



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2023

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 14 February 2023

# Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) took the chair at 1.00 pm, acknowledged country and read prayers.

## OPPOSITION OFFICE HOLDERS

*Statement by Leader of the Opposition*

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition)** [1.01 pm]: I rise to advise members that on 30 January 2023, the member for Central Wheatbelt, Hon Mia Davies, MLA, tendered her resignation as Leader of the Nationals WA, and I was elected Leader of the Nationals WA and hence Leader of the Opposition. On the same date, the member for Roe was elected Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA and hence Deputy Leader of the Opposition and manager of opposition business. Also on the same date, the member for North West Central was elected opposition Whip.

## LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER — SEATING PLAN AND PHOTOGRAPHER ACCESS

*Statement by Speaker*

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.02 pm]: Members, I advise that I have approved an amended seating plan for government and opposition members. I also advise that I have approved the presence of television cameras and photographers from 2.00 pm today to obtain footage of the first question time of the year.

## PAPERS TABLED

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

## MEMBER FOR VASSE — LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY

*Statement by Leader of the Liberal Party*

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [1.07 pm]: I advise members that on 30 January 2023, I was elected as Leader of the Liberal Party.

## MIDWIFERY AND MATERNITY SERVICES

*Removal of Notice — Statement by Speaker*

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.08 pm]: I advise members that private members' business notice of motion 1, notice of which was given on 9 November 2021 and renewed for a further 30 sitting days on 14 June 2022, will be removed from and will not appear on the next notice paper.

## McGOWAN MINISTRY — RECONSTITUTION

*Statement by Premier*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [1.08 pm]: Members will be aware of the reconstitution of the ministry that occurred on Wednesday, 14 December 2022 involving the appointment of two ministers, the allocation of portfolios between ministers and the appointment of five parliamentary secretaries.

Former schoolteacher and member for Wanneroo, Sabine Winton, MLA, was appointed to the new portfolio of Minister for Early Childhood Education, as well as Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services. Hon Jackie Jarvis, MLC, a farmer and businesswoman, was appointed as Minister for Agriculture and Food; Forestry; Small Business. The minor reallocation of portfolios between some ministers also came into effect.

The members for Collie—Preston, Riverton, Mirrabooka and Victoria Park—respectively, Jodie Hanns, Jags Krishnan, Meredith Hammat and Hannah Beazley—as well as Hon Pierre Yang, MLC, were appointed as parliamentary secretaries.

For members' information, I now table two documents detailing the changes and the administrative arrangements for the representation of ministers between the houses.

[See papers [1813](#) and [1814](#).]

## JAPAN AND SOUTH KOREA VISIT

*Statement by Premier*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [1.09 pm]: Between 22 January and 2 February, I visited Japan and South Korea to reinforce our longstanding partnerships and promote new investment and offtake in green energy, hydrogen, ammonia, green steel, critical minerals, and carbon capture and storage projects in Western Australia. The visit to Japan included a number of important meetings with very senior government representatives. I had

the privilege of meeting the Governor of Tokyo, Ms Yuriko Koike. We discussed the importance of WA energy to Japan, sustainable cities and the opportunities created by the reopening of direct flights from Tokyo to Perth. It was a pleasure to meet separately with the Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry, Mr Yasutoshi Nishimura, and the Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr Yoshihiko Isozaki. I reinforced our thanks for the successful visit to Western Australia of Prime Minister Kishida in October 2023, and we discussed opportunities for mutually beneficial trade, particularly in new green industries, as well as the importance of energy security between our regions.

I was also honoured to meet with a number of major Japanese government enterprises to acknowledge the long, stable and productive relationship between Japan and Western Australia. I reinforced the McGowan government's support for the supply of LNG to Japan as it transitions to net zero, and discussed new opportunities in green energy and critical minerals. Of particular note, I signed a memorandum of understanding with the governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Mr Nobumitsu Hayashi, to recognise our strong strategic partnership and chart a new course for future cooperation in resources and energy. I also spoke at the fourth Clean Fuel Ammonia Association International Symposium, attended by approximately 500 online participants and 200 in-person delegates, about Western Australia's commitment to support green hydrogen and ammonia. I met a range of major Japanese companies and trading houses to acknowledge the importance of their investments in WA and to discuss new opportunities in green energy and critical minerals. I also met with Japanese future energy offtakers, including the major power utility providers. I am confident of positive developments on this front in the future.

In relation to tourism, I met with the CEO of All Nippon Airways to discuss the recommencement of direct flights from Tokyo to Perth in October 2023. We will be working hard to ensure that the route is a success. In Kobe, I met with Governor Saito of Hyogo Prefecture to reaffirm our joint commitment to the sister-state relationship and witness an MOU between Pilbara Ports Authority and the Port of Himeji.

Our final day in Japan involved a meeting with Jr Kyushu Jet Ferry and Shintoa Corporation, along with WA shipbuilder Austal, to discuss future opportunities in Japan and visit the *Queen Beetle*, an 83-metre aluminium trimaran built in Western Australia that transits from Fukuoka, Japan, to Busan, South Korea. In Korea we met with major steel, energy and automotive companies, highlighting WA's long-term relationships and opportunities for new investment in green energy and critical minerals. I was very impressed with the active interest in both green steel and hydrogen projects in WA. I met with the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Lee Chang-yang, and signed a letter of intent to commence a formal relationship to promote economic collaboration between Western Australia and South Korea in new energy and downstream processing. A highlight of South Korea was a business networking event with AustCham Korea attended by over 120 Korean and Western Australian businesses keen to further trade and investment relationships. There was an obvious appetite for new trade and investment relationships.

Finally, I would like to thank staff at the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation for organising the mission. Ms Nicole Fasana, investment and trade commissioner for North-East Asia, and her teams in Japan and South Korea delivered an outstanding mission that I am confident will bear fruit for Western Australia. I now table a copy of the itinerary.

[See paper [1815](#).]

## **GRIFFIN COAL MINE — COLLIE**

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

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)** [1.13 pm]: I wish to provide the house with an update on the support being provided by the McGowan government to ensure stability of the Griffin Coal operations and certainty for the Collie workforce and community. The McGowan government has been in ongoing discussions with the owners of the Griffin Coal mine regarding the future of the operation once its state agreement expires in June 2023. Since the mine entered receivership in October 2022, these discussions have included Deloitte as the receivers and managers appointed by the owners. The Griffin Coal mine supplies the privately owned Bluewaters power station, which provides generation capacity for the south west interconnected system, as well as the Worsley Alumina refinery. As such, Griffin has a role to play in supporting a stable energy system while we continue to transition away from coal-fired power generation.

It is the government's firm belief that Griffin Coal and its receivers should come to a commercial arrangement with their customers to pay a fair price for coal that will ensure longer term, stable operations. The commercial parties have not yet done so, requiring the state government to take a proactive approach and seek a solution that guarantees stability of operations, worker entitlements, environmental obligations and a stable energy system. As a consequence, on 22 December 2022, we announced a grant to the receivers and managers of the insolvent Griffin Coal to stabilise its Collie operations, ensure security of coal supply and provide certainty for the workforce and community.

The government has provisioned \$19.5 million to date. Thus far, no funds have been drawn down; however, it is expected that a portion will be used for equipment repairs and contract costs to prepare the operation for winter mining. This funding reaffirms the state government's commitment to work with coal providers to ensure security of supply, whilst ensuring an orderly transition away from coal, including for those entities that use coal in their

technical processes. While ideally the government would not have to intervene in this way, we will not put the stability of our energy system at risk. It is intended that any funding provided by government to stabilise Griffin Coal will be recovered from the operation's revenue once commercial arrangements are resolved. Customers are expected to pay an appropriate price for coal that reflects the true costs of production. The McGowan government will continue to work proactively with all parties to identify and implement arrangements that will guarantee a stable future for our energy system and certainty for the local community.

### PREMIER'S STATEMENT

#### *Presentation*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [1.16 pm]: I rise to inform the house of this WA Labor government's agenda for 2023. In doing so, I would first like to acknowledge the people of Western Australia. Each Western Australian has contributed to the strong position we find ourselves in today. It is a position that is the envy of the other states and territories—a position of strength, success and enhanced economic growth, activity and diversity. I thank the people and businesses of this state who have all been part of getting us to where we are at the start of 2023. These people are the very reason we are here in Parliament today. We are here to make life better and fairer for Western Australians and to ensure that the next generations inherit a state in which they can prosper and enjoy opportunities—get a quality job, have an affordable, decent home, and live in a state that has grasped economic opportunities while also preserving its natural environment and enhancing its service provision.

This year will be a different year from the last three, which were dominated by the ever-changing demands of the global pandemic, but our core vision remains the same—keeping our state safe and strong. The people of Western Australia have shown incredible resilience, generosity and patience in recent years. Right now, these attributes are being demonstrated in our state's north as the Kimberley recovers from a one-in-100-year flood event. This has been described as the worst flooding disaster in our state's history. The state government is fully committed to the long-term recovery of the Kimberley. The joint federal–state disaster recovery funding arrangements have been activated and financial support is available to affected residents. Rebuild and recovery following catastrophic events is a long process, something that will endure beyond 2023. As of last week, Great Northern Highway between Broome and Derby was reopened with a temporary single-lane gravel track. Convoys will be escorted along the track in a morning and evening slot until more permanent repairs start in the dry season. In Fitzroy Crossing, works continue to implement a temporary barge system. Planning continues on a temporary low-level crossing to provide a more permanent option while the new Fitzroy Crossing Bridge is constructed.

The year 2023 will mark a continued soft landing from the pandemic. Although we escaped the lockdowns, economic demise and high levels of illness and death that ravaged other states and countries, everyone in Western Australia has had to deal with some change. Everyone has had to exercise patience and many people had to ride out some tough times, be it contracting COVID-19, missing social occasions or travel, or experiencing economic hardship. The pathway out of the pandemic has not always been easy. In fact, we are still managing active cases and the economic ripples it created worldwide. However, we are now through the worst of it. We were as successful as we could have been, and that is especially noticeable after speaking with people in other jurisdictions in Australia and abroad. As a result of our response, we have remained open for business; we have sustained economic activity. Our exports continued unabated, propelling economic activity in Australia, not to mention the economies of other nations during COVID. We have prevailed as a state.

Madam Speaker, it has been almost one year since Western Australia's hard border was lifted. The latest tourism statistics are also a good news story for our state. Perth, in particular, is thriving as a destination. The most recent data highlighted the second highest domestic spend on record—up to \$492 million in November 2022. This is a 34 per cent lift compared with November 2019. Domestic visitors are also spending big in WA's regions. In November 2022, tourists spent \$456 million in regional areas, which is a 35 per cent jump since pre-COVID. We are also seeing a strong response to the Walking on a Dream campaign. Domestic overnight spend in WA leapt to \$1.2 billion, the highest monthly total ever recorded in WA and a 70 per cent increase compared with pre-COVID.

This all shows that there is strong demand for Western Australia, and with our new global brand we will build on this in 2023, particularly as the worst of the pandemic is behind us. We had our waves of COVID, but we had the nation's best vaccination rate when it hit. It is easy to forget how the east coast was completely paralysed as Omicron overwhelmed all its systems, not to mention the supply chain disruptions. There were exorbitant prices for RATs—if you could find them. It was terribly difficult for those on the east coast—waiting hours for a PCR test to then have to wait days and days for the result.

Here in Western Australia, we had the opportunity to learn from what they went through. We got the right policies in place. We got RAT kits into the state and delivered the most comprehensive free rollout of RATs. We did what we could to prepare. This meant our systems were not completely overwhelmed and our supply chains were not severed. When we reopened, WA had the highest third-dose vaccination rate of all the states. We therefore had fewer rates of COVID patients in intensive care and also had a far lower death rate than other states. Lives lost in WA during the Omicron wave, when borders were open, were the lowest of all states and territories in the nation. It is a testament to some very hard work and the overwhelmingly decent response of Western Australians.

As we move into 2023, we will again seek to ensure that Western Australia is a safe haven amid global uncertainty. At this snapshot in time, Western Australia's unemployment rate is amongst the lowest in the nation. During 2022, unemployment in Western Australia reached a 13-year low. We saw unemployment drop to 2.9 per cent. Just to highlight the significance of that figure, no state other than WA has ever achieved an unemployment rate below three per cent since current records began in February 1978. Our participation rate of 69.4 per cent also leads the country by a long way. In November 2021, full-time employment in WA grew to over one million for the first time in history. The first calendar year in which it stayed above one million every month was 2022.

Notably, this government has added more than 206 000 jobs since coming to office in March 2017. To put it simply, anyone who wants a job can get a job in Western Australia. The strength of our local economy was highlighted in 2022. Our consistently strong financial performance was recognised by Standard and Poor's Global Ratings, which upgraded the state's credit rating to AAA in June last year. S&P Global assessed "Western Australia's financial management to be very strong" and said, "The current government has displayed a track record of robust cost control". Western Australia under the Liberals and Nationals was stripped of its AAA credit rating in 2013. It has taken a lot of work to repair the budget and secure that credit rating once more. The result vindicates the hard work of all my cabinet ministers in being fiscally responsible over the past six years.

In November last year, Moody's Investors Service also endorsed our strong and responsible financial management. Moody's lifted our credit rating outlook from Aa1 "stable" to "positive". In its update, Moody's made several observations. It outlined that despite significant stress emerging in the global economy, windfall gains, tight expenditure controls and improving revenue diversification had maintained WA's debt burden "at moderate levels, strengthening the state's capacity to respond to future shocks". The state's successful management of the pandemic was also recognised.

Our state continues to weather the economic shocks that are reverberating across the globe, such as energy shortages, geopolitical tensions and the rising costs of borrowing, to name a few. Our strategy to manage the pandemic and our budget put our state in the best possible position to brace for these events. It allowed our key industries, which drive both the state and national economies, to continue operation. We were, and are, a crucial supplier of the raw materials and energy that other nations have relied on to help keep their economies afloat. Our LNG sales helped to power the economies of our Asian partners: Japan, China, South Korea and others. Our minerals have become the vital ingredients of COVID recovery projects all over the world. Madam Speaker, we will continue to foster these valuable relationships that we have developed with international trading partners.

At home we have praised the foresight of the Carpenter Labor government that put in place our 15 per cent DomGas Alliance reservation policy. This ensured that WA households were insulated from the energy price hikes and shortages experienced in Europe and, indeed, interstate. However, as with any trading economy, Western Australia is exposed to international factors outside of our control—for example, inflationary pressures and foreign conflict. For this reason, we have focused heavily on budget management, training, diversifying and attracting new business to Western Australia.

Madam Speaker, even before I was Premier, my key focus was on creating long-term jobs across WA. This has remained the case every day that we have been in office. Our state has amongst the lowest unemployment rates in Australia. More than 206 000 jobs have been added since this Labor government came to office in March 2017. However, that is not a reason to stop and declare the job done. We need to look ahead to see what sorts of jobs and industries our state and the world will need in the future. Work is underway to drive new job opportunities in high-tech manufacturing, clean energy, agriculture, tourism and defence industries. A lot of energy has gone into strengthening our TAFE sector, ensuring that we have a workforce equipped with the skills and qualifications to take on emerging opportunities.

As I mentioned earlier in my brief ministerial statement, I recently returned from a trade mission to Japan and South Korea, where I discussed opportunities to build on our strong trading relationships. This year, I will also visit our state's largest trading partner, China, to build on the longstanding relationship between Western Australia and China. Missions like these are about strengthening our bonds, building on our successes and exploring new ideas, all of which are so vital to our mutual prosperity.

We allocated \$1.8 billion to diversification initiatives and infrastructure right across WA to put our state in the best possible position. This is going towards attracting new industries and businesses to WA, preparing industrial land to unlock private sector development, exploring new international trade opportunities, international education, tourism and our emerging space industry. Beneath the description of diversification lies a truly exciting future.

For example, Western Australia is becoming not only a global hub for space research and infrastructure, but also a leader in the space economy through our expertise and skills. Western Australia's vast tracts of pastoral land are being unlocked for other uses, like solar farms, wind farms or green hydrogen production. Western Australians not only are going to be able to catch a train to Ellenbrook, but also will be able to visit a world-class film and television studio on the way. Western Australia is becoming a place where more locally produced content can reach cinemas and streaming services worldwide.

Renewable energy projects and products will become powerful forces of the Western Australian economy. In fact, it is already happening, particularly in the area of hydrogen and hydrogen to power ammonia production. Construction has now started on the Yuri project in the Pilbara region, which is led by Yara, Engie and Mitsui. This major project supports our initial steps to decarbonise ammonia production in Western Australia. We also plan to install Australia's largest electrolyser, at 10 megawatts, and be exporting renewable ammonia within 18 months. Yara's facility will be one of the first established operational facilities in the world to receive and use green hydrogen molecules to produce green ammonia.

These are just a few real examples of what is on the not-too-distant horizon for this state. I also look forward to seeing further outcomes of the \$285 million investment attraction fund expression of interest process later this year. This will reveal further exciting propositions for industry development in Western Australia.

Of course, attracting industry and diversifying our economy is about more than just direct incentives. Part of the process is the development of communities—the places we want businesses to establish and jobs to grow, where workers will live, raise families and form lifelong bonds. It is an exciting and liberating experience moving into your own home, one that I hope every Western Australian can enjoy at some stage in their life. To facilitate this aspiration, my government has introduced a range of measures to reduce the barriers to home ownership and renting. To those without secure housing, we are committed to expanding public and affordable housing.

Despite the challenges faced across the country in recent years—labour shortages, supply chain disruptions and pandemic-driven cost increases, to name a few—Western Australia remains much, much more affordable than other states, and not just for housing. Lower general living expenses and transport charges, combined with better wages, make WA significantly more affordable than its counterparts.

Recently, our government provided all WA households with a second electricity credit in just two years. This means that household fees and charges have decreased this year, providing households across WA with cost-of-living relief amid global pressures. When the government's two electricity credits are taken into account, in 2022–23, household fees and charges are a net four per cent lower than they were prior to the pandemic in 2019–20. It is because of these factors that thousands of Western Australians made the move to build a new home during the pandemic.

Irrespective of Western Australia's affordability, the first step into the housing market can seem insurmountable. For that reason, the WA government recently raised the property price limit for Keystart loans from a maximum of \$480 000 to a maximum of \$560 000. This threshold is above Perth's current \$540 000 median house price. The new price limits will give prospective home owners more choice of where and what type of property they can buy. Many Western Australians moved into their new homes last year. The year 2023 will be a year of delivery as supply chains recuperate and more skilled workers fill much-needed vacancies in the construction industry.

During 2021 and 2022, there were over 41 000 building approvals across Western Australia. That is about 8 000 more homes than in the previous two years, or an increase of nearly 25 per cent. Thousands of these homes will reach practical completion this year. Of course, home ownership is not compatible with everyone's circumstances. There are Western Australians doing it tough. For this reason, we are accelerating social housing delivery in the face of a heated construction market using innovative measures like the modular build program and timber frame construction.

