can be very proud. I acknowledge my electorate office staff, who provide me with a voice and a face in the electorate of Kwinana. Boba and her team do an amazing job, and I am so proud of and grateful to them.

I acknowledge the dedicated members of the dignitary protection unit, who provide us all with the opportunity to be in these highly public roles. As we have seen just in the last 24 hours, they are roles that of themselves can lead us into situations of potential harm from the community, often stemming from well-meaning reasons. Nevertheless, it is important that we have the confidence to step out and perform our role. They provide us with the important guidance of how we can do that safely.

I acknowledge all the staff in the departments rights across government, but in particular I thank the staff in the Public Sector Commissioner's office, the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation. They are excellent public servants. We are so well served with an amazing public service in Western Australia.

I place on the record my thanks to my family—Carly, Toby and Isabelle—who do an amazing job supporting us all.

This is the final sitting day before the election. I wish everyone a great Christmas. Go out and present to and get the endorsement of your community. Be humble as you go about what is an extraordinary privilege we have in this place and make sure you earn the respect of the community in the work that you do. Being a member of Parliament is a privilege, and it is one we should never take for granted. Not everyone will be returned to this place—that is the nature of politics—but I am sure that everyone will have done their best to serve the people of Western Australia. We work hard on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a great Christmas and a safe and happy festive season. I will see you all out there on the campaign trail. Thank you.

[Applause.]

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [4.53 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to this adjournment discussion. In doing so, I reflect, as the Premier has done, on the opening of Parliament, when we had a different Premier, a different Leader of the Opposition, a different Governor and a different sovereign. There have been quite a few changes throughout this term of Parliament. Over this term of Parliament, a number of former members of this place passed away. I want to mention them out of respect for the service they gave to Western Australia—Hon Harry Gayfer; Hon Arthur Tonkin; Mr Tom Herzfeld; Hon Dr Judyth Watson, OAM; Mr Christopher Baker; Hon Alexander Taylor, AM; Hon Mike Barnett; and Mr Geoffrey Grewar. All those people served in this place at one time. It is important to reflect that one day, we will all go through that process, and as part of the respect we have for members, we go through the condolence process.

Also out of respect, I congratulate members on the other side who have had an important career that has been of great service to the people of Western Australia. I would like to wish all the best to the retiring Labor members—the members for Midland, Kalamunda, Maylands, Willagee, Swan Hills, Landsdale, Thornlie, Mount Lawley,

Cannington and Mandurah. That is quite a list so there will be some new faces in the Parliament regardless of the election outcome. My colleague the member for Cottesloe gave an outstanding valedictory speech last night. It is one of the best speeches I have heard in this Parliament. He is a great human being, and I wish him all the very best into the future.

I also pay tribute to the member for Central Wheatbelt, who gave her valedictory today, and to her contribution in this place. One of her most important roles was as opposition Whip. It has been a very difficult role making sure that we maintained the numbers in the house so that we had five members here because, on occasion, a matter of public interest was unachievable! I thank the Leader of the House who agreed to support us having a debate without necessarily supporting our side of the debate. I thank him for doing that. In our last party room meeting, I was a bit perturbed when Mia showed up with a brand new stock whip, and I wondered what was in store. She has generously donated that whip to the party room so that in future, the Whip can have an actual whip. Was it from Grass Valley?

Ms M.J. Davies: Yes.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Apparently, somebody out there makes whips. It is quite the weapon. I wish Mia all the best in her campaign for Bullwinkel. I look forward to assisting her in that campaign and being invited to Canberra to hear her inaugural speech. I also put on record my thanks to outgoing Nationals WA members Hon Martin Aldridge, MLC, and Hon Colin de Grussa, MLC, for their dedication to their party and our state.

Madam Speaker, I would very much like to pay tribute to you for the role that you have played in a Parliament in which it was very important that we had a Speaker who understood the gravity and importance of Parliament. I was once an Acting Speaker. I remember you as a minister. My impression was that when you were going through consideration in detail or a debate in the house, you always had a great respect for the process of Parliament, both as minister and now as Speaker. It has been a very important role, given the numbers in this house. You have done an outstanding job. I wish you all the very best in the next chapter of your career.