We are tackling homelessness on several fronts. Boorloo Bidee Mia in the Perth CBD has been open for more than a year and is now operating at above 90 per cent occupancy. We purchased a former hotel on Murray Street, West Perth. This year, we will appoint a community housing organisation to provide supported accommodation services at the site. We have allocated more than \$70 million for two new Common Ground facilities in Perth and Mandurah, providing 162 apartments for rough sleepers. In Perth, Geraldton and Kununurra, we are delivering three new Aboriginal short-stay accommodation facilities. Our government has added 1 000 social homes since July 2021. A further 1 050 are currently under contract or construction all over the state. Along with the thousands of privately built homes under construction, renters will have some relief in 2023.

Although building approvals have slowed, as expected, we require more skilled workers to carry out the huge pipeline of work. We are taking a multifaceted approach to addressing this. Firstly, we are working with the construction industry to increase the capability of its workforce and produce more skilled workers to meet growing demand. Secondly, we are working with the federal government as it expedites the backlog of visa applications. We have also made changes to the state-nominated migration program to include additional construction occupations.

For the longer term, our free or subsidised TAFE courses are incentivising more people to enter the Western Australian construction sector. Statistics show that we are heading in the right direction. Strong employment has meant a record number of people in on-the-job training. There are now more than 45 000 apprentices and trainees in training across Western Australia. We introduced the Lower Fees, Local Skills program in 2020, reducing TAFE fees by up to 72 per cent. Between 2019 and 2021, enrolments increased by 27 per cent. In 2021, there were more than 150 000 full-year course enrolments at Western Australian TAFE. Preliminary data suggests that 2022 was another strong year for enrolments. Plans are afoot to continue to strengthen the TAFE sector this year.

We have a number of upgrades underway or in the pipeline for 2023, \$215.8 million worth, including the \$47.9 million upgrade of North Metropolitan TAFE's Balga campus, the \$43.2 million upgrades to North Regional TAFE's Pundulmurra campus, the \$39 million South Metropolitan TAFE Armadale campus and the \$22.2 million trades workshops at South Regional TAFE's Albany campus.

In November last year, we signed a landmark 12-month skills agreement with the Australian government. The agreement will inject more than \$112 million into the Western Australian skills and training sector. The funding supports our new Free in '23 initiative. The initiative covers course fees for 58 full TAFE qualifications, and course fees and resource fees for 57 skill sets. It is about reskilling and upskilling people to work in priority sectors. It is also about increasing job opportunities for priority groups. Whether it is youth, people with disabilities, unpaid carers or First Nations Australians, everyone should have access to education, everyone should have a pathway to a good job and no-one should be locked out of opportunity.

This ethos is also mirrored in our approach to early childhood, primary and secondary education. In 2023, we will continue to invest in schools to ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, have the best possible opportunities to learn. Students are being welcomed to four new primary schools and a new secondary school in 2023. These include the \$24.7 million Landsdale Gardens Primary School, the \$26.5 million Wellard Village Primary School, the \$25.8 million Madora Bay Primary School, the \$24.4 million Dayton Primary School and the \$58.5 million Piara Waters Senior High School.

We are also investing \$595 million in new and upgraded school facilities throughout Western Australia. The expansion and upgrade of public schools in growing Perth suburbs include \$51.5 million for the second stage of construction works at Alkimos College, \$45.9 million for upgrades to Brabham Primary School, \$25 million for Harrisdale Primary School, \$19.1 million for Anne Hamersley Primary School in Ellenbrook and \$13.1 million for Caversham Valley Primary School.

Some changes in 2023 include the expanded educational adjustment allocation. A total of \$31.9 million is being invested to help schools support more students with additional needs to develop their literacy and numeracy skills. An \$18.2 million investment in WA's in-demand specialist learning programs for students with autism spectrum disorder will enable their expansion to eight additional schools.

This year also sees the rollout of a new year 1 phonics initiative to assess and support the development of students' phonics skills. This will pick up issues early and allow schools to provide the necessary assistance a student needs to learn to read. Early intervention is vital. It can vastly improve a student's educational outlook later in their schooling journey. As we know, education is a key factor in reducing disadvantage, unemployment and even crime in our community.

This government strives to address disadvantage in everything it does; whether it is through education, training, housing, electricity credits, capped public transport fares or better infrastructure in our suburbs, all help to lower the barriers to success, and all contribute to a more harmonious society. We are doing the challenging but essential work when it comes to breaking the cycle of disadvantage that fuels crime. It is a whole-of-government approach. There are issues in this state that have been generations in the making. These issues will not be resolved overnight, but we are making constant inroads. We have proven our mettle in disrupting criminal activity through the policies that we have set. We have introduced a range of initiatives aimed at addressing young offending in our regional areas, and we are continuing to relentlessly recruit police officers to ensure that our hardworking Western Australia Police Force is adequately resourced.

Just as educational or developmental issues must be picked up early, so too must the causes of recidivism. That is why we are focused on creating safer home environments and programs that are directly aimed at reducing youth reoffending. Our Target 120 program is showing signs of success and will continue to be expanded in 2023. This program is an immediate response to addressing youth crime and getting to the cause of offending and antisocial behaviour. In 2023, we will invest \$11 million to expand the Target 120 program to Carnarvon, Karratha, Newman, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Derby, Ellenbrook, Mandurah and Broome. We will also pilot the Target 120 Plus program, which will provide intensive one-on-one support to targeted young people in the Kimberley who have already entered the criminal justice system. The Target 120 program is turning lives around. Around 40 per cent of children who have participated in the program since February 2019 have not had further police contact. The number of police contacts for young people currently engaged in the program has fallen by around 78 per cent in Kununurra and by 97.5 per cent in Broome.

Of course, the safety of the community is a priority. There are, unfortunately, serial offenders who are detained for the safety of themselves and the wider community. This is always a last resort. In order to ensure that the experience is rehabilitative, not punitive, \$87.9 million has been allocated towards improving outcomes at Banksia Hill Detention Centre. This includes several safety, security and rehabilitation projects that are at various stages of development, and a number that have been completed. Coinciding with this work is a comprehensive review of the Young Offenders Act. Our aim is to not only optimise outcomes for young people involved in the justice system, and for the community, but also lessen the chances of them getting into the justice system in the first place.

Madam Speaker, there are some Western Australians for whom we are not interested in making life easy—namely, gangs, organised crime and dangerous criminals. They are a scourge that we are pursuing ruthlessly. Our anti-consorting laws have made it illegal for outlaw motorcycle gangs to display their insignia in public. We have introduced our tough new firearm prohibition orders that are giving our police yet another tool that they can use to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous criminals, in particular bikies and domestic violence offenders. This is just the beginning. We are conducting a total rewrite of Western Australia's outdated firearms laws that will put the safety of the community and of our police officers first and foremost. Before the end of this year, we will have introduced into the Western Australian Parliament the toughest gun laws in the country.

We are also building new police stations. Construction of our new Armadale police complex is close to completion, and later this year we will break ground on new police stations in Baldivis, Fremantle and Forrestfield. Our Western Australia Police Force is also scheduled to take delivery of a range of world-class assets that we will be providing. These include new helicopters, new jet boats and new armoured vehicles. These will help our police officers continue their good work of helping our Western Australian community when and where they are needed, including in our state's regions. Last year, 445 new officers graduated from the Western Australian Police Academy, and a further 700 officers who are currently living overseas have applied to join WA Police Force.

Late last year, tough new laws to keep perpetrators of antisocial behaviour out of our entertainment precincts came into effect. The protected entertainment precincts policy is named in honour of Giuseppe "Pep" Raco, the victim of an unprovoked one-punch attack in Northbridge in July 2020. This policy will help families as well as revellers enjoy a safe night out in Northbridge—Perth, Fremantle, Scarborough, Hillarys and Mandurah. We are also targeting problem drinkers in the regions with plans to strengthen the banned drinkers register in the Kimberley, Pilbara and goldfields. This will make it easier to place people on the register; make secondary supply an offence; and make it mandatory for retailers to participate.

Madam Speaker, 2023 will be another incredible year for the delivery of Metronet and new roads across Western Australia. Just as cranes are dotting the Perth city skyline, our major road and rail works are dotted throughout our suburbs and regions. Two thousand and twenty-two will be a hard year to follow, with the grand opening of the Forrestfield—Airport Link; bringing road maintenance back in-house at Main Roads; and testing our new locally built C-series trains. Public transport patronage is recovering from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The introduction of our capped two-zone public transport fares is saving commuters up to \$3 000 a year. We have also continued to roll out more than \$800 million-worth of upgrades to regional roads. Our regional road safety program will ultimately upgrade 8 500 kilometres of regional roads with treatments like shoulder sealing and audible edge lines. These are proven to save lives.

I am pleased to say that 2023 will be just as exciting as last year when it comes to transport infrastructure. Works will begin on key Perth City Deal projects, including the new Causeway pedestrian and cycling bridges. The Victoria Park—Canning level crossing removal project will also commence construction. We expect the Yanchep rail extension to be completed this year, with operations to begin soon thereafter. This will provide people in our far northern suburbs with access to a train line for the first time. This will be complemented by extensive upgrades and the extension of the Mitchell Freeway. Construction will be completed on Lakelands station, which is expected to begin welcoming passengers by the middle of this year. Construction will also begin on the new Midland train station.

These are all much more than congestion-busting projects. They will create better, safer and more amenable neighbourhoods. They will give families flexibility and choice when it comes to getting around, such as perhaps not needing a second car; the flexibility to drop off a child at a day-care centre near a new Metronet station, saving precious time for busy parents; or the option of using our ever-expanding cycle network to get to work, school or a train station. This infrastructure can change lives. It can also help us keep healthy.

The health of Western Australians is our ultimate priority, Madam Speaker. Health systems around the world have been through a one-in-100-year shock. The health frontline has undoubtedly done an incredible job. Our continued and increased investment in our health sector will ensure that we continue to deliver a health system that meets the needs of all Western Australians and is fit-for-purpose for generations to come. Western Australia is spending more per capita on public hospital services than any other state, and 17 per cent more than the national average. Since 2017, WA's health expenditure has increased by an average of 6.2 per cent each year, from \$9 billion in 2017–18 to \$11.4 billion in 2021–22.

An incredible scale of work is happening. This includes new hospitals, better equipment, more beds and more staff, and modern legislation. This year, the biggest health worker recruitment drive in the state's history will continue. Since we have been in office, the number of nurses and midwives in our public system has increased by 30 per cent. In 2022, there was a 266 per cent increase in the number of healthcare professionals recruited compared with 2017, comprising more than 4 300 nurses and midwives, almost 1 500 doctors and medical workers and 1 400 allied health workers.

In 2023, consultation will continue to provide vital input into planning for the new \$1.8 billion women's and babies' hospital. We have progressed procurement for the major upgrade of Geraldton Health Campus, and we have



allocated over \$200 million for the transformation of Bunbury hospital. There are too many projects to list, some of which are in our most remote locations. We are investing in programs and infrastructure to address people's health at all stages of their lives.

The health of our natural environment is also of paramount importance. This year, the McGowan Labor government will legislate its goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Our legislation will also formalise our ambitious aim to reduce government emissions by 80 per cent below 2020 levels by 2030. Not only is this about decisive action on one of humanity's greatest challenges, but also it is an opportunity. The certainty this legislation will provide can encourage investment in clean energy infrastructure and technologies, which can ultimately reduce costs for businesses.

Here in Western Australia, we live among the most beautiful landscapes in the world, and they must be protected. For this reason, we made the recent decision to end the logging of south west native forests from 2024. The decision builds on the legacy of the Gallop Labor government's decision to end old-growth logging in 2001. It means an additional 400 000 hectares of karri, jarrah and wandoo forests will be protected into the future. That is around five New York Cities' worth of native forest, and it brings the total amount of protected forest to around two million hectares. This builds on our work to expand national parks and conservation areas by five million hectares, with over \$160 million invested to make it happen. The successful plan for plastics continues to progress, with the second phase coming into effect later this month.

In 2023, the McGowan Labor government will continue its record of delivery for our regions. We have retained and improved the royalties for regions program, delivering \$1 billion every year for programs that create quality employment and a greater quality of life.

Furthermore, we are investing in important regional projects, like planning and investing in the Kimberley's recovery from the floods. We will spend \$78.1 million to upgrade Lumsden Point at Port Hedland, supporting the future growth at our biggest export port; \$187.5 million for the Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina project, transforming Port Hedland's waterfront into an attractive and popular destination for locals and visitors alike; \$19.3 million to support preparations in Exmouth for the total solar eclipse in April; \$350 million to upgrade the Geraldton regional port, building capacity to grow exports from the midwest; and over \$125 million to progress the Pilbara and midwest hydrogen hubs.

Work will continue on stage 3 of transforming Bunbury's waterfront project, with \$78.1 million invested. Meanwhile, the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and the Albany ring-road will continue to sustain hundreds of construction jobs in 2023. In Kalgoorlie, the \$8 million spent on the Kalgoorlie city centre project will add vibrancy and refreshment to one of the state's most historic towns. The \$61.4 million three-stage redevelopment of Newman Hospital is also expected to reach completion this year.

Furthermore, we have made getting around our vast state cheaper for regional residents. The regional airfare zone cap scheme means people will not pay more than \$199 or \$299, depending on the distance from Perth. More than 28 000 capped airfares were flown between July and September alone, and we will be reviewing the scheme this year to look at what further improvements could be implemented. On top of that, we are helping those in our most remote areas to get a driver's licence. We know that, for regional people, being unable to get their licence can be a barrier to getting a job, receiving education, accessing health services and staying connected to the community. That is why we have expanded our successful driving access and equity program to the midwest, Gascoyne and goldfields-Esperance. This means that more organisations, beyond the Pilbara and Kimberley, can assist our most remote residents to traverse the state.

From a legislative perspective, 2023 will be a year of reform. We will reform the Equal Opportunity Act, bringing Western Australia in line with modern community expectations and ensuring that all Western Australians will be free from discrimination, harassment, vilification and victimisation. We will reform the Local Government Act to improve the transparency, accountability and efficiency of councils across WA.

We will reform the Firearms Act to create the toughest gun laws in the country and stop firearms getting into the wrong hands. We will pursue landmark privacy legislation, ensuring Western Australians will have more control over their personal data. We will also toughen casino laws to enhance accountability and transparency at WA's only casino. We are consulting on further liquor reforms to ensure that our state's world-class hospitality sector continues to flourish.

Abortion care is a critical component of health care for women, which is why we will modernise our abortion laws to make safety, privacy and dignity an absolute right. Abortion will be fully decriminalised, and the Criminal Code offence will be repealed. Western Australian women should not have to face barriers to health care, which is why we will streamline care pathways and remove clinical barriers.

We will abolish the outdated Gender Reassignment Board, creating a new, streamlined administrative process for sex and gender recognition. We will overhaul and modernise workers' compensation legislation, ensuring that local workers are given a fair go. We will reform water resources legislation, replacing and consolidating six acts that are up to 110 years old.

Madam Speaker, these priorities build on the major legislation that is already before Parliament and was introduced at the end of 2022: laws delivering on our election commitment to reform WA's mentally impaired accused laws, laws that improve the transparency and governance of government trading enterprises, and laws for the diversification of the pastoral estate.

It is also the year that new laws to protect Aboriginal cultural heritage will fully come into effect. These laws will replace the outdated section 18 processes with a new framework that will put Aboriginal people at the heart of decisions that affect their heritage. It enshrines negotiation and informed consent in law. Under the new act, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Council will be the state's peak strategic body for Aboriginal cultural heritage matters. The council will provide advice to government and set the standards to identify, protect and manage heritage. In short, these will be the most comprehensive Aboriginal heritage laws in the country, if not in the entire Commonwealth.

At a federal level, as Premier, I have pledged my support for the Voice to the federal Parliament, ahead of the planned referendum later this year.

This has been a busy government. As everyone can tell by now, 2023 will not be the year in which we slow down. Parliament will be at the heart of some major reforms this year. As members of Parliament, we are extremely privileged to represent our diverse communities and to offer our support in making laws that will benefit the lives of WA families, businesses and future generations.

I look forward to working with each member to take our state forward, just as we have in previous years.

[Applause.]

### *Consideration*

**The SPEAKER:** The question is —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [1.56 pm]: I rise to contribute to the debate in response to the Premier's Statement that has just been handed down.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate the member for Moore on his new role as Leader of the Opposition and the new Leader of the Nationals WA. I give many thanks to our outgoing leader, the member for Central Wheatbelt, for the fantastic job she has done and the legacy she created. I would also like to welcome the member for North West Central in her new role as Whip and offer my congratulations to the member for Vasse as the new Leader of the Liberal Party. I also congratulate Hon Dr Steve Thomas, MLC, the new Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party; and Hon Steve Martin, MLC, parliamentary secretary. I also acknowledge our new minister in the house and those ministers with new portfolios.

Before I start my reply on the Premier's shortfalls, I would like to —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I would like to take this opportunity to applaud the investment of an additional \$9.6 million into Ronald McDonald House Charities, which will double the accommodation services for regional families with sick children. This support for regional families in times of need is a very welcome announcement indeed. Many regional MPs have spent time there, and we very much appreciate its importance.

Last year, as is usual for the Premier of the day, the Premier highlighted the achievements of the government at that time. It is the opposition's job to point out where the government has let down the people of Western Australia and disappointed the community with rhetoric and platitudes from a Premier who has distanced himself from facing the real issues of normal Western Australians. It would be remiss of me not to point out the rising crime rates, especially up north; police shortages; the Banksia Hill Detention Centre disaster; a health system still in crisis; and an education system under pressure it has never seen before.

Firstly, it is no wonder that we are considered a police state, not only for the obvious reason, but also for the dwindling number of police to enforce the huge amount of legislation that has been passed in recent years.

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Point of order, Madam Speaker! This side listened in complete silence to the Premier.

**The SPEAKER:** There is actually no need for the point of order because I am just about to interrupt the business of the house. Given the time, under standing order 61, I will interrupt the business of the house and adjourn this matter to a later stage of this day's sitting.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 127.]

**CLERK ASSISTANT (PROCEDURE) — TEMPORARY STAFF CHANGE***Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [1.59 pm]: Just before I call for questions, I wish to advise that our Clerk Assistant (Procedure), Liz Kerr, has once again commenced a three-month position as Deputy Clerk of the Legislative Council while Sam Hastings is on long service leave. I am pleased to announce that Catie Parsons has stepped into the position of Clerk Assistant (Procedure) for a three-month period while Liz is working in the Legislative Council.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****COST OF LIVING — FEES AND CHARGES****1. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:**

I refer to the escalating cost-of-living crisis and the increasing levels of mortgage stress impacting WA families following nine consecutive interest rate rises since May last year. Does the Treasurer think it is fair that Western Australian families will be slugged with another \$150 increase when his government increases fees and charges in the May budget, while at the same time it has been gifted \$13 billion in budget surpluses over the past three years?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I firstly welcome all members back for the 2023 parliamentary year, on all sides of the house and in both chambers. I wish you all the best for the year ahead. I also congratulate the new Leader of the Opposition, the member for Moore, and the new Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Roe. I congratulate you on your new roles. I thank the former Leader of the Opposition, the member for Central Wheatbelt, for her carrying out of the role over the last two years, and wish her the best in whatever the future might hold. I congratulate the new Leader of the Liberal Party on her ascension to that role, the member for Vasse, and I thank the former Leader of the Liberal Party, the member for Cottesloe, for the performance of his role. Not to be left out, member for North West Central: congratulations on becoming the Whip—probably the easiest Whip job in the commonwealth parliamentary system! But well done, and congratulations on that role.