To all parliamentary staff, I would like to thank you. The member for Roe went through everyone in great detail so I will not do that, but I acknowledge the Clerks, especially Kirsten Robinson, who left about halfway through this year. She was a wonderful Clerk. I do not think I am wrong in saying that with a female Clerk, a female Speaker and a majority of female members of this place, it has been quite the moment for this chamber. There is a very telling photograph in the hallway out there that illustrates that very important moment for this chamber. Congratulations to everybody who has contributed to achieving that historical outcome.

Congratulations to the current Clerk, Mathew Bates, on your appointment to this place. Of course, you have been here before, Mathew, and it is great that you have returned from your brief sojourn in the much more difficult role in the heat of tropical Darwin. I acknowledge Scott Nalder, who was our Deputy Clerk prior to the appointment of Liz Kerr. Thank you, Scott, I wish you all the best. To Liz, thank you for your kind counsel at times. You are always quick with a smile, and sometimes an occasional yawn when we are going through lengthy periods of discussion, which would indicate to me that she is about to tell the Acting Speaker it is time to move on! If you have got a point, you get it out then! To the Clerk Assistants, Catie Parsons and Dr Isla Macphail, thank you for your service. Thank you to Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Moorhead. It was quite a shock the first time that Thomas came in with the big yellow stick and shouted at the top of his voice. I think most people had a moment before they gathered themselves and were able to get back into action.

I would like to thank all my electorate staff. There has been a great deal of pressure on my electorate staff, especially since I became the Leader of the Opposition. One of the reasons is that everybody in Western Australia thinks it is okay to ring my electorate office to complain about whatever service or make a query, so their workload has been quite immense. If someone rings, you cannot just say, “Ring this other number”, and hang up, so quite often they are on the phone for an hour or two to talk through the issue with the person, and that has put a lot of pressure on those people, especially Shelly O’Connor, who heads my office team in Dongara and takes responsibility for ensuring that not only everything goes smoothly, but also my expenses are meticulously correct and that every t is crossed and i is dotted when it comes to the financial probity of my office. To Ali Cook, who has been with me since the beginning in 2013, thank you for your service. Kirsty Crofts, Crystal Ferro-Jakeman and Kylie Davis, thank you as well.

While I am talking about staff, I would like to make brief mention of a few people who are sitting up there in the gallery at the moment from the Leader of the Opposition’s staff. A few members of that staff are very tall and often when I walk around, I think I am very short. I do not know, but I seem to have selected staff who are quite tall and some of them not so tall, but they were wonderful. Heather York, my chief of staff, thank you for your outstanding work. I am very pleased that you chose to stay on and be my chief of staff when you had been working for Mia Davies when she was in my role. Thank you to Lachlan Hunter, who is sitting up there next to you. Like the Premier’s chief of staff, Lachlan will also run for a seat in Parliament. He will stand for the seat of Central Wheatbelt. I think he will do okay in the campaign! He will head off from my office to campaign full-time in the lead-up to the election. Congratulations, Lachlan, and all the very best to you. Running through the rest them, there is Cale Hill, who is now sitting in his office watching us—thank you, Cale. Caitlyn O’Neill has come in to assist from time to

time, and, similarly, Bronwyn Eatts. I have young people coming into the office doing their bit to help out on a part-time basis. Thank you so much. Thank you to Lee Pagotto, who was working for me here and has since gone back to New South Wales, Coral Ralph, Erin Wheatley and Kate Wood. Thank you to all. I hope I have not missed anybody. Yes, I have—the Freemans. Holly and Zoe, well done and thank you.

Thank you, Premier, for your kind words about the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Liberal Party. I can only assume that you were a bit shocked when the former Premier decided to exit stage right and leave you in the position you are in now. Thank you for your service to the people of Western Australia. Also to the Leader of the House, thank you for your work. To the Whip: the Whip has been very good, even when I moved a motion condemning the fact that there was a lack of members of Parliament in here and it was all the fault of the Whip. But she has spoken to me since, so I think all is forgiven! Congratulations on your award today. Apologies that I did not clap. I did not actually know what you had won until I talked to you afterwards, but congratulations indeed.

While we are on the subject of thankyou, Deputy Leader of the Opposition, manager of opposition business, member for Roe, Peter Rundle, the stalwart of his electorate—I thank you, deputy. This man has had more dinners with more guests than anyone I have ever seen. Every Wednesday during private members' business he says, "I have to leave at six because I have guests for dinner." It has been a recurring theme of private members' business that the deputy leader has to leave at six o'clock.

The SPEAKER: Smart man—very smart man!

Mr R.S. LOVE: He is a great fellow and I thank him very much.

I would like to thank my opposition alliance colleague, the member for Vasse, who has kept smiling even though we have been through a few things over the last couple of years. She has always come up smiling and has been great to work with in that time. We can have tensions and disagreements on things, but at the end of the day we all know what our task is and we hop to it. I also thank your staff, led by Dale Leggett in your office. Thank you to them as well.

To the people of my electorate of Moore, it has been an honour to be your local representative for another four years. At the end of this term of Parliament, Moore will be no more! The seat will be abolished along with North West Central as part of the redistribution process that will leave one less voice in regional WA. As we speak, the township of Cervantes is under a great deal of threat from bushfire, and I think now even Jurien Bay is on alert. That is causing me a great deal of concern. Although many people's thoughts are all about crayfish at the moment, I am actually concerned to get back there as soon as I can and be with my community at this time.

To the Nationals WA and its members, thank you for your support. I have already thanked all my Nationals colleagues. To the state secretariat, Julie Kirby and co, thank you. Thank you to the state president of the Nationals WA, Julie Freeman, who has always been a great champion of her community in Mullewa and is taking her place as a party president and, hopefully, in the Legislative Council in the next Parliament.

At the next election, a new opportunity for the Nationals has come about in an unexpected way because there is no regional representation in the Electoral Act anymore, so the Nationals will be on the ballot paper right across the state. We will put forward our pragmatic approach to politics to everybody in Western Australia, which is something of a first for us. It will be an interesting three and a half months as we campaign towards the March election.

I want to conclude by recognising those people in the community who are on standby or working around the clock, those first responders. I know we have just spoken about the fire situation, but we also know about the need for enhanced road safety that has been spoken about. As we head into the Christmas season, I hope that everyone travels safely and keeps safe as they campaign around their communities. I hope that everybody has a good chance at Christmas to have a break.

I hope that everyone has a merry Christmas and a happy New Year and enjoys that time with family and friends, although it might be brief for many of us on the campaign trail. I wish you all personally the very best as we head into the next election.

[Applause.]

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [5.09 pm]: As this parliamentary session draws to a close, I rise to offer some heartfelt thanks. First and foremost, I want to thank the incredibly dedicated staff for keeping Parliament functioning by supporting our debates and contributions to this place. To the team here in the chamber, the Hansard staff, the entire Parliamentary Services Department, the committee staff and clerks, including those in the dining room, members' bar and kitchens: your hard work and professionalism does not go unnoticed. You have supported every member in this place, ensuring that we can fulfil our duties effectively, and it is truly appreciated. I also express my gratitude to the Parliamentary Library staff for their invaluable expertise and the support they provide. Likewise, to those who maintain the parliamentary precinct, often working in difficult conditions outside while we are sitting in air-conditioned comfort, I thank you for your tireless efforts in making this place not just functional but beautiful for visitors and people who work here alike.

As we are all aware, the decision to serve in public office is one of immense responsibility, and the contributions we make leave a lasting legacy. It is a privilege. Whether through legislative achievements, advocacy for our

constituents or our efforts to strengthen the institution, the work we do enriches the democratic fabric of Western Australia, and the decision to leave Parliament marks the end of a chapter dedicated to public service and the betterment of our state.

With that in mind, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the member for Cottesloe for his tireless service to the community, his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of those he represents, and his overall decency, which has been illustrated during not only his contributions and every representation he has made to this place, but also particularly the valedictory speech that he made last night. I also thank the member for Central Wheatbelt. She gave a wonderful valedictory speech today. She certainly has the respect of so many in this place.

I also extend my respect and best wishes to the members for Kalamunda, Willagee, Maylands, Girrawheen, Midland, Landsdale, Swan Hills, Thornlie, Butler, Mandurah, Mount Lawley and Cannington. Your voices and experience have added depth to the debates and decisions of this Parliament. We thank you for your service and wish you well in your future endeavours.

To the Premier and the members of the government: although we may often not agree on different topics and priorities, we share a common purpose, and that is to serve the people of Western Australia. I thank you for your efforts in that respect. I extend my best wishes to each and every one of you and your families as we approach the holiday season. Whatever our differences, there is much to respect in the dedication and energy that each of you bring to your roles.