The government takes cost-of-living issues for families and individuals across Western Australia incredibly seriously. It is an issue across Australia; it is an issue across the world. Inflation, both in Australia and around the world, has climbed. There is a range of reasons behind that, predominantly factors outside our control—mainly COVID-related and also Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They are outside our control. But as I outlined in my speech a moment ago, over the course of the last couple of years, the basket of state government fees and charges has actually gone down by four per cent. We are the only government in Australia that has done that, and one of the only governments in the world that has done that. We have been able to do that because we managed the finances properly over our six years in office. We have been assiduous in making sure that we protect people as best we can from these sorts of things.

If we have a look at the eastern states, we see that they are frightened about what is going to happen with the cost of energy. They privatised their electricity assets and they did not have a domestic gas reservation, so now they are potentially looking down the barrel of 30 per cent increases in electricity costs on households, each year for the next two years. That is what is occurring in the eastern states.

On top of that, we did a whole range of things, as I outlined. We capped public transport fares; had government-funded price-capping of regional airfares; the free RAT program; a whole range of other cost-of-living initiatives in the budgets of last year and the year before; plus the two electricity credits, \$600 and \$400, that we put in place over the course of the last two years. We are negotiating with the commonwealth government on further measures to support people across our community.

When it comes to mortgage stress, I understand that interest rates are going up. If there is one thing that is different between us and the eastern states, it is that the average cost of a house in Perth is half what it is in Sydney. We have managed these things better. More recently, we have expanded the eligibility for Keystart for people in Western Australia. We are doing all those things because we understand that the issues are serious for households across the state.

**COST OF LIVING — FEES AND CHARGES****2. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Treasurer:**

I have a supplementary question. Given that the government's increases in fees and charges have cost householders over \$1 000 a year, will the Treasurer commit to freezing such fees and charges increases in future?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The Leader of the Opposition did not listen to my answer a moment ago. In the budget before last, we froze any increases in household fees and charges, plus gave everyone a \$600 credit. Last year, household fees and charges

went up by 2.5 per cent, and the inflation rate was significantly above that. The Leader of the Opposition has to understand that the inflation rate is above it. Our increases scheduled in the forward estimates are below the predicted inflation rate. We gave people \$1 000 in credits on their electricity bills over the last two budgets. No other state government in Australia has ever done that to support households. We did that at the same time as regaining our AAA credit rating; providing record funding for health, in particular; providing some tax relief, particularly for small businesses; funding a range of infrastructure programs; and delivering \$11 billion in COVID responses. We have done all those things as a state government. We will continue to have a focus on cost-of-living pressures. We understand that they are very, very important, and we understand that families across the state deserve that support.

#### RONALD McDONALD HOUSE

### 3. Ms R.S. STEPHENS to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to providing world-class health services for all Western Australians.

- (1) Can the Premier advise the house how this government's support for Ronald McDonald House will assist sick children and their families from regional WA during their toughest times?
- (2) Can the Premier outline how this support will build on the government's investment into regional health services?

### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Albany for the question.

- (1)–(2) Western Australia is a state that puts a real focus on supporting sick children. We have been the home of Telethon for the last 55 years. We have implemented the future health research and innovation fund, we have funded things like the Kids' Bridge, we are supporting the building of a new children's hospice in Swanbourne, and we have a whole range of other measures. I was pleased the other day to announce that we are going to spend another \$9.6 million on doubling the number of beds supported by Ronald McDonald House. I went to Ronald McDonald House last week and met with Adam Gilchrist from the team there, who do a wonderful job, and announced the increase in beds. That means that the current 47 beds will go to 97 beds. That means that people from regional WA who have sick children attending care at Perth Children's Hospital or King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women will have the opportunity to stay, free of charge, in supported accommodation at Ronald McDonald House to support their children undergoing treatment at those hospitals. That is more than a doubling, actually, in the number of beds available at Ronald McDonald House.

As members know, Ronald McDonald House does an incredible job supporting families. When you go and meet some of the children there who are being supported by their parents—some of them are undergoing treatment for brain tumours or serious cancers or other very serious illnesses—you just want to help; you just want to do everything you can to help. Providing additional beds at Ronald McDonald House is an important thing, and I would like to thank Ronald McDonald House and Adam Gilchrist for advocating for it. We are pleased to respond with this additional funding support.

It builds on the other things we have done to support regional families with their health care. We have increased the patient assisted travel scheme from \$60 to \$100 per night; we are rebuilding the Geraldton and Bunbury health campuses; and there are new medical facilities all over the state, from the top to the bottom. But one of the most important things we can do is support those kids who come to the city with terrible illnesses, and their families who are going through a very, very difficult time.

#### COST OF LIVING — COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR

### 4. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I note the escalating cost-of-living crisis impacting WA families and the additional pressure being placed on service providers such as Foodbank, which support those in need. Will the government commit to matching the opposition's call for the provision of \$300 million over two years to support the community services sector and help ease some of the cost-of-living pressures on our most vulnerable?

### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Since we have been in office, we have done a lot of things to support not only the charity sector, but also the community with cost-of-living pressures. As I outlined before, we have put more effort into assisting families with cost-of-living pressures than any other government in Australia, through \$1 000 in credits on electricity bills and capped public transport fares. During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when access to and the cost of RATs was out of control in the eastern states, we provided them free to people across the state. The capping of regional airfares depending on how far someone is from Perth is an amazing contribution to cost-of-living pressures for people around the state. There have been numerous other initiatives as well to support cost-of-living pressures.

The other point is that we have supported charities around the state. The indexation arrangements for charities have been improved and, as they asked for, they are now eligible to receive more financial support in terms of annual grants than before. We worked with the Western Australian Council of Social Service and other charities to ensure that the indexation arrangements were supported for charities around Western Australia. On top of that, I actually approached Lotterywest and asked it to support a significant increase in its emergency and crisis relief support for families around the state. Lotterywest has done that, increasing its support program to \$30 million—a significant increase in support for those organisations around Western Australia. Lotterywest is a state government organisation that has an independent board, but it is always pleased to provide that sort of support for those organisations.

There have been numerous other things. I add that the state government's funding for the National Disability Insurance Scheme is climbing very significantly. From memory, it went up by \$300 million in the last budget. That will continue to support the NDIS and people with disabilities, which is a joint state–commonwealth responsibility. We have put enormous effort into all these things over our term of office to ensure that we have the best cost-of-living support of any state government in Australia.

#### COST OF LIVING — COMMUNITY SERVICES SECTOR

##### 5. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. How is it right that Western Australian charities are being asked to do more with less when demand is increasing and the government has the capacity to better support them?

##### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

That question was factually inaccurate. We have significantly increased the support for charities around Western Australia because we have changed the indexation and provided additional, boosted support for all those charities around the state. As I outlined before, we have also increased Lotterywest's support to some of the emergency relief funds and so forth by tens of millions of dollars. We met with the board of Lotterywest to talk about these issues and seek its support for these sorts of initiatives. That is the sort of support that we will continue to provide to charities around the state. It is all well and good for the opposition to say what it would do, but when its members were in office, they did not do it. It is all well and good to make a two-year commitment that expires before the next state election. I am not quite sure how the opposition thinks that is particularly believable, but if it is believable and we add up everything that has been committed to in the last two weeks, it is more than \$3 billion. We have to remember that the last time the Liberals and Nationals were in office, they nearly bankrupted Western Australia. We had to turn that around.

I can tell members one thing: I was at the national cabinet meeting last week with the other Premiers and Chief Ministers, and they are incredibly envious of Western Australia's financial position. Our position is the strongest of the states. Members opposite might not understand this, but it means that we spend less as a state on interest payments. It means that we have a AAA credit rating, which reduces our interest payments and also means that we are a more attractive place for investment than other states in Australia. That is the legacy of this government. We had to turn around what the Liberals and Nationals did in office; it looks like they have not learnt any of the lessons.

#### TOURISM — MAJOR EVENTS

##### 6. Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE to the Minister for Tourism:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to building Western Australia's tourism industry. Can the minister outline to the house what world-class major events, such as the recent UFC 284, mean for Western Australia's tourism sector and the local economy, and can the minister update the house on other initiatives underway to support WA's tourism industry?

##### Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I would like to thank the member for the question because the member knows that tourism is an incredibly important industry that represented around \$12 billion in annual turnover and employed roughly 100 000 people prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. Getting the tourism industry back on its feet is an incredibly important part of ensuring that our economy remains resilient. Now, more than ever before, we are in a globally competitive tourism market as all governments and companies around the world seek a global share of the re-emerging tourism market. We need to act quickly and we need to act decisively, and that is exactly what the McGowan government has done. We have one of the greatest environments in the world—one of the greatest pieces of tourism product in the world—and we are moving heaven and earth to make sure that the rest of the world knows all about that.

As many members would be aware, the centre of the entertainment and sporting world over the weekend was not Phoenix, it was Perth, Western Australia, as we hosted UFC 284, which returned to Australia for the first time in a thousand days. It set all sorts of records. We had over 6 000 people turn out to watch the weigh-in alone on Saturday. Then, on Sunday, 14 124 people were at a sold-out RAC Arena for the main event. Around 9 000 of those 14 000 people—almost 70 per cent—travelled from outside Western Australia to enjoy this event. It was the highest grossing arena event in Australian history, with almost \$6 million worth of tickets sold. But that is not all:

the event was beamed around the world to millions of people across 172 countries. If there was any doubt about how extraordinary WA is, Logan Paul—we all now know who Logan Paul is!—reinforced it to his 25 million Instagram viewers, with a quokka selfie to rival Roger Federer’s holiday snap when he was here.

But there was more happening over the weekend. We had the opening of the Perth Festival on Friday night with the spectacular *Seven Sisters* and *Djoondal* at Joondalup. The Laneway Festival took over Wellington Square, while Fringe World kept crowds throughout the city enthralled. We had the West Australian Ballet launch its season at the Quarry Amphitheatre, and Perth Glory played at home. We had the Australian Sprintcar Championship at Perth Motorplex in God’s own earth of Kwinana, as well as superstar acts right across the weekend—Sting had two sold-out nights in Kings Park, while 50 000 people were at Optus Stadium for the Red Hot Chili Peppers.

It was not just about Perth over the weekend. Of course, we also went to the member for Vasse’s city of Busselton for the Busselton Jetty Swim, which the members for Mirrabooka, Warren–Blackwood, Scarborough and I were ambitious enough to attempt. The member for Albany was a late scratching! Although we were delighted to see the member for Vasse at the start line, disappointingly she was not in her bathers this year.

What a weekend! We are still collating the economic return to the state from the millions of dollars spent on tourism experiences, hotels, restaurants and retail, but it will be significant and extremely important. This was just one weekend. We make no secret of the fact that big events are a big part of the McGowan government’s tourism strategy, but supporting all this is our global tourism brand, Walking on a Dream, which we launched in September last year. The now iconic floating whale shark has been in Times Square on New Year’s Eve and in Piccadilly Circus in London, as well as other important global destinations. Our strategy is clear and it is working; it is about bringing tourists and travellers back to Western Australia to support jobs and stimulate the economy. Our domestic overnight spend in WA leapt to over \$1 billion across the month of September—the first time since early 2019. This included a 35 per cent jump in spending in WA’s regions on pre-COVID levels. We are also one of the top-performing states for both interstate visitors and spend, which was up 85 per cent compared with pre-COVID levels. There is still more to be done. As of January, the number of international flights into WA was 76 per cent of pre-COVID levels, which was higher than the national average, and we look to see that grow to 83 per cent over the coming months, with new flights between Perth and Rome, Tokyo and Manila, and seasonal flights connecting the eastern states to iconic destinations like Broome, Exmouth and Busselton coming online. This is in addition to the 2023 affordable airfares program, which is now live and will reduce airfares to regional WA.

As I said, there is more to do. The McGowan government announced its \$6 million support package for the Kimberley tourism sector, which was hit by floods earlier this year. We will continue to work closely with local operators to ensure that they get all the support they need, informed by the great work and advocacy of the member for Kimberley. But the latest national figures are showing that we are on the right track, and cracking \$1 billion in domestic spending is a milestone that we should all recognise. We will continue to put a huge focus on reinvigorating our tourism market to stimulate economic activity for local businesses and create jobs. There is more to be done, but with more amazing weekends like the weekend just gone, we know that tourism is taking the economy forward.

#### KIMBERLEY FLOODS — TRANSPORT LINKS

##### 7. **Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

Before I ask this question, I would like to acknowledge the devastation of the floods across the Kimberley and the efforts of the agencies and volunteers to support those communities that were impacted.

I refer to the ongoing recovery response in the Kimberley, including the rebuilding of critical transport links. What is the time line and definitive date for the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge to be restored, and when will an alternative route be reopened for heavy transport for east–west haulage in the Kimberley?

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

I thank the member for that question.

Of course, between Christmas and January we saw the devastating floods throughout the Kimberley. Anyone who has been up there can see the enormous impact that has had on our transport infrastructure. From the outset, I say a big congratulations and thankyou to the workers up there who have been working day in, day out to re-establish the links across the Kimberley. I also want to acknowledge the member for Kimberley, who has tirelessly been with all the ministers who have been up there, in a sense, forming that connection with the local groups and understanding their local issues and how we can respond proactively to support them through this very, very tough time.

The plan that we set out has five parts. One was to re-establish the connection between Broome and Derby. Members will know that that link has been re-established. From Thursday to Sunday, Great Northern Highway was opened to allow vehicles to move between those two parts. That allowed families and businesspeople to reconnect or get their stranded assets; many cars were left behind. As a result, since yesterday, there have been convoys in the morning and the afternoon to support those connections. Again, those four days also gave the crews there a chance to take a breather after working every day. They are now back on site delivering those road improvements. We expect the two-way connections to be re-established over the next two weeks. Again, that is an incredible effort.

Of course, it is the wet season. We never normally build roads during the wet season because it is very tricky to build them during the wet season. We are trying to re-establish links in a wet season after massive devastation. It is an enormous challenge.

The next part includes the barge. That process is underway. As I recall, the embankment on the west side has been finished and work on the embankment on the east side is underway. We will be trialling those barges this week and, hopefully, we will get it established next week, if all weather conditions support our efforts.

The next part is the low-level crossing. We want to establish that crossing before the dry season, through May and June, to allow for vehicles, and road trains in particular, to be able to cross that river. Again, that will depend on our ability to make those tracks and establish the causeway. The river levels are a lot higher than we had anticipated at this point in time, but we will continue to work. Again, we hope and believe that we will have that established before the dry season, plus the barge. We want to have both systems operating. That will give people the ability to have a choice. If, for example, the low-level crossing is washed away, we will have the barge in place. We want those two systems operating.

A fourth key component, of course, is to rebuild the Fitzroy Crossing Bridge. I think everyone has seen the vision of the piers that were washed away. Those piers were sunk about 14 metres into the sand. Just imagine the volume of water required to actually wash away piers that were sunk 14 metres. That is a significant dredge for a port. The volume of water was absolutely incredible. We have teams out there currently assessing and surveying the water depth and looking at whether we can find some bedrock to put the piers in. We have gone into a very fast-tracked tender process. That tender process finishes on 17 February, and we hope within the next week to announce the successful tenderer. We will establish an alliance contract with the state government and work with local Aboriginal communities to make sure that we have a project on which the contractor, the government and local communities can work together to deliver what will be a significant project. As I recall, the original width at the crossing was 160 metres; it has now increased to 240 metres because of the sand that has been washed away. We hope to be able to announce that next week. Of course, we will be working with the successful contractor to deliver that as soon as possible.

Another point I will outline—the fifth point—is that we have supported extra flight services between Broome and Derby. We are also looking at what we can do to support Kununurra over the medium term and we are looking at expanding our ability to move barges across the north west. Another thing that this natural disaster has brought home is the ability to swap between modes and support shipping, and domestic shipping, as an alternative to bring in volume product. We need to make sure that our ports are ready and able to support that. That is what we are doing.

Again, a huge thanks to the Main Roads team, which is working very well with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. I again acknowledge the Minister for Emergency Services and the teams. Across the entire government there are people who have been working on the ground tirelessly day in, day out in very tough conditions. I very much thank all those people out there doing that work. As a minister, I am proud that people are just getting on with it and making sure that they can reconnect the Kimberley and support local communities, and we will assist freight movements in the future.

#### KIMBERLEY FLOODS — TRANSPORT LINKS

##### **8. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister give me an understanding of when the barge she spoke about will actually be installed and whether it will be able to handle all the road trains that operate in the north?

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

As I said, the preliminary work is happening now and trials are happening this week. In relation to guarantees of what can be transported when, it really depends on the weather, the river levels and also the tracks leading to and from the barge from both sides. We are talking about new areas that we are cutting into. We are working with the local Aboriginal groups to get the necessary approvals as well. We are working to move people initially and then we will be looking at freight. Initially, it will be about moving people and making sure that we can connect communities again and enable people to reach their motor vehicles. That work is underway now. There are daily meetings. Every day, there are different challenges in relation to the water levels and rain. It is very hard to predict. I will not stand here and tell the member exactly what will be moved on what day, because it is the wet season. As I said, we do not normally do this because the weather is very unpredictable in the wet season. We cannot give guarantees, but we are working very hard and the teams on the ground are working extremely hard to get the Kimberley reconnected.

#### RAILCAR MANUFACTURING — C-SERIES TRAINS

##### **9. Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's decision to bring railcar manufacturing back to Western Australia after 30 years, creating hundreds of local jobs. Can the minister please update the house on the progress of locally built Metronet C-series trains, including the results of recent testing, and can the minister outline how these new trains will build capacity on our public transport network?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for that question.

It was two nights before Christmas when I went to the Nowergup depot to be on the first locally made train that entered our public transport network. It was 12 o'clock at night and I was extremely tired—luckily, I was not doing the driving—when I was on the first WA-made train on the Transperth network. It was an incredible evening. We have restored this industry, an industry that was ripped out of WA 30 years ago. We now have locally made trains. We are testing every element. Being on the first train when they were testing the brakes, I was happy that they were working! We saw continual diagnostic testing of every element of the train, including the brakes—every component—to make sure it stops, it goes and it goes up and down the hills as expected. The testing that evening went extremely well.