It would be remiss of me not to recognise the unique challenges faced by my own team. The past four years have been tough. However, the strength and camaraderie within our small team has been a source of pride and motivation. To my Liberal and Nationals WA colleagues, the Leader of the Opposition, as well as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Cottesloe, as I have mentioned, the member for Central Wheatbelt and the member for North West Central: thank you for your tireless commitment, for standing up for your communities and holding the government accountable. It is not the size of our numbers that defines us but the strength of our convictions and our dedication to serving Western Australians. I am very pleased with how we have been able to work together.

Opposition is never easy. It comes with few rewards and certainly many sacrifices, yet it is a vital part of our democracy and a role that demands persistence, vigilance and some creativity. I am immensely proud of what we have accomplished, even in the face of significant challenges.

To the staff in the Leader of the Second Party in Opposition office, led by Dale Leggett, Hayden, Brendan, Denice, Cat, Will and Reilly, who works for the Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party, and to my staff in my electorate office, Renae, Cathy and Courtney: I thank you for all your service. To the staff in the Leader of the Opposition's office, led by Heather York: I thank you for all your support and the great work that we have been able to do coordinating matters in this place. To my family and, indeed, the families of every member in this place: the demands of this job are borne not just by us, but also by our loved ones, and I would certainly like to single out my husband, Jonathan; Sophia; Bianca; Cam; and baby Remi, whom I am certainly looking forward to seeing in a few weeks' time.

As we look to the future, I know that the coming months will be demanding for us all. The political contest ahead will test us all once again, but it is a testament to the health of our democracy that we embrace these challenges and the scrutiny that comes with them. I extend my best wishes to all in the journey ahead and wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a successful year ahead. Of course, I hope and trust that we will all be safe on our roads and enjoy that special time at Christmas together with our loved ones. Thank you.

[Applause.]

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [5.15 pm]: I acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery my husband, Greg Roberts, who is one of the only people to have ever been given permission to take photos from the Speaker's gallery. I am just making that clear so that no-one arrests him and takes him out!

It is quite an honour for me to be able to have the last word on the last day. It is an absolute privilege to have presided over this chamber, and for us collectively to have broken through that glass ceiling of having a majority of women in this house in this forty-first Parliament. It was nearly 31 years ago that I was elected, and I did not ever think I would see a majority of women in this chamber, and it has happened. Not only that, but also, as has been alluded to by the Leader of the Opposition, we had a female Clerk, with, at the time, a male Deputy Clerk. We now have the reverse, and we currently have two female Clerk Assistants. Again, for me, that is such a huge change from when I first arrived in this Parliament. The top table was a very male-dominated affair. I think the first little chink in that was when Kirsten Robinson became Sergeant-at-Arms, and then Isla Macphail followed her in that role as Sergeant-at-Arms.

I thank everyone who has spoken in this debate and so many of you in the chamber for your very kind words today and in the days leading up to this. To the Premier: I wish you not just well but success at the election with your team, obviously. To the Leader of the Opposition, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Liberal Party: I wish you all well too, and a happy Christmas, and great times with your families, but I do not necessarily wish you success. I know; it is not fair!

To correct the record, I can see where poor Ben got it wrong when the Premier said that I was elected in 1996. I was elected as the member for Midland in December 1996, but I was elected as the member for Glendalough in March 1994. I hate to be outdone by anyone, and particularly by my good friend the member for Mandurah, so this poster shows what 31 years does to you in this place! I did not choose the slogan; it was chosen for me. It said: "Putting Glendalough first". There was always a chance that the seat was going to be redistributed. It was in fact predicted that it would be fairly quickly redistributed and it was. I said that that slogan—putting Glendalough first—was not going to sit well if I were to go to another electorate. When I went to Midland, was I going to say, "Putting Midland first"? It was a long time ago.

I will just point out something that the member for Southern River said yesterday in the condolence motion for Mr Grewar, who had said that Hansard had had some difficulty with him because his voice was not strong enough, or something to that effect. I recall that when I started here, not only was there no videorecording, but also there was no amplification at all. That was why many of us developed much louder projection of our speaking voice. That was why John Kobelke, Clive Brown and so many of us had to speak so loudly, clearly and a little slower than the member for Mount Lawley does. I felt like asking him to slow down yesterday and saying that if he needed 31 or 32 minutes, he could have them!