This is an industry that we have brought back. Remember, it was the Liberal Party that said that we were trying to revive an industry from a bygone era—a bygone industry. Now our policy is being watched by every other state nationally as they look at how to re-establish a train-building industry. I say with great pride that in just six years of being in government, we have expanded our initial commitment, we have secured funding, we have gone to a contract, we have built the manufacturing shed and we have produced two trains. They are incredible results.

Of course, as part of that, the C-series trains are bigger; they have more capacity. We will have a 20 per cent increase in capacity on those trains and those trains will initially service the northern and southern suburbs on the Mandurah and Joondalup lines.

Another part of our continued reform is the two-zone fare cap. We talk about the cost of living. Investing in public transport is a cost-of-living initiative. We have seen already the two-zone fare cap in the electorates of the member for Dawesville, the member for Mandurah and the member for Butler. People who travel longer distances are making real savings of thousands of dollars per annum. By investing in Metronet and new rail lines, more people will have access to those savings. Public transport investment is a cost-of-living investment. If someone can catch a train, they will save thousands of dollars in maintenance and other vehicle costs.

The other key component is improved signalling. We are rolling out a high-capacity signalling program that will support and further enhance capacity on trains.

Remember, members, this is how the previous government left the public transport network, so much so that the opposition at the time created the sardines campaign. Do members remember the sardines campaign? It was impossible to get access to our public transport system. Members, we are not going to do that. We have a plan to support more people catching public transport—a real cost-of-living initiative and something that can support people to connect to jobs, education and health facilities for generations to come.

**RESIDENTIAL HOUSING****10. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:**

I refer to the dire housing shortages plaguing the state since 2017, with rental vacancies under one per cent, rents increasing by 45 per cent and the state's construction industry facing a crisis, with over 94 builders collapsing. What is the government doing to address this residential housing issue, with WA families unable to find affordable rental accommodation or to build their own home?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Over the last few years, a lot of people came home from overseas. A lot of people did not want to live overseas anymore, so a lot of Australians came back. We were one of only two states that had net migration from interstate over the COVID period. A lot of people from Victoria and New South Wales went to Queensland—to a lesser degree, but still—and Western Australia. Then we took the step of, basically, over the COVID period, closing down interstate FIFO. If people wanted to continue to work in the mining or energy industries, a lot of them had to move to Western Australia. There was a risk to the state. Those three things occurred. Then we had a period early in 2020 when basically new sign-ups for homes stopped completely and all the display villages closed. I do not know whether people remember that, but that is what happened. We then put in place a \$45 000 incentive package with the commonwealth government. It was not means-tested—just build a house.

We now have around 28 000 new builds underway. They have had trouble completing because of the sheer scale of activity going on in Western Australia. People only have to go out there and they will see cranes everywhere. Construction is rife in the suburbs and in the city—whenever we go. People can go to regional towns and see cranes. Construction is on a scale I have never seen before. Those new dwellings will complete over time. That will provide the people who are currently in rentals with the opportunity to move into their new home and it will provide new rental opportunities for other people to move into. On top of that, the state government is acquiring a huge number of new social properties for people. There is investment of over \$2 billion. I think it is the largest per capita. Then we have the \$350 million investment in remote housing around Western Australia. All that activity is underway to deal with this issue that has occurred.



Another thing that occurred over the COVID period is that there were high rates of family separation. When that happens, lots of people look for properties. All these things came together to exacerbate the issue. We are building 3 300 new social dwellings. We have thousands of properties—nearly 30 000—under construction and, hopefully, they will reach conclusion shortly. All those things are happening. But I do not deny that some people are having difficulty acquiring a rental property for the reasons that I just outlined to the member. The good thing is that lots of activity is happening.

I also note this: lots of new projects were often opposed. The opposition to them was from the Liberal Party. The Leader of the Liberal Party's predecessor made a point in his social media and commentary of attacking the Minister for Planning for building new housing. Whenever she tried to get some density—that evil word “density”—or tried to ensure that people could build properties for people to live in who might want to downsize from a bigger block into an apartment, the last Leader of the Liberal Party opposed it. The Leader of the Liberal Party cannot walk both sides of the fence. As Joh Bjelke-Petersen said, if you walk both sides of a barbed wire fence, you are going to get yourself in trouble! The member cannot walk both sides of a barbed wire fence, or, indeed, any fence. She has to decide which one she wants. Is she going to follow the anti-development, anti-activity route of her predecessor or is she going to support us when we are trying to get new investment, new activity and new places to live out there?

#### RESIDENTIAL HOUSING

##### 11. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Following the collapse of another WA builder, will the Premier now admit that his government's \$30 million head contractor relief scheme has been a total failure?

##### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

No. We worked with the Master Builders Association and it was very excited and happy about that activity that we took. I have spoken to it. It was very excited by it and its view is that it has worked. But sometimes, as has always happened under every government, businesses will become insolvent for one reason or another. That has been the history of the construction sector. We have put in place a whole range of measures to support the construction sector over our time in office. They include the deed retention trust program for the majority of construction projects over \$1 million, which is the first of its kind in Australia; the anti-phoenixing measures to stop builders who go bankrupt and then just start again the next week to ensure that so-called dodgy builders do not come back in; the expansion of the retention trust scheme; shorter payment time frames; and government being more available for alliance contracting and also for topping up some of those projects for which the cost of construction has climbed, and we have certain funds set aside for those purposes. The cost of construction has climbed. The price of steel has doubled or tripled. The price of timber has doubled or tripled. A lot of things have occurred because of factors outside of our control, predominantly the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the demand pressures caused by COVID around the world and the disruption of supply chains. The one thing that members can have faith in is that this government is actually doing something about it. We do not just whinge like the Liberal Party does every time a new development comes along. We actually get out there and we make things happen.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr M. McGOWAN: I was driving through the western suburbs the other day and I saw the Blackburne development in Peppermint Grove. Do members know who will live in it? People downsizing in the western suburbs are the ones who will live there. Then I drove through Subiaco and I saw the new high-rise there that the member for Cottesloe opposed. There it was, coming out of the ground. Do members know who will live in that? It will be people downsizing or younger people wanting to live in Subiaco and enjoy the lifestyle. Then I looked at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, which is not there. I did not look at it, because it is not there; I looked at the site, and I looked at Subiaco Oval, which is also not there. I looked at those things, and over the next few years, they will have that medium-density exciting development, so lots of people will live there. Do members know what will happen then? All the shops, restaurants and bars will be lively and fun, like they are in the centre of Sydney and Melbourne. What is wrong with that? Why does the Liberal Party always oppose that? Why does the party of capitalism hate capitalism? What is wrong with you? Liberal Party members do not really know what they stand for.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please, members!

#### FIREARMS ACT — REFORM

##### 12. Mr T.J. HEALY to the Minister for Police:

Thank you very much, Speaker. If you will indulge me, I would also like to acknowledge that it is Valentine's Day, and say happy Valentine's Day to my wife who is watching at home. I will be home soon! If I can also say happy Valentine's Day to my new minister, the Minister for Police, as well.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Okay. I think there is enough love in the room! If you can get on with your question.

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to overhauling Western Australia's 50-year-old firearm laws to ensure community safety comes first. Can the minister please advise the house how the upcoming ban on very high powered firearms will keep the community safe?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

Madam Speaker, I was going to congratulate the member on his appointment as my parliamentary secretary. I will, anyway.

**Mr T.J. Healy:** Thank you, sir!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** It is wonderful to have someone who is so supportive of police, who cares so much about road safety, who wants to advocate for our defence industry, and who is determined to make life better for our veterans as my parliamentary secretary. Thank you, member, for the question.

We are, as members know, embarking upon the biggest rewrite of the Firearms Act in 50 years. It will be completely upgraded and improved for the current era. As part of that, we last week announced the implementation of a health check with a mental health component as part of the application for firearms licences, with a recurrent obligation. The details of this will be worked out in the coming months by a working group, including the Minister for Mental Health, the Mental Health Commission, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and others as necessary. The details will be clear before we introduce the legislation to Parliament.

We today use the current law, which is lacking in a lot of ways, but we use it nevertheless, to improve safety for Western Australians, but this rewrite is particularly for our police. The police requested us to address a problem that they have been confronting in recent years, which is the increasing numbers of very high powered firearms being brought into the state, quite legally under the current lax laws, that often utilise very powerful ammunition cartridges and can deliver a round very precisely at a great range with a significant amount of energy at the point of impact, representing a direct threat to our police officers. These firearms have the capacity to deliver a round that can penetrate body armour worn by police officers, go through the skin of police vehicles, and, potentially, with the right firearm and the right ammunition, even penetrate parts of our armoured vehicles. This is not acceptable. The police have been dealing with this through the very close assessment of firearms licence applications in recent times, but because the law enables these things, their decisions are subject to an appeal to the State Administrative Tribunal, and there has been some 118 applications before the SAT since 2019 with regard to these types of firearms. This chews up a lot of time and energy in that location for police, so we are going to deal with it.

On 1 July this year, some 56 individual firearm types and 19 ammunition types will become illegal. From today, police will be corresponding with all those owners. These firearms were legally acquired, so police will correspond with the owners to tell them that their firearms and ammunition will become illegal on 1 July and that they must be disposed of lawfully between now and then. Because the firearms were purchased in a legal fashion—these people are not criminals—they will be offered a market value buyback, estimated by the government to be about \$1.5 million. So, people who bought these items legally will be able to return them to police and have the money reimbursed for the cost of those firearms. It will mean that there will be 248 fewer individual firearms in the state. About 70 of them are owned by dealers, but the rest are owned by people out there in the community.

These firearms have no purpose in Western Australia. They are designed and marketed by their manufacturers as being for the purpose of shooting large animals like bears or rhinoceroses, which we do not have in WA. Professional shooters who cull large animals like camels and feral horses and the like use a different calibre firearm; they do not use these things. Therefore, the only reason, under the current law, someone would have one is if they are an enthusiast who likes a powerful firearm. But in Western Australia, from 1 July, community safety and the safety of our police officers will trump that, so they will become illegal.

#### McGOWAN MINISTRY — RECONSTITUTION

#### 13. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Premier:

I refer to the cabinet reshuffle announced on 14 December. Was the promotion of the member for Wanneroo and member for the South West Region a negotiated surrender by the member for Bassendean so he would go quietly—that is to say, did the member for Bassendean demand that he be replaced by a female member as a condition of his resignation; and, was this the other reason the only working farmer on the ALP benches was held back from being the next Minister for Agriculture and Food?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! Before I give the call to the Premier, it is important that we can all hear the questions clearly and without interruption. I do not need lots of commentary on various elements of a question as it is asked. The question is asked of the Premier, and the Premier will be responding.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Madam Speaker —

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, after I just asked people not to interject on the question, it is really inappropriate to interject on the Premier.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is a very odd question. We have just been through three months of summer, with all sorts of issues, and of everything the member could ask, and he asks a bizarre question on his third attempt.

Can I firstly thank the member for Bassendean for his service in the government over six years. Six years of service as a minister is a gruelling thing, and he has a long list of achievements of which he can be very proud. I know he will continue in public life for some considerable period to come making further contributions. I also thank former member for the South West Region Hon Alannah MacTiernan for all her contributions. She has now left the Parliament for the third time, but she has assured me that she is not coming back this time; although, there is still the Senate, as I have told her, should she really wish to be a sadomasochist! I thank them both for all their contributions.

I congratulate the member for Wanneroo on becoming a minister after six years in Parliament, and Hon Jackie Jarvis, member for South West Region, who has also become a minister in Parliament—both of whom got there on merit. I know that it might be surprising to the Nationals WA that there is such a thing, but both members are worthy occupants of the roles after their roles in both the community and the Parliament over a long period. In the case of the member for Wanneroo, she is a former teacher and former local government councillor. She has served as my parliamentary secretary, and on various committees and so forth. She is a decent human being who I am sure will do a good job in the roles. In the case of Hon Jackie Jarvis, she runs a farm. She is from a farm. She is a vigneron, and wineries are farms—just so the member is aware. She was actually Telstra’s rural woman of the year maybe five or six years ago, she has worked for the Grains Council of Australia, and she has worked in senior roles in agriculture, and she is now the Minister for Agriculture and Food. What is wrong with that? I do not understand why the member is asking these questions. It is very odd that he would ask these questions—that somehow there is something wrong in this regard and somehow there is something wrong in promoting senior women. What is wrong with that? Why would the member say that? The beauty of our side of politics is that we have lots of people to choose from. It is the agony of choice because there are so many people of talent. That is not an affliction that the opposition suffers from.

McGOWAN MINISTRY — RECONSTITUTION

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

I have a supplementary question. It is a simple question to the Premier. Did the member for Bassendean demand that he be replaced by a female member of Parliament, or not?

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I am not going into conversations that I had with the member for Bassendean about these matters. I am not, and I do not think it is appropriate that the Leader of the Opposition asks me to.

GERALDTON HEALTH CAMPUS — REDEVELOPMENT

**15. Ms L. DALTON to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government’s commitment to redevelop Geraldton Health Campus.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this redevelopment will improve healthcare services to the Geraldton community?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this investment at Geraldton hospital compares with that of the former Liberal–National government?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Geraldton for her question and for her ongoing advocacy for this incredibly important project for not just her local community, but the midwest region, and also for supporting the Gascoyne. There is no doubt about that. As a cabinet it was our pleasure to be in Geraldton last week with the member and, of course, the Premier, and to see firsthand the member for Geraldton’s deep connection to her community, her ongoing advocacy and her good relationships with and support for her community and those who deliver important services.

I am very pleased that I was able to get to the health campus—I have visited there previously—and also meet with a number of local community members, senior members and shire councillors to discuss Geraldton Health Campus. We met with Ross McKim, the CEO of the City of Greater Geraldton, local

councillors and Dr Ian Taylor, a very experienced GP obstetrician, who also has recruited his son to be a local GP obstetrician. I said, “Thank you very much. Have you got any more?” He has given decades of service to that community, and those regional hospitals are held together by those specialist GPs in particular, and the staff.

I am pleased to inform the house that the expression of interest for the redevelopment of stage 2 of the campus was very successful, with three significant construction companies expressing an interest—Multiplex, Lendlease and ADCO. They are all very reputable builders and are going through the Department of Finance process to determine who is invited to the next stage of the tender process. I have a lot of confidence in this project and that we will see a delivery of the project imminently.

It has certainly been challenging. The project saw a significant increase in construction costs. As we have seen, that region in particular is challenged by construction costs more than others because of cyclone Seroja and the pressure on those companies and the staff that support them, in both the commercial area and across to the residential sector as well.

The government has already delivered the enabling works for that project, which is a fantastic car park. If members ask patients at any hospital in the state what they want to see improved in their hospitals, car parks are usually in the top two or three, so the government is very happy to deliver that. That will also provide the enabling works. There will be an expansion of services in that region. That is why we are prioritising this project in that region. It will be not only state-of-the-art infrastructure, but also an expansion of services for the entire region. That will include an expanded emergency department, a new ICU with a high-dependency unit and an integrated inpatient acute mental health unit that will work in lockstep with the step-up, step-down program that the government also delivered in Geraldton. This is the biggest investment in that healthcare sector in the midwest region since the former Labor government, led by Geoff Gallop, a Geraldton local himself. I look forward to continuing to deliver this important project that will support the whole midwest region.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — MEMBERSHIP — VACANCY

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

I refer to the official resignation of the former member for South West Region and the consequential vacancy on government benches. Has the Premier sought advice regarding section 156C(2)(b) of the Electoral Act, which gives him a clear mechanism to deny any remaining candidates on the ticket the opportunity to assume the vacancy?

#### *Point of Order*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I understand that this is a question of legality and is seeking a legal response. That, of course, is against the standing orders.

**The SPEAKER:** As I understand the question, it is whether legal advice has been sought. You cannot ask a question that seeks legal advice, but asking a question about whether legal advice is sought is something that the Premier can choose to answer, or respond to in whichever way he likes.

#### *Questions without Notice Resumed*

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

Not to my knowledge.

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL — MEMBERSHIP — VACANCY

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier advise the Electoral Commissioner to fill the vacancy, or does he intend to get a jump start on cutting regional voices from Parliament?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members! I am not 100 per cent sure that that question is in order because what the member is asking is not necessarily within the Premier’s domain, even as leader. Premier, you may respond if you like.

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

I think I could have a team of professors from Harvard trying to interpret that and they would not be able to work out what the member was trying to get at. All I will say about it is this: the former member for South West Region Hon Alannah MacTiernan has decided to exit Parliament. There is a process, as I understand it, conducted via the Western Australian Electoral Commission. Once notice is given by the President of the upper house, which will start the process of replacing her, the process then goes down the ticket in terms of eligibility, and people are invited to apply. That process has not concluded. That will take place over the course of the next 10 days or two weeks, as I understand it. At the conclusion of that, there will be an analysis by the Electoral Commission about who is the

eligible person to fulfil the vacancy provided by the former member for South West Region Hon Alannah MacTiernan who left. Obviously, someone will fill the vacancy in accordance with the law and that person will no doubt have been on the South West Region ticket. If I were you, National Party, in light of Hon James Hayward, I would not be asking these questions.

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

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

#### *Appropriations*

Message from the Governor received and read recommending appropriations for the purposes of the bill.

### **BILLS**

#### *Assent*

Messages from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following bills —

1. Liquor Control Amendment (Protected Entertainment Precincts) Bill 2022.
2. Trans-Tasman Mutual Recognition (Western Australia) Amendment Bill 2022.
3. Medicines and Poisons (Validation) Bill 2022.
4. Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Amendment Bill 2022.

### **PREMIER'S STATEMENT**

#### *Consideration*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [2.59 pm]: I look forward to continuing my contribution. Unfortunately, the Premier has disappeared. I was starting to talk about his shortfalls. The Minister for Police and the Minister for Education have also departed the scene. I want to continue with my comments on the police force. Since July last year, these are the headlines of the WA Police Union's media statements: "Human resources powering police exodus, not resources sector", "Perth prices up more in one year than police pay in five years", "Assaults on cops at 10-year peak... violent crime at all-time high", "Police vote to reject pay offer", "Record no. of police resignations and retirements", "WA Police Union releases report on suicide by police officers in Australia" and "Ramming police cars". In just seven months, the media statements say it all. Our police force is struggling. We see it in the news and we see it in our communities. The police minister is deficient in his duties when he tells Parliament that there is no problem and quotes local government officials saying that all is well when clearly this is not the case. The complex nature of the issues facing children in Banksia Hill Detention Centre is known. The Premier seems unwilling to hear the way these complex issues are displayed in the individuals. The lack of options given to the judiciary is incredible. Putting children on remand in the same facility as those who have been convicted is unacceptable for a start. The definition of "insanity" is doing the same thing and expecting a different outcome. Surely the history of juvenile incarceration in WA fits that definition. These are not simply children with criminal backgrounds who should be locked up forever; they are children with deep psychological and physical trauma and should be treated as such.