I also acknowledge the kind words of the manager of opposition business. I will just acknowledge the current Leader of the Opposition. When he was sitting on the bench over there in the final week of the final year of the fortieth Parliament—I think he was sitting where the member for Jandakot now sits and I was sitting where the member for Butler sits—he leant over to me and said, "I hear that you may be in contention for being Speaker. For what it's worth, the three of us agree. If you like, we could mention it to the Premier." I said, "Please do not mention it to the Premier; it will not help!" But that certainly sowed a seed in my mind. They said at the time, which I took as a compliment, that my knowledge of the standing orders and my respect for the Parliament would stand me in good stead. When I asked the Premier what he anticipated I would do in this Parliament, he suggested that he saw me continuing as a senior minister. I did advise him that I would be very open to taking on the role of Speaker. I have really enjoyed the role of Speaker and I really do have a very long and deep respect for the Parliament. Back in the late 1980s, I actually worked in the same area in Parliamentary Services that Rebecca Nielsen currently works in within the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, so I knew the people in the various clerk roles and whatever going back for a very long time and had a long association with the Parliament. For me, this role has been a fantastic conclusion to my career here in the Parliament.

This has been a very lopsided Parliament. The fact is that the government has greater numbers in this house than any government has had before it. That presents a challenge. I was kind of looking forward to being Speaker in a more evenly balanced house in a sense, but the phenomenal majority presented a new challenge—that is, to make sure that the six were not entirely drowned out by the 53 and that the opposition fulfilled its role. When I came in here as a very new member, I had great respect for Dr Geoff Gallop, who had previously been a professor at Murdoch, lecturing in politics and the like. He would keep talking about the importance of Her Majesty's opposition and I would think, "Bugger Her Majesty's opposition; I want to be in government!" He would often give me very sound advice about the role of the opposition and how we should conduct ourselves. It is important that the opposition gets a chance. I spoke to other presiding officers around Australia and they advised me that they allocated questions roughly on the numbers of the respective parties in the house. I said that if I did that, the opposition would be lucky to get one question a week! I think it has been important that, as a general rule, the opposition has had six questions to the government's five. I made sure that they were heard when it came to matter of public interest debates, grievances and during private members' business. It was certainly a challenge. I have been in the role of manager of opposition business and I thought I was in a small opposition when there were about 17 of us. Opposition is a challenge, as our Premier has alluded to.

Can I make a few special thanks to those members who have been part of my Procedure and Privileges Committee: firstly, the Deputy Speaker, who I acknowledge has done a fantastic job. He stepped into the role a couple of times during the COVID pandemic to ensure that either the Speaker or Deputy Speaker was here. He has also filled in for me very ably. I certainly wish him well in the next Parliament. I also want to thank the other members of that committee—the member for Landsdale, who has been a very wise counsel on the committee, along with the members for Cottesloe and Roe. We have had a very constructive time on that committee.

The member for Landsdale yesterday and I think the Premier today referred to some of the changes that I have instituted and some of the positive things that have occurred in the Parliament since I became Speaker. Members will recall that I said on the first day that we would allow breastfeeding here in the chamber. I am told that that has gone into the precedent register, so it will hopefully be there for all time. It could be changed by a future Speaker, but woe betide a future Speaker who thinks that that is a good thing to do. I am rather confident that that will last the test of time.

I also acknowledge the significant changes that have happened with time, which has been a little theme of some of the valedictory speeches and especially the comments of the Leader of the House today when he referred to how things were with faxes and the like. I have so many recollections of things that have happened here at Parliament,

but I had one other thing to bring to your attention. In my first year here in Parliament, the female Hansard reporters were advised that they could not wear trousers, in the middle of winter, to do their job as a Hansard reporter. The article is headed “MPs back right to wear trousers” and there is a photo of Judyth Watson, me, Judy Edwards and Cheryl Davenport. We had all worn our trouser suits to Parliament in solidarity with our Hansard reporters.

[Applause.]

The SPEAKER: If you will indulge me for a moment, the article states —

FEMALE State MPs yesterday supported female Hansard reporters who want to wear trousers in both Houses of Parliament.

Labor MLC Cheryl Davenport said she would ask the joint house committee, which runs Parliament, to reconsider the policy under which a parliamentary reporter was threatened with suspension and possible dismissal for wearing trousers at work.