We need to talk about the health system again. For the regional areas lucky enough to have a doctor, it takes at least three weeks to get an appointment. I know of people in my electorate who do not bother to ring for an appointment and will either self-medicate or not seek treatment at all. I know of many who are not seeking allied health care for themselves or their family because the wait time is too long or they simply cannot afford to travel to Perth for crucial care.

The Premier loves to overstate what his ministers have done for the health system but, in truth, the McGowan government is still riding on the coat-tails of the previous government's hospital building program—Fiona Stanley Hospital, Perth Children's Hospital, Midland Public Hospital and hospitals in Albany, Busselton, Narrogin, Katanning and Karratha. All these hospitals started with investment by the previous Liberal–National government. All the McGowan government has done is announce the new women's and babies' hospital, but it is so far out in the forward estimates that the current Minister for Health might just be Premier when that sod finally turns. We will not let the health system slip off the radar. This government can no longer pull the wool over the eyes of WA. The failings are there for all to see. This government needs to forget the fluffy media statements, stop blaming COVID-19, stop blaming St John Ambulance and get to work by fixing the systemic failures in WA's health system.

I turn to the flooding of the Fitzroy River in the Kimberley in January, which was described as WA's worst flood after heavy rains. It was an event that cut off towns and communities and left a path of destruction through roads, stations, towns and lives. I would like to commend the efforts to date of emergency services and the Minister for Transport, as we heard today, for dealing with those major road reconstructions and movements of large recovery and construction teams to the area. My hope is that this government does not repeat the appalling mismanagement

of the cyclone Seroja disaster with rebuilding, funding, distribution and support. Reconstruction and recovery in the Kimberley will be a difficult journey, but we will not let this government forget the residents of the Kimberley and leave them floundering like it did for the communities in Seroja's path.

The cost of living has become a real issue for many people. Foodbank of Western Australia and Anglicare are saying that the cost-of-living crisis is pushing families to their limit. The lack of housing sees lines of more than 100 people applying for rentals. Increasing mortgage rates are having a flow-on effect for families, and the rise in utility service charges is constant and becoming unaffordable for some people. The Leader of the Opposition, the member for North West Central and I visited Foodbank last week. We got a firsthand understanding of what is happening in these set-ups. Foodbank is doing a fantastic job, along with Anglicare, the Western Australian Council of Social Service and many other institutions.

We come to a new year when the Premier is still hanging on to the self-belief that he can do no wrong and that his massive treasure chest is his and his alone to allocate as he sees fit. His new front bench adds a couple of new faces, which is certainly challenging to say the least. Giving the already enormous portfolio of Communities, with the added pressure points of early childhood, prevention of family and domestic violence, and child protection, to a new minister is what I would term a hospital hand pass. I wish the new minister luck. It is certainly a real challenge for a new minister to take on that portfolio. It will be a test to see whether the resulting outcomes for a huge demographic of vulnerable people who are at risk will come to the fore. I will be watching that closely.

We know that the education system has taken much of the brunt of the pandemic over the last three years. Principals, teachers, students and parents have had to adopt to changed practices like never before. Although change can be a good thing, the speed at which these changes happened stunned much of the system. We can now reflect on what impact those changes have had on this sector. To this end, I would like to congratulate the Premier on his appointment of the new Minister for Education. There is much for this minister to do. I hope his recent announcements of university entrance requirements and writing letters to year 12s are not a distraction from the real problems facing the education system in this state. Education is a crucial shadow portfolio and one area about which I receive daily correspondence on all aspects of the portfolio. The Premier might be surprised to learn that I hear not only from parents, but also from many people who work in the sector. Primarily, they say that the education system is a mess, school education and standards are suffering, there is very poor management and, finally, "we are up the creek without a paddle". The State School Teachers' Union of WA has found the sector so badly in freefall that it is using members' fees to commission an independent review of the public education system. Tellingly, in December, the union was vocal in its outrage about the plan to use underqualified teachers to solve staff shortages in schools. This comes on the back of the warnings issued to the government by the union years ago, well before COVID struck, of the looming crisis in staffing.

Let me remind the Premier of the main issues facing teachers and principals in schools. Metropolitan and regional schools have their own unique problems. As I mentioned before, using underqualified teachers to fill positions, especially in the regional areas, is a desperate attempt to fulfil the notion of a teacher in front of every class. The president of the State School Teachers' Union of WA, Matt Jarman, said last month —

While having a teacher in front of every class is fundamental, not having the right teacher in the right place will eventually only add to the shortage. Teachers placed into roles they're not suited to or not fully qualified for will burn out more quickly and are more likely to leave their jobs.

That was quoted in *The West Australian* of Monday, 30 January 2023.

I note that the new minister wants students to take more ATAR subjects and push themselves towards better choices. Although this is a worthwhile sentiment, teachers will be needed to deliver the courses he is pushing students to undertake. This is no small task for the new minister. Predominantly, teacher workloads are the main disincentive for teachers remaining in the sector. Without assistance, teachers will continue to leave. Principals have come through an incredibly complicated and stressful few years with COVID and are still grappling with its impacts. In 2021, the Grattan Institute reported that 90 per cent of the participants surveyed—5 442 Australian teachers and leaders—said they did not have enough time to prepare effectively for classroom teaching. It has been well documented by the Productivity Commission that teachers spend 60 per cent of their time on administrative tasks and just 40 per cent on teaching. That is not good enough, Leader of the House. Teachers are facing —

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** You don't normally read verbatim, do you?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I have a lot to say in a short space of time.

*Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** We listened to the Premier's Statement in complete silence, and I think it behoves the government to do the same.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Cottesloe. Thank you, Leader of the House. There is no point of order, but the member for Roe, the now Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, will be heard in silence.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As I said, Leader of the House, I have a lot to say in a short space of time. Unlike the Premier, I will not be reading word for word, but there will be quite a bit of information provided for the Leader of the House's benefit!

Teachers are facing a growing number of issues in the classroom, and the feedback I have had from teachers who have left the profession is that those issues are the difference between staying and leaving. Workload is a major contributor and feeling undervalued is very predominant. That is something that is really affecting our teachers.

The increase in violence in schools is an alarming problem facing the new Minister for Education. This is not isolated to classrooms, but can find its source in many and varied situations outside the classroom that teachers are not equipped to handle. My concerns are also directed at departmental support for staff members who are victims of violent acts in classrooms. From the evidence I have heard and from what I have seen with many teachers, the support is not adequate when they have to face violent acts in our classrooms. I know of many teachers who have actually left the profession in the last year or two simply because of the lack of support from the department. That is something that needs to be taken into account. In some cases, support has been minimal or non-existent.

Over \$6.7 million was paid out to departmental staff for mental stress in 2020–21. Some of that may be COVID-related; however, the trend of these payouts is increasing, and the department needs to take responsibility. The previous Minister for Education and Training announced a raft of incentive packages that have been described as confusing; I will be asking questions over the year about the outcomes of those packages, because they came very late in the piece last year. We look forward to getting some information as to how successful those packages have been, especially in remote and regional communities.

As members know, last week there were 24 principal positions advertised on the Jobs WA website; of those, nine were regional. A particular challenge is the number of principals who are holding substantive positions. In 2022 there were 792, and this number seems to have been reasonably constant over the past four years. We have a merry-go-round of teachers and principals holding onto their positions when they are not actually at the school. They can be five or six years down the track from where they were, but unfortunately they are still holding that position. That creates a cascade of different teachers and principals not holding their substantive positions. Some of my smaller regional schools have had anything up to seven or eight principals in the space of two or three years because of this merry-go-round. That is a real disappointment to me.

Last year, the Premier said there would be career practitioners employed in 70 public schools in WA. I will be asking questions to see whether that target has been reached.

I refer to an article about truancy by Holly Thompson that appeared in WAtoday yesterday. The article refers to an Indigenous education officer who is very concerned.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The officer is very concerned about Indigenous children not coming to school and fewer people being employed to directly address the issue. My concern is that maybe we have a few too many people up on Royal Street and we need a few more Indigenous education officers out there addressing why these students are not at school. The article states —

The officer, who is not named to protect her job, said there had been a 30 per cent drop in education officer roles in the past few years, and it was hard to attract younger workers without career progression or a living wage, as there were not many full-time options.

...

The data shows that by year 10, Indigenous attendance rates last year dropped to 54 per cent—30 per cent lower than their non-Indigenous peers.

That is a real concern. Flowing on from that, the article quotes Shane Yardley as stating —

“There's nowhere near enough funding or resourcing going into engaging [Indigenous] students.”

...

SMYL Community College acting principal Shane Yardley works with young people who have disengaged or who are at-risk of disengaging from mainstream education.

“It's getting more and more difficult to get [Aboriginal education] workers. There are not enough of them in areas of need,” he said.

Tellingly, the article continues —

Yardley said new Education Minister Tony Buti appeared to be readying to focus on ATAR and university entry rates, rather than attendance and engagement.

“I think that's the wrong thing to be doing,” he said.

“Encouraging VET, certificate courses and other alternative pathways and ways to employment is where we would actually improve the lives of the Indigenous students and their families and improve things for the next [generation].”

I think those are telling comments by Shane Yardley, and I think it is something that the new Minister for Education needs to take heed of. The minister has brought up a scenario with ATAR students, which is fine, and in some ways I tend to agree with him on certain elements and in relation to university pathways, but the number of ATAR students has dropped to somewhere in the order of 32 per cent. It is important that we actually look at the other 68 per cent of students. What are their pathways? Where are they going? How can we support them? I understand what the Minister for Education is trying to do, but I worry that he is trying to distract us from some of the more important issues. We will see what happens this year through various questions.

I want to talk about our district offices in the regions, which have been relegated to minor points of contact for regional schools. The regional directors have very big areas to cover and it is very challenging for them to have direct contact with their principals, and some of them are new principals out in the regions. As far as I am concerned, we need to focus on places like Narrogin, where there used to be a very strong presence in the regional education sector and a lot of good mentoring came out of that regional office. It is now a challenge, because the regional education directors in wheatbelt regions, as the members for Central Wheatbelt and Moore know, have a massive area to cover. That is challenging.

While I am on the subject of gaps in resources, let us look at how the crumbling health system is affecting the education system. Children who are being referred to the public health system for an autism assessment are being told they will have to wait for two years before they can be assessed. That leaves parents floundering and wondering how they can best support their child or children over those two years. It means that their child might miss out on critical learning and therapies during their important formative years. We then have the shocking statistics that 5 000 children are on a waitlist to see a speech pathologist and 6 000 children are waiting to see a paediatrician. That is not good enough. We need a holistic approach to both health and education, especially in this early childhood sector. I know that the member for Central Wheatbelt, Hon Donna Faragher in the other place and I are very interested in what this government will do in the early childhood space.

I have mentioned this before. If a principal is going for a job, why would they look at a regional post if they have to pay an extra \$30 000 from their salary to rent a house? Why would they not just apply for a metropolitan job down the road? What is the incentive to apply for a regional principal position if there is one? I would be happy to hear of that incentive from the Premier or from the Minister for Education. That is a real challenge out in the regions. We have been told that a teacher is in front of every class, but I know of many schools that already have relief teachers filling gaps. The current education minister and the director general are papering over the cracks, saying that there is nothing to see here and that a teacher is in front of every class. I can tell members what: as the State School Teachers Union president pointed out, we actually need the right teacher in front of every class, and merging classes and grades is not the way to make the statement that a teacher is in front of every class.

Another area of concern is the School of Isolated and Distance Education. Some metropolitan members may not be aware that SIDE is now actually the largest school in the state. My understanding is that SIDE has nearly 6 000 students. In the first few days of the school year, we had a less than streamlined start, with SIDE’s ATAR students being left in the dark about their timetables and lessons. I saw on the SIDE website that the first three days were about getting computers and Moodle organised, and SIDE would look at timetabling as it went along. Straightaway, those ATAR students lost the first three days of the school year and had very few lessons in the second week as well. Many of those students are in regional areas. That has put them behind the eight ball by a week already, which is another area of concern for me.

On top of the education positions advertised, we have 38 TAFE lecturing positions advertised. Businesses have contacted me because their apprentices cannot access block training in a timely manner, so their trade certification is being held up, which no-one wants. These positions are in the traditional trade areas like electrical, light auto, heavy vehicle operation, civil construction and mining. It is no wonder that the private registered training organisation sector is gaining ground when the TAFE sector is unable to offer some of those courses.

I was slightly mystified by the new Minister for Training when she recently announced the \$2.9 million investment to attract TAFE lecturers to the Pilbara, Kimberley and Kalgoorlie. Even with a \$15 000 top incentive, we are talking about 193 lecturers. I am baffled by this number, and I am also baffled that the program does not include Carnarvon and some of our other TAFE places in the Gascoyne. I am sure the member for North West Central will enlighten us about that later this afternoon.

The money spent by the McGowan government in my electorate of Roe has been pitiful. Esperance Senior High School remains a high priority, and the community is heartily sick of hearing excuses from this government. The community has formed a subcommittee and it is working very hard to talk to the education minister and the Department of Education. We have a scenario in which the realisation of the state of the 1960s buildings of Esperance Senior High School is coming to the fore for the infrastructure division of the education department.



I have written to the new education minister, as have the community and the shire president, and I really hope that the minister takes that on board because the students of Esperance deserve better. Their results are fantastic, given the tough conditions in which they work, and I really hope the new minister takes that on board.

Before I close my contribution, I briefly mention that the Auditor General has been busy in the last few years reporting on this government, and I would like to congratulate the Auditor General for her work. The Auditor General's overview of the *Financial audit results: state government 2021–22* states —

Regrettably, fatigue and a lack of attention to some of the core foundations of public financial management remain prevalent.

The report found an increase from 17 to 21 in serious deficiencies that required a qualified opinion on financial statements and/or controls. There were 35 separate qualification matters with the Auditor General, and it is anticipated that once the audit is completed, there will be 41 qualification matters across 24 state entities. The only response we have had from the government is to celebrate the fact that the Auditor General has improved access to government information. It is no surprise that there is little response to the Auditor General's report. This is typical of this government: deflect, attack and deny. I commend the Auditor General on the fantastic work that she has done in attempting to hold this government to account.

This McGowan government looks tired. A very real feeling of autocratic fatigue is emerging. Too much power makes for a tired Premier.

*Amendment to Question*

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** As a result of the systemic failures of this government and the real concerns of Western Australian people in relation to the education system, I move —

That the following words be added after “noted” —

and that this house condemns the McGowan Labor government's failure to invest in the health and wellbeing of our state's education system, forcing teachers into early retirement and leaving both students and teachers lacking support

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt)** [3.27 pm]: I rise to speak to the amendment, which I am sure we will get a copy of shortly, and I commend the member for Roe and Deputy Leader of the Opposition's contribution. He has had a keen interest in education since he came to this place. He has a very good understanding of the challenges faced by not only the teaching, administrative and department staff, but also parents and families as they seek to make sure their children can access the best education possible. Without doubt, challenges are impacting the system, and it seems incongruent in a state as wealthy as Western Australia that we have challenges in what I would call one of the two basic delivery areas for a state government: education and health. It is a truism to say, particularly in regional areas, that people will leave communities if they cannot get access to decent education for their kids, for themselves or for their employees, or if they cannot access good health services.

They are the two deal-breakers for a majority of families, particularly when they live in regional Western Australia and do not have ready access to what others may take for granted. The system in the metropolitan area is not perfect, but there are some compounding challenges for those who live in regional, remote and rural areas of Western Australia, and that is something I would like to focus on.

I come back to the underlying issue, which is that education and health are basic service areas for governments to deliver. The two are intertwined, as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition pointed out. A passion and focus of mine, particularly from an electorate perspective, not only when I was a member for the Agricultural Region but also as the member for Central Wheatbelt, has been to try to improve access to education services in my electorate right from the very beginning—from child care and early education services right through to university, TAFE and our vocational education and training system. I have been involved in a number of projects and programs and I also formulated policy when we were in government to deliver on some of the things that we believed would deliver a better outcome for communities, not only in the wheatbelt, but also right across regional areas.

This government made its mark on coming to power in 2017 by launching an all-out attack on regional education. That is how Labor chose to start its tenure in government. I do not say that lightly. It was absolutely a misstep and it still underlies people's views about how this government goes about education in regional Western Australia. I am sure the member for North West Central can speak about the cuts to Schools of the Air, as she has had a long affiliation with that organisation. Those cuts were eventually reversed because the community would not tolerate them. The government also refused to fund Moora Residential College when it was clear that that decision would significantly impact access to education in that part of the world. I must say that that facility is nearly full and providing an amazing service for that community and the regional district, but this government refused to fund it; we had to go to the federal government for funding to make sure that those upgrades were delivered. A raft of other cuts to the education system made things very challenging, including to the boarding away from home allowance. That has not been rectified. The boarding away from home allowance is often dismissed or referred to in this Parliament by members opposite as something that is there to support rich families who want to send their kids to

private boarding schools. That could not be further from the truth. This happens when people have no other option—they run out of education for their kids because there is no school within their perimeter, region or district that they can send their children to for those later years. They have to send them somewhere else. They may send them to Perth for a private school education, but in many cases they send them to a senior high school somewhere down the road and they board at a residential college.

When we were in government, we invested significantly in residential colleges to make them attractive and appropriate for parents who were forced to send their kids away to live and get educated. Alongside that investment in residential colleges across the state, we upgraded the senior high schools. No parent should walk into a facility and feel like they are making a second choice or a choice that is not good enough for their kids. I can tell members that on coming to government, we went to visit Merredin Residential College, which had not seen a lick of paint since it was built in the 1970s. If I had kids, I would never have felt comfortable sending them there. I would have turned around and said that I was going to either leave town and put myself under considerable financial pressure, or find a way for them to go to school somewhere else, because it was simply not what most people would find acceptable for their kids to live in. As a result, we had a significant program of investment through royalties for regions to upgrade residential colleges, including the Esperance facility in the electorate of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—an amazing facility—and Merredin Residential College. There are a number of residential colleges across the regions. Moora Residential College was the one that achieved great infamy, but it is still there serving that region. However, this government decided not to invest in it.

I am talking about this at length but investment in our schools, residential colleges, early childhood centres and the higher education sector in regional Western Australia is important because everyone has a right to an education. As the Premier said in his speech, the way to lift communities is by providing opportunities to families who would otherwise not have them. However, if education is not accessible or affordable in a local area, we are not doing our best in a state that has a \$6 billion surplus because we are not serving the best interests of those communities. The infrastructure is as important as the people we pay to deliver that education to our kids, whether they are early childhood educators, primary school teachers, administrators, deputy principals or principals. All that work compounds to make sure that our kids get the best educational outcomes possible.

Our government made a significant commitment to improve infrastructure in the regions. There was more to do, but we made a very good start. I am very proud when I walk into a school like Northam Senior High School and see a state-of-the-art arts facility that allows that school to offer some fantastic opportunities, whether in learning how to operate state-of-the-art new technology, manage a theatre, run dance classes or do all the behind-the-scenes work. They hold music classes at this facility, and the community can use the facility as well. It is absolutely amazing. We have not seen that kind of transformative investment from this government, as opposed to just patching things up. When I say “patching things up”, I think of schools like Hedland Senior High School, which our side of politics has raised again and again. It is not good enough to just patch over some of the damage. Wherever kids are, they deserve the best infrastructure. If the government cannot fix a school in a town like Port Hedland, where the wealth is generated, then its priorities are wrong.

I wanted to also talk about another challenge. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition talked about attracting and retaining staff. This was also a challenge when we came to government in 2008. Forgive me for the history lesson, but it comes around quickly, and the lessons have not been learnt by this government. The challenge that we faced when we came to government in 2008 was that there had been no investment in housing or land packages. That included investment in Government Regional Officers' Housing. Our government had a significant and expansive program to deliver 400 GROH properties, and we achieved that before 2013. This is a lesson for the ministers opposite, and particularly the new Minister for Community Services: we also had a program that sat alongside that to invest in housing for non-government organisations. If the government will not give those organisations the money to enable them to deliver services to support our communities, such as speech pathology and other wraparound services, it should at least provide some funding for affordable housing so that they can attract and retain staff in those communities. We did that too. This government, this Minister for Housing and this Premier talk ad nauseam about their investment in the housing sector and what they are aspiring to do, but they have actually not delivered anything at this point. We had significantly less in the bank when we were making these investments, but we prioritised them. We said that it was important. We asked: how do we attract a teacher, a nurse, a speech pathologist or any kind of public servant or community service organisation without having appropriate housing? We hit our commitment. A media statement was put out on 31 October 2013 about an 18-unit complex in Halls Creek, which included the 400<sup>th</sup> GROH home for regional Western Australia. That was in addition to the cost-of-living work we had done to incentivise people to move to the regions. That was not just for teachers, but teachers were included. We had a “housing our workers” initiative through the GROH program, and we delivered almost before the end of our first term of government. I am yet to see anything like that under this government, other than promises and press conferences at which the minister earnestly says that he is doing his best. Meanwhile, we are really struggling to fill those teaching positions.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was quite right. When I spoke to the local governments in every single one of the communities that I visited in my electorate at the end of last year for school graduations, they said that they

had had conversations with the Department of Education and various other government agencies about building houses. These are local governments that do not have big rate bases. My biggest community is Northam. After that, we get down to communities that have maybe 200 or 250 people in them if they are lucky. Some of those communities are big ratepayers because they have land, but many of them are not. The government is abrogating its responsibility to build houses and open up land, or at least incentivise the private sector or the local government sector to invest in that by removing some of the expense of putting in the headworks. Last year, the opposition made a commitment that if we had the opportunity—we looked to the government to match it with its \$6 billion surplus—there should be an ongoing headworks program that incentivises and makes it easier for investment in regional communities, whether through the residential, commercial or business sectors. Take out the barriers that we know make it more difficult for houses to be built and for local government to consider that as something that is real. If the government will not do that, it will have to build them itself, and that is what the state government is failing to do.

We have the challenge of having a significant number of teacher vacancies. Programs have been initiated and an incentive program has been introduced for various schools to add bonuses to attract and retain staff, but that just skews the market. Wyalkatchem District High School is on the list that was announced at the end of last year to attract staff because it has obviously had a number of vacancies over time that put it into that category. That school has been put on the program. Tannin is not more than 25 minutes down the road, and Cunderdin is the same distance in the opposite direction. There is also Kellerberrin and Koorda to the north. All those communities are probably saying, “Hang on. We’ve got great staff. How do we reward them?” It is not a perfect system. I have been in government and had to make decisions like that. Every policy has adverse outcomes. I am not sure whether this one was very well thought through. In fact, given that the opposition has been asking quite consistently for the Minister for Education to say whether we will have a teacher in front of every classroom, and we have not had a great response from the minister, I believe that the government thought up this program to prove that it was doing everything it could to put a teacher in front of every classroom. I think every relief teacher in regional Western Australia has been called back in, including those who have just recently retired. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition told me about someone in Darkan who retired and was called directly back in for the new year. That is great and it is a wonderful opportunity for them to stay in the workforce, but it is not growing or creating new opportunities or dealing with the systemic challenge that we have, which is that there simply are not enough teachers in the market.

Before I get to the end of my contribution, I want to quickly recap my conversation up to this point. There has been an opportunity for this government to do a few things to improve, particularly around housing. That is something the opposition has been pursuing for some time. I talked about the boarding away from home allowance. The Nationals WA went to the last election with a comprehensive policy about how that could be restored, particularly in light of the cost-of-living challenges we are facing now that have only escalated since March 2021. The government would do well to look at how it might be able to put that in place to reduce some of pressures on those families who do not have any other choice.

Another thing I want to talk about very briefly in the five minutes I have left is that the government could be engaging more on early childhood education. The Productivity Commission has just announced an inquiry into early childhood education. I will be making a submission to it, and I note that the opposition shadow spokesperson will do the same. When I first started as a member of Parliament, we had a very patchwork network of small but very committed volunteer-run childcare centres across my electorate and the wheatbelt in particular. They were not sustainable and they caused an enormous amount of grief for the volunteers who ran them. As a consequence, we stepped back when the federal government changed its regulatory environment and looked at how we might better deliver a service that was sustainable for our smaller communities, because without child care, early education and early education opportunities for our kids, we are doing them a huge disservice. The Regional Early Education and Development model came out of work done by some very committed people. It was initially funded through a Lotterywest grant and it was one of those policies that survived the change of government. It was good enough to get through. I commend the government for continuing to support it, but what is needed now is additional support to make sure that we escalate those issues and the wins that we have had through that process up to the federal Minister for Early Childhood Education. Ann Aly, the federal minister, was at the conference held by REED earlier in the year. There were so many learnings to be taken from that process. We must make sure that the federal government understands the opportunities that are there, having had a homegrown model that is now not only providing early education opportunities for kids, but also employment opportunities and higher education opportunities. It has given a greater level of respect and opportunities for people coming through who work in that system. We need to pay early childhood educators more. I do not think anyone here would not agree with that. That is a federal government responsibility, but I will join hands with whoever in this Parliament wants to say that we need to do more on that front, because that early education piece is critical. Not enough of our kids, particularly in Western Australia, get the opportunity to participate in that. I am willing to work with anyone in the government or non-government sector about progressing those opportunities and taking the learnings that are evidence based and have been done incredibly well, and applying them beyond the wheatbelt where it exists at the moment, because it is too good to pass up that opportunity. The pipeline of education needs to continue from the very earliest moments of life through to university and higher education. I was very pleased to see that the federal government, before it changed, funded a wheatbelt

university centre for our communities. That means there is support for university students undertaking degrees in the wheatbelt where we have a significantly lower number of university students compared with the metropolitan area or broader Western Australia undertaking university education. I think the Minister for Education is interested in that. He has made comments around ATAR and the pursuit of education through university degrees. We need to make sure that these university centres are supported through not only the federal government, but also the state government.

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I have one minute. It is called Lumen Wheatbelt University Centre. It is a permutation of the Geraldton and Albany models that suits the wheatbelt, and it is just getting started. I congratulate Regional Development Australia Wheatbelt, and Mandy and “Tuck”, the chair, for pursuing it. It is an amazing opportunity for our students. It is a lifelong education opportunity where there are very limited opportunities for support in our regional areas, particularly in the wheatbelt and central wheatbelt.

I urge this government to do better when it comes to investing in education and stop just papering over the cracks. In a government that has a \$6 billion surplus, we have to see a better outcome across the board, whether it is early, primary, secondary or higher education.

**MS M. BEARD (North West Central)** [3.47 pm]: I rise to talk further on the comments that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Central Wheatbelt made about education. Clearly, my conversation on education today will be around the northern part of the state. I have no doubt that everyone here is very aware of some of the challenges that everyone is facing throughout the north west. This comes back to education every time. Every time we read on the front page of the paper what is going on in those towns and what is happening in those communities, it can be traced back to education.

It is clear that education is the key to change. It is what we need to turn the dial and change the lives of the young people in those towns and communities. It will improve their behaviour and quality of life. It will create employment opportunities, their self-esteem will return and they will have a sense of belonging, whereas at the moment a lot of them just travel the streets daily and at night, and there is no clear direction for them.

I would also like to take a second to commend and thank all the really hardworking and dedicated people that we have in the region. There are massive deficits across the board, particularly in specialist teaching. I will share an example. There is no cookie-cutter approach. I went through Mt Magnet, Cue and Meekatharra a few months ago and one of the teachers invited me to come on the bus that takes the kids to school in the morning. I said, “Sure, fantastic.” He said, “Wear your runners.” I expected an orange school bus with wheels to turn up, but the school bus in that town involves the principal walking along the streets of the town with his two dogs. By the time we got to the schools, we had 15 or 20 kids following. That is the school bus in their town. It is an example of educators in different places making different rules and taking different kinds of actions to make kids want to go to school. That was a really innovative experience for me. I am just highlighting that there is no cookie-cutter approach for these schools.

Like the member for Central Wheatbelt, I began and finished my primary school education with Schools of the Air, which is well known. For me, it is a critical arm of education that cannot be underestimated. My daughter has just gone away to school in Perth. A number of girls in her cohort were in different years at Schools of the Air. Without that, they would have had to leave their home a lot earlier than they have. It keeps people in the region and educates people in their own environment. The point of that is that there are many ways to learn. In my electorate, there is no one-size-fits-all solution. We need alternative pathways. We have a large number of disengaged children and many very young children. I know that the mantra amongst all members is that parents need to stand up and be held accountable. In many instances, the parents of the kids who are not being parented have never learnt to be parents. They never had parents; they never had role models. To expect them to stand up and be parents who instil rules in these kids and give them guidance is drawing a long bow. I think we need to instil education in these young kids. We need to give them pathways. I spoke to an eight-year-old on the street recently when I was in the north and I asked him why he was not at school. He said that it was because when he went to school, he could not understand anything. What he was really saying was that he had not been to school much throughout the 12-month period. If all the days that he had spent at school were added up, he probably would have been in a year 1 space. He went into a classroom and he had no idea what anyone was speaking about. Then he rebelled; he threw a chair through the window. He told me that. There are reasons why. This is what we need to look at when I say that we need to be innovative in managing these situations and catering education for this cohort of kids. The second chance school in Carnarvon, where some of these kids went, is no longer operational. The school up there is looking for another space where it can cater for these children who do not fit into the mainstream school. They have not been to school at all. One little boy had gone for his second day and I think he was in grade 2. That is where we are at. We need to look at ways to find spaces for these children. I urge the government to help local shires and communities to make these models fit within their requirements.

Truancy is another issue that has dropped off. We do not have truancy patrols in the regions like we used to have 10 years ago. Local people have made the observation that a lot of regional managers in many agencies have been removed from the Gascoyne and have been centralised in the midwest in Geraldton, which is a 500-kilometre drive

away. If they are centralised in Perth, it is 1 000 kilometres, and if they are in Exmouth, it is even further; it is another 500 kilometres. That makes it really cumbersome for people to make decisions on the ground. Education is one part of it. Education clearly needs the support of child protection and housing. There needs to be an all-of-government approach, which the Premier mentioned today. Education is linked strongly to all these different agencies that I have just mentioned.

There is overcrowding in housing. I spoke to a person who used to collect these children and take them to school. They are too afraid to go now because their parents are saying that they do not need to go to school. They are getting embroiled in these discussions with the parents of the children, who are not encouraging them to go to school, so the children are confused. There are clearly very specific situations in different towns, and each community will have its own set of circumstances. I urge the government to be open to whatever that might be. Some kids do not want to sit down in a classroom. At one of the schools, they played skittles on the oval and the kids eventually learnt to count. That is a generic example. They had never sat in a classroom, hence the need for diverse ways of learning.

Some of the disengaged children in the north particularly and, I imagine, throughout the state who are in need of intervention also need specialist services. Some of them have foetal alcohol spectrum disorder, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder or autism but it has not been diagnosed. I spoke to a foster carer the other day who said that she had been looking after a child since she was very small and the child is now 16. She has recently found out that the child has FASD. The foster carer has now been skilled in how and why the child reacts. She knows not to intervene or pull the child into line when she is highly activated. She did not know that for a long time. We have a lot of work to do to help the people on the ground, as well as the displaced children.

I also observed that a lot of these kids were suspended last year. I had great conversations with them on the street. I asked them what they were doing and they said that they had been suspended. I asked them how long they had been suspended for and they said that they were not sure but they were just suspended. My first thought was that if they were suspended, they should be in some form of care. They were being dropped at home but they were not staying there; they were roaming the street for 10 days. There needs to be an alternative for children who are disruptive for lots of reasons so that they are in some form of education, whatever that might look like and at whatever level it might be. The Edmund Rice Education Australia second chance school, which is closed, was a good example of a school that dealt with some of the issues of children not having anywhere to go.

As members have mentioned, teacher support is critical. The safety of teachers is absolutely critical. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition touched on the recent announcement about TAFE. A person said to me on the weekend that they did not understand why the incentive was not extended to the Exmouth and Carnarvon TAFEs that sit under Central Regional TAFE. They said to me that before Christmas, lecturers were offered incentives to leave—I understand a couple did—and that this year fee-free courses are being promoted. Their question was: what does that mean? They wanted to know whether they will have limited lecturers to meet an increased demand, because incentives are again being offered for lecturers to work in the area. This has all happened in five months. Their question to me was: where will that leave education at the Carnarvon and Exmouth campuses and what is their future, given that this seems to be a conflict, as the agriculture sector is also looking at implementing some courses? That is something to consider for TAFE lecturers and some of the people on the ground. It has raised questions for them. This is really important, because we want to try to bring young people through. Some may be doing a trade, but some who are not going to high school may need to do alternative courses, so we need to make them available for those young people.

In summary, this is nothing new, but a whole-of-government approach is needed, as the Premier said today. Education is crucially important. The children in Banksia Hill Detention Centre and those who come out of Banksia Hill are not getting that opportunity. I suggest that a number of them probably have not been to school for a long period. They also do not have the benefit that we have—being a parent who can be a role model and explain to their children that this is the pathway they need to take. We need to find alternative ways, and that is something that I would love to work together with people on. It is crucially important, and I think we need to work together, from every aspect and on every side of politics, to try to make a small change. I acknowledge that some plans are already in place and are definitely a positive step forward, but they will not help the immediate cohort, as it will take time for those plans to filter down, so we need to find other ways.

The safe house option is a very good start. These children do not go to sleep at night, so when we say, “Oh, you have just woken up,” and it is 11 in the morning, that is because they were on the street at four in the morning. Therefore, having a safe space for the police to take these children to between 11.00 pm and 7.00 am really is important. I called the 24/7 helpline for a lady last Friday night when I was at home. It was a complicated situation, and on Monday she was none the wiser. Therefore, we do need localised safe spaces and we need to cater for these kids during the night when they are running the streets. They will at least get a sleep. They will at least have breakfast, and hopefully we can get them to school the next day. That will go a long way towards helping the children we see, in the north particularly, who are wandering around aimlessly. A lot of them are hungry as well, and I know that when my kids are hungry they are not happy campers.

I will wrap this up by reiterating what the member for Central Wheatbelt said regarding early intervention. Intervention in some of these towns, I believe, should happen very early. If we can intervene with alternative methods

in the short term, it will need to carry through to the primary school years for some of these children. It will not be easy; there is no silver bullet. I encourage the government to see whether there are other ways, within each of these communities, to engage that initial group of children at that end of the scale who are at the next stage of going through the justice system. I think that will go a long way towards reducing some of the dysfunction that the children are suffering right now.

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Education)** [4.02 pm]: Picture this: it is day one, 1 February 2023. There are 481 000 students in our state and non-government schools. There are 831 public schools, and if we add the non-government schools, it takes the number to over 1 000. There are about 321 000 students in public schools and there is a teacher in front of every classroom. This is not what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition tried to tell journalists. He tried to tell them that every class did not have a teacher in front of them; they did! It was very disappointing that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would go out and deliberately mislead journalists about the state of public education on day one, 1 February 2023. We had a teacher in front of every classroom, an amazing recruitment system, and high-quality teachers, principals, gardeners, cleaners, allied professionals, Aboriginal and Islander education officers and education assistants to ensure that this great machinery of public education in Western Australia could go ahead. That is what we had, and we achieved what we set out to do. This is not what the member said to a certain journalist—that there was not a teacher in front of every classroom—without providing the journalist with any examples, may I add. There was a teacher in front of every classroom, and we had the additional challenge of the flooding in the Kimberley, and I will get on to that shortly.

As the Premier mentioned in the Premier's Statement today, we also had five new schools opening on day one: four new primary schools and one secondary school. There has been an immense increase in infrastructure in the education system since this government was elected in 2017. With regard to the four new primary schools, they are from kindergarten to year 6 and, as I said, there is one new secondary school. Despite the pressures we have in the infrastructure construction market, we were able to open those schools. I can assure the Deputy Leader of the Opposition that those schools are state-of-the-art facilities. I went to the opening of the Landsdale Gardens Primary School, which the member was invited to but had other commitments. Had he been there, he would also have been very proud to be part of the opening ceremony of a new school that will educate our next generation. Therefore, let me just repeat: about 481 000 students came back to school on day one, 1 February 2023; 321 000 are in public schools; and there was a teacher in front of every classroom.

I would have thought that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would know how recruitment happens in the education system. As members know, there is a large number of independent public schools, and just because there may be a vacancy on a website, it does not mean that there will not be a teacher for that position. As the member very well knows, there are people who hold a permanent position and they may go off to another school to help out or go on holiday, so that position is then filled on a temporary or casual basis. It does not mean that there will not be a teacher in front of every classroom. The member knows that. He very well knows that. Even the member for Central Wheatbelt knows that. She talked about not enough teachers being available. There were enough teachers. This happens every year. It is not surprising. Teachers move positions. We should also welcome the 400 new graduates who commenced teaching this year. I wish the Deputy Leader of the Opposition would champion our public education system.

The member for North West Central said that she wants to work with anyone who is interested in helping our students. Then work with us! All the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did through January was try to run down our education system by saying that there was not going to be enough teachers. I must say, I had a little chuckle when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition cited the unions. This is from the individual who, when we were debating the legislation regarding the independent monitor to oversee the recommendations of the royal commission into Crown, said that the former High Court judge, whom we wanted to appoint to that position, should be banned from that position because he had been a union official—even though they had been a High Court judge! When we were discussing the protected entertainment precincts, or PEP, legislation, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition brought in an amendment to try to overrule the clause that would allow freedom of association and freedom of industrial action in one of those precincts. Therefore, one thing that the member should not be doing is quoting the union when he hates unions. It is quite clear that he hates unions, because he would ban a High Court judge who had been a union official from being an independent monitor. I mean, that is just amazing. Bob Hawke was a union official; does the member think he should have been banned from being Prime Minister of Australia? Let us continue.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the member for North West Central have a choice over the next two years. They can work with us—as the member for North West Central said she wants to—to ensure that we develop the best possible system for our children and students or they can continue to criticise and drive down the appeal of teaching as a profession. After hearing all the things that they say are wrong in the education system, why would anyone want to be a teacher? Would they not rather champion teaching as a great profession and the measures that we have put in place to ensure that we have enough teachers? I will go through some of those in a minute. Let me repeat that on day one we had 24 500 teachers teaching in the public education system. We also had 413 full-time school psychologists.