The letter will also be signed by Legislative Assembly colleagues Michelle Roberts, Judy Edwards and Judyth Watson.

The women say the ban is anachronistic and discriminatory. Female MPs wear trousers in both chambers.

Government MPs supported the principle of choice but Attorney-General and Minister for Women’s Interests Cheryl Edwards, Swan Hills MLA June van de Klashorst and Liberal MLC Barbara Scott said their personal preference was to wear skirts or dresses.

The WA branch of the Media, Entertainment and Arts Alliance, claimed on Wednesday that chief Hansard reporter Neil Burrell warned the woman she could lose her job if she wore trousers.

Judith Baverstock is still with us and is still one of our Hansard reporters. A walk back to 1994, 1995 or 1996 is a walk back into the Dark Ages. To me, it seems so remarkable that something that we take for granted now was so very different. I think Premier Richard Court said at the time that there were areas of his department where it was not appropriate for women to wear trousers either. We have come a very, very long way.

I want to make special reference to the Leader of the House, with whom I worked very closely in opposition when I was the manager of opposition business and he was the Whip. We have enjoyed so much time in Parliament together and worked constructively. I also want to make special mention—I will forget the Minister for Police’s seat! Although the member for Warnbro came to Parliament quite a few years after I did, he will become the father of the house in the next Parliament as the longest-serving member, assuming that he is re-elected. I am confident that he will be. That means that he will need to sit in this chair for the election of the next Speaker of this house when Parliament recommences, so prepare yourself for that. I acknowledge the government Whip, the member for Belmont, and the member for Joondalup as the assistant Whip, who have also done an excellent job, and their counterparts in the opposition. I acknowledge those members who are retiring. Most people have gone through the long list. I acknowledge everyone. Obviously, the next Parliament will be the poorer for the loss of the member for Landsdale and her one-liners.

Ms M.M. Quirk: I’m available for bat mitzvahs!

The SPEAKER: She will be available for hire!

I also acknowledge Minister Sue Ellery in the upper house, who also has shared a lot of time with me in the Parliament. I particularly want to mention the members for Cottesloe and Central Wheatbelt. The member for Central Wheatbelt has played a very significant role in this Parliament both in government and in opposition, and is now embarking on a new endeavour. The member for Cottesloe and I worked well on a committee and I wish you very well in your future endeavours.

I also wish well all those members who won their seats in 2021. Most of you, with a couple of exceptions, member for Cockburn, have the most marginal seats and, on that basis, you will have the toughest task when 8 March comes. I wish all of you the very, very best.

As Speaker, I also need to thank all those people who have been Acting Speakers: the members for Landsdale, Dawesville, Kalgoorlie, Albany, Carine and Rockingham. You have all done a sensational job. I would also like to mention the previous Acting Speakers in this Parliament: the members for Cockburn, Hillarys and Bateman, who also did an excellent job.

I want to get to the staff in a moment. I know that people have acknowledged most of the staff, but certainly people outside of this place appreciate that the Speaker of the house is the Presiding Officer and that the Speaker presides over the chamber each day. What most people do not appreciate is the responsibility you have for the staff. In the case of the Speaker, that is the Assembly staff. However, jointly with the President, it includes all the staff in this place, such as its buildings, precincts and surrounds. I want to make mention of the President of the Legislative Council, Hon Alanna Clohesy. She and I have worked constructively together in the last four years. We really have, I think, changed the place. We established the Edith Cowan foyer on this level of the Parliament.

We have recently added another women's first to that wall in Hon Rosie Sahanna as the first Indigenous person elected to the upper house. Together with the President and our chief art community adviser, Isla Macphail, we had the artist-in-residence program and also some magnificent displays of art here, courtesy of the first exhibition thanks to Jannette Holmes à Court and then the Mossensons and, most recently, the Murdoch University art loan of seriously good artworks. I think it changes the atmosphere of the place, exposes people to some magnificent artworks and makes it a beautiful place to visit.