The amendment moved by the member for Roe refers to the wellbeing of the state's education system, so I assume that includes the students. The government has put significant money into increasing the number of school psychologists for students. Over 50 000 teachers are registered, which is an increase of about 3.1 per cent from last year. Four thousand new graduates have started teaching. People have come from the Teach for Australia program. It is a great program, as I am sure the member for Roe would agree. If we break that down, the 481 000 students who attended on day one was an increase of 1.1 per cent, or 5 100, from the same time last year. Of the 321 400 students who were in the public school system for that day, 23 300 were kindergarten students; 178 700 were in compulsory primary school; and 119 400 were secondary students. I do not have the exact number, but around 160 000 students were in the non-government system on that day, which included just over 10 000 kindergarten students; 68 000 students in compulsory primary school; and 81 800 in secondary school. As I said, there were five new public schools and five schools that commenced as independent public schools on day one, bringing the total to 624.

The member for Roe likes to selectively use the union that he hates—because he hates unions. Does he agree with the secretary of the State School Teachers' Union of WA about independent public schools?

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** I am still considering my position. I've got the report.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** What do you mean? How long have you been the education spokesman—two years?

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** I'll tell you what I don't agree with. The School of Isolated and Distance Education didn't fire a shot.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I have been going for only four or five minutes. Give me a break!

The member for Roe is still considering his position on IPS. He is on the side that brought it in. Did he know that? Now he is still considering his position on the policy that his party brought in; is that it? He has been a spokesperson for two years and he does not have a position on IPS. That is amazing. The alternative minister for education in Western Australia, who has been in the position for two years, still does not have a position on IPS, which is a policy that his party brought in. The fact is that we have gone from a very small number of independent public schools in the first year to the 624 we have now. That shows that principals and teachers are voting with their feet on that matter. However, we will wait for the member's considered position on that.

Madora Bay Primary School, Wellard Village Primary School, Dayton Primary School and Landsdale Gardens Primary School were open on day one. I attended a smoking ceremony at Piara Waters Senior High School on day one, and what an unbelievably incredible school it is. There are only year 7s there at the moment, but each year the number of year levels will increase. It is an amazing facility. Considerable works have been done on stage 2 projects and there have been minor works on other school projects. The government is investing in the infrastructure of our education system by building new schools and ensuring that the current schools receive the maintenance they deserve. We are investing in our students. We are ensuring that there is high-quality teaching every day in front of our classes. I congratulate the teachers of Western Australia. The situation with COVID-19 in Western Australia over the past two to three years has been very challenging. This year is the first year in three years that the COVID measures did not need to be put in place to the degree they have been in the past. Teachers, principals, allied professionals, education assistants, Aboriginal and Islander education officers, cleaners and gardeners—all the people who make our schools what they are today—have done it tough over the past couple of years and I congratulate them and wish them well for this year.

Let us turn to the Kimberley. Has the member for Roe been up there to check out the schools?

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** No, I have not been there in the past few weeks, but I will be in the weeks ahead.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** The member probably does not want to go there at the moment; it is very, very hot!

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** The member for Central Wheatbelt has been up there.

**Dr A.D. BUTI:** I know. It has faced a one-in-100-year flood. The way the Department of Education responded was exemplary. Education facilities have been used by emergency service personnel and the Army. The Fitzroy Valley District High School was used by the Army. The Broome school camp site was used by the Department of Fire and Emergency Services. It is very fortunate that the communities where most of the schools are situated are on higher land so damage to schools has not been as severe as in other parts of the infrastructure layer of the communities. However, it has been a mammoth exercise. The Minister for Transport mentioned that the Fitzroy River Bridge is down, which has made it difficult for teachers to get across to teach.

Yesterday I visited the Bayulu Remote Community School, which is on the east side of the river. Up until this week, the teachers were being helicoptered over every day. Now they are helicoptered over on the Monday morning and stay at the Fitzroy River Lodge. On the weekends, they go back to the west side and their homes in Fitzroy Crossing. It was very interesting to visit the Bayulu Remote Community School. It was the first school established on a pastoral station. It was established in 1957 in a cave on the side of the hill on Gogo station. Members have probably heard of it. We met an elder called Andy yesterday who showed me a photograph taken in the school administration block of him as a young boy in 1972 when Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon visited the community. There

he was, very proud to see the royal family there in that little community. The way the teachers, the principal and Paul Bridge from the education department have responded in the Kimberley has been amazing. When students have not been able to get back to their communities, they have been accommodated in other schools under section 24 of the act.

The government is doing a lot in the education field. It has spent considerable money ensuring high-quality teaching and also infrastructure build so that students can enjoy a nice environment in which to learn each day from high-quality teachers. Obviously, the government will oppose this silly amendment that the opposition has moved.

*Division*

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Ms R.S. Stephens) casting her vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (6)

Ms M.J. Davies	Mr R.S. Love	Mr P.J. Rundle
Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam	Ms M. Beard ( <i>Teller</i> )

Noes (46)

Mr S.N. Aubrey	Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr D.R. Michael	Ms J.J. Shaw
Mr G. Baker	Ms J.L. Hanns	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Ms R.S. Stephens
Ms L.L. Baker	Mr T.J. Healy	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms J.M.C. Stojkovski
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr M. Hughes	Ms L.A. Munday	Dr K. Stratton
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Ms C.M. Collins	Mr H.T. Jones	Mr P. Papalia	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr R.H. Cook	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr P.C. Tinley
Ms L. Dalton	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mr D.T. Punch	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Ms D.G. D'Anna	Ms A.E. Kent	Mr J.R. Quigley	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr M.J. Folkard	Dr J. Krishnan	Ms R. Saffioti	Ms C.M. Rowe ( <i>Teller</i> )
Ms K.E. Giddens	Mr P. Lilburne	Ms A. Sanderson	
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mr D.A.E. Scaife	

Amendment thus negatived.

*Consideration Resumed*

**MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands)** [4.24 pm]: May I start by saying how absolutely fantastic it is to be back in this Parliament again this year. I look forward to what it may hold for everyone and congratulate all the members who have been promoted.

The year 2022 was challenging for my electorate. We have three major infrastructure projects going on in my electorate that have tried the patience of many of my constituents, as members could well imagine. We cannot move that much dirt and not get it under people's nails sometimes. I have had to channel many issues through to various ministers. The three projects include the Tonkin Highway gap project, which is massive. I share that with the members for Belmont and Bassendean; we are in a three-way on that. There is also the development of Morley train station, which I share with the Minister for Health and the member for Bassendean, but it is squarely in my electorate, and of course the Bayswater train station redevelopment, which impacts not only Bayswater, but also a lot of my electorate. These are massive projects that will take years to finish, even though progress on most of them has been pretty quick. I thank my electorate so much for its perseverance and patience. As I said, there is a lot of dirt digging and disruption, and my constituents have to deal with all of it. I am proud to be their member and to represent them in this Parliament.

The year 2022 was a watershed year for me. I studied WA's contemporary industry profile in order to identify industries that I could support that met my personal and professional ethical positions while still delivering on jobs and industry diversification, particularly STEM and R&D, while tackling climate change and food security and achieving improved animal welfare outcomes. Members might think about that list and just say, "She's joking; there's absolutely no way you can find such an industry. It would be impossible to match that profile. Lisa, your expectations are too high. Go and sit down." Well, I do not give up. I knew there must be a solution if I lifted my gaze from local industry to look globally at what was happening around the world. Sure enough, I found the sector profile that delivers on all my parameters—the rapidly growing alternative protein sector. I have studied examples in the United States, the United Kingdom, the Asia-Pacific, Australia and Italy. My studies included meetings with the amazing Ari Nessel, the founder and president of Food Solutions Action in California. He is a remarkable individual who is doing amazing work to promote alternative meat products in America.

I also met with Paul Shapiro and his vice-president, Doni, from the Better Meat Co. Wildtype makes salmon out of a tiny salmon cell. They have been deriving cells from the one salmon for over six years to produce cultivated salmon. It does not involve the death of any animal, fish or otherwise, and it is ready to be sold in five-star restaurants. It is an amazing product. Aryé Elfenbein is the co-founder of Wildtype. Sabina Vyas is the senior director of input



strategies at the Plant Based Foods Association. I met with Miyoko Schinner, who will I talk about again later. She is an outstanding businesswoman, who is in the *Forbes* top 50 richest woman over 50 in America. She is a remarkable woman who started a business called Miyoko's Creamery when she was aged 64. She is a dynamo.

The others included a group called AMPS Innovation, which is a trade coalition for US-based cultivated meats and includes David Kay from Upside Foods, Kati Karotki from New Age Eats, Patricia Bubner, PhD, and her partner, Gabriel Levesque-Tremblay from Orbillion, who make cellular meats of exotic animals such as bison. There were others, but these people are groundbreaking in this sector—truly remarkable individuals.

I was invited to attend a global summit on food security in Italy at the end of last year. This global summit, which was run by Edible Planet Ventures, introduced me to 140 experts from around the world—experts in science, research, farming, regeneration and animal welfare. I was the only elected member of Parliament from around the world who was invited to attend this forum, and I have to tell members, it was revolutionary for me. It has changed my life and it has made me lift my gaze from some of the negativity I get in this chamber and from some of the more conservative groups that question the development of this in the context of climate change and food security. It has made me understand that I am, indeed, supporting the right industry. The massive learning curve that I used to educate myself on the impact of climate change included how it relates to global food security, the breadth and scope of alternative proteins and the solutions that this industry holds to address the following facts, and I do state the facts.

In 2050, it is going to be impossible for the world to produce enough animal-based protein to sustain a predicted population of nine billion people. This is not fantasy; this is fact. We will not be able to feed the world by 2050. It is really hard to have this conversation in Australia because we have a lot of land and a lot of food, but believe you me, if members lift their gaze from what is happening on our doorstep and look overseas, they will understand the critical nature of food security and climate change. Agricultural expansion is driving 90 per cent of deforestation across the globe, including 49.6 per cent from the expansion of cropland and 38.5 per cent from livestock grazing.

I refer to an article by George Monbiot that appeared in *The Guardian* of 1 February this year, just a few days ago. It states —

Already, 60% of the mammals on Earth by weight are livestock. Humans account for 36%, wild mammals for just 4%. Of birds, poultry make up 71%, wild species only 29%. While the human population is growing at 1% a year, the livestock population is growing at 2.4%.

Yet we still will not meet that target of feeding the world in 2050; we would have to quadruple that growth rate. It is an impossible target. The article continues —

Global average meat consumption per person is 43kg a year, but swiftly heading towards the UK level of 82kg.

That is massive. It continues —

So, if you don't like the new technologies, what solution do you propose? I keep asking, and the response is either furious or evasive.

Let us look at the energy industry, which in many respects has borne the brunt of climate change strategies and tactics. I understand why that has happened; however, if we look at the facts, climate change from food production is actually a far greater problem. Governments globally simply do not want to talk about it, because it is very, very difficult to have that conversation. Animal-based foods as they exist now bear a huge responsibility for global climate change.

Going back to the energy system, the Monbiot article continues —

It's as if we were urging people to burn less fossil fuel without offering a replacement: no solar, wind, geothermal or nuclear power. This issue is just as urgent, arguably even more so, as livestock farming attacks every Earth system. It's the primary agent of habitat destruction and wildlife loss. It's causing riverside and dead zones at sea. It generates more greenhouse gas emissions than all the world's transport. It sprawls across vast tracts of the planet, inflicting massive carbon and ecological opportunity costs. Both historically and currently, livestock farming is probably the world's most powerful agent of colonial land grabbing and the displacement of Indigenous people. Meat is consuming the planet.

Substitutes for animal products can greatly reduce this damage. They can allow vast areas to be returned to dispossessed people and the ecosystems they defended.

The first cell-cultured meat recently gained regulatory approval in the United States.

That is chicken; chicken has received unconditional FDA approval in America and is now able to be put on menus all across America, and it is poised to expand beyond there very quickly. It joins Singapore in having the first cultured meat accepted and ready for distribution and consumption.

I would like to talk a bit about exactly what I mean by the alternative protein sector. At the outset, I think it is important to understand what that covers and does not cover. In short, alternative proteins are either plant-based

or food technology alternatives to animal protein. I often get asked: “Is it as good?” Protein is protein. Animal-based protein will supply all the amino acids and other stuff that your body needs to be healthy. Plant-based protein is a little more complicated; not all plants produce the right type of amino acids to nurture your body the way it should be, so we have to combine some of them. There is a massive list, including buckwheat, lentils, peas and lupins—a very long list of plant-based protein that will give people everything their bodies need.

What is included under the heading of “alternative protein”? It includes traditional plant-based proteins processed into different forms, basically trying to resemble traditional meats and dairy products. It also picks up microproteins, micro-algae and cultivated meat, and I will talk a bit more about that. I have left this one until last, because it is not really on my menu: edible insects. A lot of cultures eat them; I am not one of them, but then I am not one culture! “Cultivated meat” refers to meat from animals that is produced by cultivating a cell directly.

I just want to refer to a chap who appeared on my phone when I googled the topic of animal protein. He is a strange-looking character with a top hat and a double-breasted suit, an older gentleman; I think the photo is dated 1931. I will give members his quote before I say who said it —

We shall escape the absurdity of growing a whole chicken in order to eat the breast or wing, by growing these parts separately under a suitable medium.

Thank you, Winston Churchill. He picked that back in 1931; he was a good man. I am telling members that this is not a new idea; it has been in the mix for a very long time.

Using this kind of cultivated cell technology eliminates the need to raise and farm animals for food in the way we do at the moment. It is made of the same cell types, arranged in a similar structure as animal tissue and, as a result, it replicates more closely the nutritional profiles of conventional meat. There are a number of Australian companies making meat from the cells of animals; however, they are not yet commercially available, for a range of reasons. As I have mentioned, Singapore and the US have now opened the gate. There are companies waiting to get approval in Australia, and I am told that that will not be long in coming. The company that was approved in the US is called Impossible Foods, for its chicken nuggets.

We are going to see a lot more products entering the market, but will people want them? That is a good question. Alternative proteins are experiencing unparalleled growth worldwide. The shift to plant-based and more sustainable foods is in line with efforts from governments all over the world to bolster food security and reduce emissions as an instrument in the fight against climate change. There are, of course, many people who will balk at the concept of actually eating what they think is an alternative meat product. Some people hate the idea of animal-free meat and there is furious opposition to that prospect in some pockets, but we must understand that the demand for animal-produced meat will never stop. The demand is already excessive and is increasing exponentially, so this is not a threat to our livestock industry as there is no way that we can produce enough animal-produced meat the way we are doing it at the moment.

Going back to changing consumer behaviour, a number of recent reports into the Australian protein industry have investigated the current market share of and likely future demand for alternative proteins. This included reports from the CSIRO, Food Innovation Australia Ltd and AgriFutures Australia, and a white paper by Cellular Agriculture Australia. All the reports concluded that current trends and changing consumer behaviour mean that Australia is already in the midst of changes in food trends. One finding of these reports was that although the majority of Australian consumers are currently animal-meat eaters, meat-reducers, flexitarians and vegetarians are a significant part of the market niche to be targeted as consumers of alternative proteins.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms L.L. BAKER:** Current and future trends are also likely to increase the number of Australians seeking meat alternatives. The proportion of the Australian population making almost all vegetarian food choices went from 9.7 per cent in 2012 up to 11.2 per cent in 2016, which was the last time it was measured. I am not sure what proportion it is now but 2016 was a long time ago, so I think it would have increased a lot. Further, the reports found that one in three Australian consumers already consciously limit their consumption of traditional animal-source meat protein, primarily due to health concerns. If anybody has ever been to the doctor for a gastric, bowel or other kind of intestinal problem, they will have been recommended not to include red meat and processed meat in their diet into the future, as they should stay away from that stuff.

The COVID-19 pandemic, the recent foot-and-mouth disease outbreak in Indonesia and the conflict in Ukraine have highlighted food supply chain vulnerabilities. Thoughts on nearshoring to promote future resilience are sharpening quickly. Issues like food security may see countries place restrictions on the export of agricultural products, as we witnessed during the COVID-19 crisis. Environmental concerns and changing dietary preferences are likely to lead to a longer term change in consumer preferences towards plant-based or other alternative proteins. Geostategic concerns will also result in a greater focus on food security. Trends such as the shift towards multipolar global power structures constituted by the United States, China, Japan, India and Russia; unresolved and overlapping territorial and maritime claims; and various transnational issues, such as forest-fire harm, climate change, terrorism and people smuggling—there is a whole range of them—will all create opportunities for the alternative protein

sector. As a result of some of these trends, many new and innovative cultured meat and dairy products, as well as sophisticated plant-based alternatives, are close to market entry or are already pressing into markets here in Australia and overseas.

I will take members back to the conference that I attended, because this is an emerging industry. There are tensions within the industry, as there are in many industries. The idea of making alternatives to meat products is anathema to some people. They say, “Eat meat or don’t eat meat; why make an alternative to meat?” I have already said that it is because most of the population are still looking for the texture and taste of animal-based meat protein, so this is a transitional arrangement. Friends of mine who are in a stronger position on this subject, particularly the wonderful Miyoko Schinner, would argue that the future is about choice. The Alpha generation, and sometimes the Z generation, will simply say, “We want a choice.” When they sit down for a cheese platter, they will want to choose between cow cheese, goat cheese, buffalo cheese and plant-based cheese. They will want choice; that is what they are going to ask for. Bear in mind that we are talking about a new generation that gets it; they understand that a crisis is coming and that there is a need for choice in the market.

Miyoko is the CEO and founder of Miyoko’s Creamery, which offers a program to work with dairy farmers who are feeling the pressure from changing market trends and the downturn in dairy. By the way, I was very interested to know which unit product moved off American grocery shelves the most last year. Members will never guess which item grocery shops in America sell more units of than any other—it is oat milk. With that kind of pressure happening on a massive market like America, we know that the push is changing things globally. Indeed, we see it in our own grocery shops. What do we need to do to protect farmers and work with agribusiness to help with this kind of opportunity? I think they should look at it not as a challenge but as an opportunity. As I said before, meat is still going to be eaten, but dairy is under a lot more pressure because of changing attitudes around animal welfare and the health of products. It is going to be a challenge for dairy. Miyoko’s Creamery goes out to dairy farmers, particularly around San Francisco in California, and says: “What do you want us to do to work with you so that you can transition your dairy farm into a farm that produces the products that we need in order to make alternative dairy products?” Miyoko’s Creamery makes cheese, yoghurt and all sorts of fantastic things. Miyoko is on a mission to revolutionise the dairy industry and influence consumers.