The Premier also mentioned that one of my many little reforms included having the didgeridoo play at the commencement of Parliament. We tried it for divisions. One thing that is broken in this place is the division bells. It is a system that is held together by sticky tape. It has been repaired many times and we have had days when the staff have said they were not sure whether they would get the bells to work. It is impossible for us to have the didgeridoo in the upper house and the bells, and getting any proper amplification is also difficult. Over the summer recess, that system will be replaced and you will be able to put whatever sound bite you want on it. I got the idea when I went to one of the Pacific Islands. As members know, we are partners with the Cook Islands. They use the conch shell to call people to Parliament. The history of our bell is just based on Westminster having someone actually ring an old-fashioned bell, which eventually became electric. Anyone who has been to the Victorian Parliament knows that the bell sound there is terrible. I said, "Why shouldn't we have something more Australian to call people to Parliament?" It is not a trial. It still happens on days that the other house does not sit at the same time as us, so we still have the didgeridoo and it will be able to be played very loudly into the future.

Let me get to the staff. In my role, jointly with the President of the upper house, I, too, would like to acknowledge the very many staff who do a fantastic job in this building. I acknowledge those who helped me in the beginning: former Clerk Kirsten Robinson; former Deputy Clerk Scott Nalder; Kirsten's assistant, Anne Day; and my former assistant Rashelle Predovnik and current assistant, Molly Rogers-Thomson. Both Rashelle and Molly have done an excellent job in supporting me. Clearly, I want to acknowledge Mathew Bates. I am excited about the team going forward with Mathew Bates and Liz Kerr. I know that I am leaving this Parliament in really good hands and I am excited to see their work into the future. Likewise, they are supported by one of our very long term staffers, Dr Isla Macphail. I am also excited to see how Catie Parsons goes in her new role as Clerk Assistant. So far she has been doing an excellent job. I acknowledge Thomas Moorhead. I quite like that loud welcome. It made a change. Clearly, I have known many of the staff here for a very long time.

To Denis Hippolyte, Lisa Bellano, Jesceline Requero, Rachel Wells, Nikolas Carbone, Lachlan Gregory and Darren Seet, you do an amazing job in the Legislative Assembly Office. Thank you. To our committee office staff, Trish Woodcock, Pamela Clarke, Lisa Peterson, Vanessa Beckingham, Jamie Bourne, Sarah Palmer, Maddison Evans, Lucy Roberts, Suzanne Veletta, Jovita Hogan, Michele Chiasson and Marie Martin, thank you for the work you have done and the support you have given me.

To our executive, Mr Rob Hunter, Patricia Traegde and Belinda Corey, our director of Parliamentary Information and Education, thank you. To the Building Services staff, who all do a great job, but in particular Hugh McCaffrey, David-Lee Canham, Rick Lees and Joe Fenech. Joe Fenech has also been here for just about forever. If ever you want anything fixed, Joe is the person to ask. Catering Services staff are often the people we get to know the best. To Enno Schijf, Mark Gabrielli and Robert Mouttet, and I, too, will make a special mention of Deborah Gregory, David Griffiths, Maria Ogden, Jill Yim, Antony James and Preston Anderson. I want to particularly mention Anna Murphy, who has been my support. Anna is always good humoured and has been amazing. Thank you, Anna; you have made every one of my guests feel very welcome. My thoughts are also with Mark Bore and his family as they go through what is a difficult time. Mark has always been a fantastic person within the catering area. Thank you.

Thanks to Finance, with Rachel Germano, Chief Finance Officer, and her team; Human Resources, with Tina Hunter and her team; and Information Technology, with Angelo Giaros and his team. Can I also particularly acknowledge Bryan VanderVenne, who has been here for a very long time. I am especially thankful to our Library and Information Services, currently headed up by our new manager of Library and Education, Irena Sikorska. It would be remiss of me not to mention our former chief librarian Judy Ballantyne and the fantastic job she did over many years. To the Parliamentary Education Office, with Jordana Leavesley. In that respect, Tina Beale is someone I knew prior to the 30 years that I have been here. Thank you, Tina. To Adrian Beattie and Reporting Services. A special mention and thankyou to every Hansard reporter, but special mention obviously goes to Laurie Mansell, who is retiring, and Judith Baverstock, who helped fight that fight many years ago with the trousers. Thanks to our security team, headed up by Tony Paterson. On that front, I have to single out Basil Georgiou, who has been here during my whole time here; he has always been fantastic. In particular, I want to mention our Reception Service staff, who do a great job of welcoming people here—Stephanie Nguyen and the team.

Most members have reflected on the impact on families, but time is getting late so I will repeat comments in that regard. Members all know that it is a challenge for their families. They are conscripts to the job that we all do. Christmas is when we like to spend some time celebrating with our families and friends and catching up. An election year makes that time shorter and a little more difficult, but, like the Leader of the Opposition, I am very mindful of road safety and keeping safe on our roads. All of us need to reinforce that message at every chance. I am also

very mindful of the people in the emergency services community who are currently turning out for fires and who undoubtedly will need to turn out for fires over December, January and February. I thank all those who work in the emergency services area in advance.

To each of you, I have sincerely enjoyed working with every single one of you. I should single out my good friend the member for South Perth, whom I left out of my valedictory speech the other day. He has been my good friend for very many years as well. I particularly wish him well in South Perth and I am confident that he can get across the line. To all of you, please take the time out to have a rest and be refreshed for when you hit the campaign trail. Enjoy the time with your families. I have sincerely enjoyed working with every single one of you and I sincerely wish every single one of you all the best for your future endeavours. Thank you.

[Applause.]

Question put and passed.

GAMBLING LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

House adjourned at 5.45 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

EDUCATION — VIOLENT INCIDENTS

1683. Mr P.J. Rundle to the Minister for Education:

For the past financial year up to 31 July 2024, please detail the following:

- (a) Total number of violent incidents reported to the Department of Education;
- (b) Teacher claims on workers compensation as a result of violent incidents;
- (c) Total dollar value of workers compensation claims against the Department of Education;
- (d) A breakdown of the categories of workers compensation claims and the dollar value of each category; and
- (e) The number of workers compensation claims that are unresolved more than 12 months since the first claim?

Dr A.D. Buti replied:

- (a) 1,161* for 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

1,216* for 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2024 – 55 in July 2024.

incidents of physical assault and intimidating/violent behaviour by a student against a staff member

Data source: Online Incident Notification System (OINS)

- (b) 137.

- (c) From 1 July 2023 to 31 July 2024: \$20,416,807.

Current estimate only. Additional claims may be submitted, and the severity of the claims is unknown. Medical reports and return-to-work plans may not have been received or sufficiently implemented.

- (d) The following table provides a breakdown of the categories of workers compensation claims and their corresponding dollar values:

Category	Value (\$)
Falls, slips and trips	5,968,601
Hit by moving object	5,551,472
Body stressing	4,525,579
Mental stress	3,445,782
Hitting objects with body	760,814
Chemical and other substances	57,900
Heat radiation and electricity	14,402
Sound and pressure	4,607
Biological Factors	3,821
Other	83,829

- (e) There are 11 unresolved cases.

MINISTER FOR ENERGY — PORTFOLIOS — OFFICE EXPENDITURE

1696. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action:

I refer to each Department, Agency and Government Trading Enterprise within the Minister's portfolio of responsibilities, and I ask:

- (a) Since 1 January 2024, how much money has been spent on:
 - (i) mobile phone bill expenditure;
 - (ii) total mobile device (i.e. iPad) data expenditure; and
 - (iii) total credit card expenditure?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 1684.

PRIONS AND DETENTION CENTRES — STATISTICS

1745. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Corrective Services:

I refer to our WA Corrective Services system and I ask, for each prison or correctional facility in WA please breakdown by:

- (a) How many prisoners (current):
 - (i) Of these prisoners how many have been convicted by a court and sentenced (current); and
 - (ii) Of these prisoners how many are on remand (current);
- (b) How many staff by FTE;
- (c) What is the operational capacity for FTE;
- (d) Number of assaults against prison guards in this calendar year (2024 – to date);
- (e) Number of assaults against other prisoners in this calendar year (2024 – to date);
- (f) Number of deaths in custody in this calendar year (2024 – to date); and
- (g) How many visits (including e-visits) were cancelled:
 - (i) Broken down by month; and
 - (ii) What were the reasons for the cancellations?

Mr P. Papalia replied:

- (1) (a)–(g) [See tabled paper no [3445](#).]

ENERGY — ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE REBATE

1752. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Energy; Environment; Climate Action:

I refer to the Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) Rebate, and I ask:

- (a) Please breakdown the total amount paid out per year since the rebate began in May 2022;
- (b) Please breakdown the total number of rebates paid out per year since the rebate began in May 2022;
- (c) Please breakdown the total number of applications for the rebate per year since the rebate began in May 2022; and
- (d) Will the Government extend the scheme beyond the current date of May 2025?

Mr R.R. Whitby replied:

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 1751.