The Edible Planet Ventures Summit was about redefining the narrative around food, humanity, the planet and animals. Although we can change consumer behaviour through price and other levers, ultimately, food is a visceral thing and it goes to the heart of one’s being. Until recently, someone born in Japan would have been brought up vegan. This would not be a discussion for people brought up in cultures that do not eat meat or meat-based products. There are some questions to answer about the growth of the middle class in that some people in developing countries might assume that once they become more wealthy, their diet should change, but that should not be the prevalent attitude. We need to work hard to make sure that the world changes its relationship with food, animals and the planet in general.

I would like to now mention some of the things being done by governments around the world and to celebrate some of the work that the McGowan government is doing in this space. Overseas investment research suggests that by 2040, at least a quarter of all food could be sourced from alternative proteins. Further advances in technology and shifts in consumer attitude are driving startups, established companies and investors to enter the alternative protein market, which is projected to reach \$US290 billion by 2030–35. That is nothing to sneeze at. There has been a strong start for alternative proteins in Australia in 2023, with key announcements made by a number of governments, including investment in new protein fractionation facilities in South Australia and a plant protein research and development facility in Horsham, Victoria. This follows on from growing action in this space in Australia in recent years. The CSIRO in particular has invested heavily in alternative protein companies, related facilities and collaborative research. It has a very productive company called v2food, which I think is funded in part by Jack Cowin. For those members who do not know who Jack Cowin is, think of Hungry Jack’s; he is the man behind that. These are really savvy venture capitalists and businessmen who are investing in this sector. They see what is coming. They understand where investment should be placed. The recently re-elected Andrews Labor government in Victoria, which has so often been a leader and role model for those of us interested in progressive policy making, appears set to make this a key area of focus in its third term of government. Think about that! Former Victorian Minister for Agriculture; Regional Development Hon Mary-Anne Thomas already signalled the importance that governments now place on the opportunities made possible through alternative proteins. She emphasised that these proteins present opportunities to boost local food manufacturing and export capability, with room for everyone to grow.

The McGowan Labor government also sees this potential, and I am proud to be part of a government that was the driving force behind some exciting initiatives like the Western Australian food innovation project, a \$21.7 million facility to foster industry innovation, drive business growth, develop new products, and transform our food and beverage manufacturing industry. Construction was completed in mid-2022, and it now includes research and development capabilities, an innovation centre and a production warehouse. The facility will function as a centre of excellence, enabling commercial research, development and prototyping; market-testing of food and beverage products; as well as networking for WA food producers. It will house agrifood experts, innovative startups, business

services, trades and markets, and a 600-square-metre common-use food technology facility. It has representation from universities and state government experts. The state government estimates this facility will bring a \$1 billion boost to Western Australia by enabling an additional \$330 million of production in the food and beverage sector, and another \$737 million boost in the wider community over the next five years.

Let us talk about some of the Western Australian companies already doing well in this space. I stress that this is just a very small sample; there are many innovative startups. I start with Wide Open Agriculture, which is listed on the ASX and on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange, and is doing amazing things with its labels, such as Dirty Clean Food, particularly in the regenerative food sector. It is a wonderful company. It is a really very clever and professional organisation.

Ilija Gasteovski's Future Farm Co is a Western Australian wholesaler of plant-based foods. Ilija is bringing plant-based food into Australia and New Zealand, including brands such as Beyond Meat, Gardein, Sophie's Kitchen, Plantivore and Not Milk. The company aims to educate consumers on the benefits of a plant-based lifestyle, including healthy, more sustainable and environmentally friendly food choices. It has been a huge success already, and there is more to come. In 2019, the CSIRO established v2food, which I have already mentioned is a plant-based meat company. It is exporting widely and with great success through Asia.

If people go into a Woolworths and look in the freezer section, they will find Fancy Plants. It is a Melbourne-based company that produces plant-based desserts. Its tiny pods are sold in Coles and Woolworths, and I should say that the chocolate one is really yummy. Fancy Plants aims to increase the number of people choosing plant-based food options, focusing on the positive health and environmental benefits of a plant-based diet. Fancy Plants donates one per cent of its sales back to the 1% for the Planet organisation.

I have talked about the need to have good relationships with traditional agriculture. The road ahead is wide open, just like Wide Open Agriculture. The road ahead for our agribusiness sector's export market is massive and productive, and it is there for the taking. To this end, I am very proud to say that I have worked with the member for Collie–Preston to put on an industry briefing next week for the alternative protein sector in relation to the Collie transition program. It seems to me that with all Collie has to offer—its workforce, location, geography, infrastructure, railway and the like—it is a brilliant place to do business. I am really hoping that the half a dozen or so innovative startups coming to the table to hear about the Collie transition program take advantage of it. Whatever happens, it will be great to have them all online to have a conversation.

I am really hoping to win over the Minister for Innovation and the Digital Economy, who is in the upper house, so he will fund a conference on this topic in the second half of the year. He has not had a formal approach from me yet, but it is coming. I am warning him in case he plans to leave the country! I really think that this is a prime opportunity to put on an information session that promotes the opportunities available to venture capitalists and to consumers.

Finally, I want to thank Liz Lennon, my amazing researcher, who did the preparatory work for my study. I now have Simon Barry in my office. What an addition he has been. I must credit him with some of the guts of this speech. He is a remarkable writer. I have forgiven him for being a lawyer; he is still allowed to be a part of my team. He is an amazing addition, and I am very pleased to have him on board.

I finish by asking: if not now, when? If we are serious about the future of agribusiness in a sustainable and commercially viable way for the immediate future, alternative protein is one of the very best alternatives we have.

**MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary)** [4.55 pm]: I rise very proudly to make my contribution to the Premier's Statement for 2023, and I welcome all my colleagues back for a very productive year serving our community.

First, I acknowledge and say happy Valentine's Day to everyone. I acknowledge two of my constituents who today, on Valentine's Day, celebrate their fiftieth wedding anniversary. Joe and Carmen D'Souza of Southern River were married exactly 50 years ago today at Mount Carmel Church in Bombay. On behalf of the Parliament, Mark McGowan and all of us, we say happy wedding anniversary, and I wish them another wonderful and happy 50 years of marriage and love.

I would like to wish a very happy birthday to one of my constituents, Mr Robert Powell, who next month will turn 100 years old. To Mr Powell and his family, I say happy birthday. On behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia, I wish him the very best. We wish him safe and happy times, and congratulations on reaching this wonderful birthday. We look forward to acknowledging his birthday festivities in the community. Happy birthday from all of us.

It gives me great pride to inform the chamber that Hollywood has come to Gosnells. Members would be aware that the state government is funding a film that is being filmed right now in Gosnells. I am very proud to be one of the representatives for Gosnells and to acknowledge that "Gozywood" is a very real and wonderful thing. The minister, the members for the area of Gosnells and I will be going out to the film site this week. I want to say a very big welcome to the film crew on behalf of everyone in Gosnells. We are very proud to have a wonderful film being filmed right here in the heart of Gosnells in our community. We are all very proud of "Gozywood". I would also like to give a shout-out to Golly cakes, a local biscuit company that has been making our very wonderful

“Gozzywood” cookies, which are being made available in and taken up by the Gosnells community. Thank you very much to Julie and the Golly cakes production team, and I look forward to entering forevermore into the parliamentary *Hansard* the term “Gozzywood”.

Acting Speaker, I seek leave to lay this document on the table of the house.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms R.S. Stephens):** For the balance of the day, leave is granted.

[The paper was tabled for the information of members.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I am very proud to have delivered on my promise of \$2 million towards a youth plaza at Sutherlands Park. Works will begin in April this year on the first tranche. There will be a fantastic youth plaza and skate park that the community has told us will be very similar to the Mills Park design. There will be a wonderful playground, a climbing wall and materials for the community. As I promised at the previous election, I have delivered on our \$2 million towards that. I want to commend the local council for the great work it continues to do, and the contribution it makes to the youth plaza and the facility that the community needs. I am the father of a four-year-old and a six-year-old, and there are plenty of parks and playgrounds for my children but not as many for teenagers. I look forward to the work starting on the youth plaza very soon. Also very soon—I believe people will see the date and details of this at the bottom of the video—I would like to invite the community down to have a community signing of the next stage of the funding agreement. Please, come down to the future site at Sutherlands Park and sign the agreement—all the community has already indicated its support for the youth plaza—and acknowledge that the state government, Mark McGowan and I, as promised, have delivered on providing that \$2 million. Again, I commend the council and the community working together to do that.

I am very, very proud that we in the community have funded a number of major infrastructure projects. I invite the community to take part in a conversation with me about the future of the Nicholson Road roundabout and what we will do with the four palm trees. Members would be aware that the McGowan government, in conjunction with the federal government, has funded \$80 million for a flyover over the Nicholson Road–Garden Street–Yale Road intersection, which is right next to the Nicholson Road train station, which is another promised and delivered infrastructure development that is progressing very well. The \$80 million was funded in last year’s state budget. The next conversation we will have on creating the detailed design and plans—the next phase for which funding is already committed—is about the four beautiful palm trees that exist at that roundabout. I really want to know from our community what we should do with those palm trees. They are quite large. They probably cannot go in someone’s front yard, but I would love to hear from the community what it thinks would be a positive contribution about where those four palm trees should go. Please send me an email at [terry.healy@mp.wa.gov.au](mailto:terry.healy@mp.wa.gov.au) or go to [terryhealy.com.au](http://terryhealy.com.au) and let me know what you think we should do with the palm trees as we move to that next phase of delivering all our major infrastructure promises in my community.

On Tuesday, 4 April, Spider-Man is coming to my electorate office. I take great pride in informing the chamber of that and in inviting everyone in my community. Following on from the success of free *Frozen* nights when people could meet Elsa, Spider-Man will be at my electorate office on Tuesday, 4 April from 4.00 pm to 5.30 pm. It is a free event. With the cost of all the milk and groceries going up, it is a free event. There will be free face painting. I encourage young boys, girls and families to come from across the community. Get dressed up in your favourite costume if you like. There will be colouring in and movies in my electorate office at 466 Warton Road, Southern River. Again, people can google Terry Healy Spider-Man and, I believe, they can register. It is a free event. Please come along, spread the word and enjoy Spider-Man, some Spider-Man music and colouring-in activities. As I said, there will be free face painting for all the children, but especially all the MLAs in this chamber! I look forward to seeing you all then.

I am very proud to have worked with the Gosnells council to deliver on my promise of providing \$475 000 to remove all the speed humps on Harpenden Street. We are ready to go. Members across the Huntingdale and Southern River communities have all been mailed a flyer with the current designs of the chicanes of the mini roundabouts for the Harpenden Street design. I have always found, as I have said in this chamber many times, including when we removed the speed bumps on Gay Street, that speed bumps do not seem to work in our community. I slow down and members slow down, but the idiots do not. Chicanes and mini roundabouts seem to be a far better engineering solution design to do that. I want to hear the feedback from my community. People will have been emailed and there are copies of the design on my Facebook page and also on the Your Say Gosnells page. Please call me if you have not had a chance to contribute to those designs. Again, we promised it and we have funded it. The works should start in a couple of months. Please make sure that you get a chance to give me your feedback.

I am very lucky to have some fantastic local student leaders in my community. I have some amazing high schools and primary schools in my electorate. I have to say that the student executive and student leadership of those schools assist me greatly in doing what I do. Mark McGowan and I, as the local community leaders, do our jobs better when we work very, very closely with the student leadership of those schools. I want to say thank you to each and every student leader and their families for standing up, putting their names forward and serving in those roles. I look forward to working with them as part of the 2023 student executive. I greatly appreciate your service.

I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student executive and leadership team of Wirrabirra Primary School. I acknowledge the service of Wirrabirra Primary School and the Wirrabirra Education Support Centre. I would like to thank our head girl, Sophie Ross-Parker; head boy, Samuel Ansah; and our year 6 student councillors Kaidyn Brady, Elka Friend, Mitun Sujesh, Amirtha Thirupathi, Jeremiah Tomda and Hafsa Muhammad. In year 5, our councillors are Verity Kimbar, Shafee Rahaman and Latiah Woods. In year 4, they are Henry Kunzli, Ayaan Mehan and Marley-Jade Power. I greatly appreciate the service they have provided to our school community and I look forward to continuing to work with them.

I take great pride in informing the chamber and the Parliament of Western Australia of the service of St Munchin's Catholic School and its student executive. I would like to acknowledge in particular the student council—Rosemary Saw, in charge of sustainability; Lily Page, in charge of wellbeing; Emnet Bekele, technology; and Jonty Dye, discipleship. I would also like to acknowledge the leadership of the sports captains—Adriel Kistopersad, Zane Philander, Julia Ortega, Kenisa Vijayakumar, Peter Wheaton, Thomas Coffey, Ayomikun Okeowo and Chantelle Xie. I thank them for their services as sports captains and in their leadership roles. Again, I greatly look forward to working with them in their capacity as student leaders at our school.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student leadership of Southern River College, a school I used to teach at. I acknowledge our head year 12 prefects, Jaishree Charan and Maddison Clark, and Reeve Mainard, deputy head prefect. The year 12 student councillors are Mi Soi Tar Non, Pratishee Luchoomun, Ryan Gwilym, Nikita Barrett, Julia Christmas, Susan Mohammadi, Rhiannon Gay and Cooper Macey. Thank you.

Our year 11 student councillors are Katie Russell, who is also a Western Australian student ministerial adviser; Soleil Oost; Charmaine Fruelda; Amelia Dillon; Dylan Claassens; Adam Khurram; Saira Mohammadi; Nicole Whittle; and Sunday Thaymu.

The year 10 student councillors are Amelia Thornton, Kaeden Amos, Liane Cano, Jashan Kaur, Naw Rebecca Moo Kwa and Hayley Verco.

Our year 9 student councillors are Han Gay Benny, Lucas Groenewege, Dakota Smith, Ibrahim Khurram, Caitlin Freear, Brayden Spicer, Jayda Dillon and Bethany Dearnley.

Our year 8 councillors are Eloisa Ecoy, Celeste Hansen, Aimee Houston, Harmony Francis, Abigail Owen and Cooper Holden. I look forward to working with them in their roles as our student leadership.

I would like to inform the chamber of the very hardworking student ministers at Southern Grove Primary School where they have student ministers instead of councillors. I would like to acknowledge minister Grace Coke, minister Tyson Ngeth, minister Chloe Armstrong, minister Setayesh Auhadi, minister Matilda Kranz, minister Soha Alam, minister Ayaan Rusmaully and minister Imran Balkhi. I thank them for their service.

Members, I would like to congratulate and acknowledge in the Parliament of Western Australia the service of the Seaforth Primary School student leadership. In particular, I acknowledge our student councillors Hashini Vinayagam and Sybilya Vonhoff and our faction captains Tusipale Tusigaigoa Isaako and Mudasir Rustami of the blue faction and Jayharn Bennell and Leah Williams of the green faction. Thank you.

Members, I would like to acknowledge the prefects of Providence Christian College and thank them for all their service to our community. The prefects are Megan Bell, Zoe Bell, Aileen Benedict, Amelia Cox, Jolene George, Carolyn Hartono, Bethany Jensen, Cyrus Lie, Tadi Madzongo, Sarah Ng, Orphelia Pattula, James Prosser, Isabelle Ramsey and Ann Varghese. I thank them for their service.

I would like to acknowledge the service of the Huntingdale Primary School student executive and acknowledge our student councillors Grace Oldham, Kingston Terito-Hewison, Chloe Fenner, Sebastian Fulton, Atiana Gellin, Hayden De Luca, Grace Lin and Quinn Green. I also acknowledge our faction captains Samantha Kremer and Mitchell Kessell from Hovea faction, Brady Harris and Anthony Vallve from Acacia faction, Ranya Znad and Solomon Taylor from Zamia faction, and Tia Bonnefin and Samar Jaswal from Banksia faction. Thank you.

Members, I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student executive of Excelsior Primary School in Canning Vale. I would like to acknowledge the student leadership councillors Vatsal Chouhan, Zaid Qalandari, Rian Tan, Eva Appel, Sienna Dale and Sienna Wulff. Thank you for your service.

Members, I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student leadership of Canning Vale College and I look forward to working with them. I acknowledge our college captains Jessica Birrell and Raafat El-Mongi. I was honoured to be there when they were announced at their school graduation last year. I acknowledge the year 12 student councillors Conor Brophy, Emily Parks, Abbey Johnson and Ally Wai—congratulations. To our year 11 student councillors Ariana Carot Collins, Ella McGoldrick and Sam Mamootil, congratulations. To our year 10 student councillors Ana Hall, Eva Carot Collins, Jayden McGoldrick, Munira Alizada, Oliver Birrel and Samantha Herbert, congratulations. I congratulate our year 9 student councillor Isla Cook. In year 8, I congratulate councillors Chloe Drew, Lina Ichigaya, Rhyley MacPherson and Riley Price. Thank you.

Members, I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student leadership of Campbell Primary School in Canning Vale. Please can I say a great congratulations to, and I look forward to serving with, our student council members Arav, Stella, Timothy, Carson, Zoe, Mason, Layla, Ella, Kyle and Amy. Congratulations. To our faction captains Arav, Stella, Timothy, Carson, Zoe, Mason, Layla, Ella, Kyle and Amy—congratulations.

Members, I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student leadership of Caladenia Primary School. I look forward to working with them. Our head girl is Tara-Ravina Rupesh and our head boy is Nicholas Luong. Our student executive is Rosie Chapman, Ailee Yan, Chloe Dunn, Vidhee Chaudhary, Chelsea Burnett, Nate Ranalli, Tyreece Dickson, Cruz Sutherland, Austin Conick and Edward Chopping. I was privileged to be at their student elections last year and I commend all the people who stood. I look forward to working with them.

I would also like to congratulate our music captains for 2023, Nimrat Kaur Sandhu and Sebastian Walker. I congratulate our red faction captains Shahil Ramlugan and Sally Huang and vice-captains Lily Adams, Sloka Juvvadi, Suleiman Alfauri and Alex Zhang. I congratulate green faction captains Levi Wilson and Pei Shan Lee and vice-captains Amanda Tsekos, Orianna Tan, Max Andreazza and Lucas Liu. I also acknowledge our blue faction captains Lachlan Bathgate and Varshaa Mukunthan and vice-captains Eboni Richards, Grace Samuel, Zachary Sasidharan and Mason Bathgate. Thank you for your service. I congratulate our gold faction captains Edwin Wang and Sathie Sabarickanth and vice-captains Ebony Lankowski, Meishu Zhao, Glen Pagtakhan and Henri Manners. Thank you.

Members, I take great pride in informing the chamber of the student executive of Bletchley Park Primary School. I would like to congratulate our student councillors—head boy Conrad Gbajabiamila, Talhah Mohd Rafiz Awar, head girl Aria Arndt, Liam Chapman, Joshua Shibu, Logan Vincent, Luke Barry and Ella Zhao. I acknowledge our faction captains James Jacob and Bridgett Stone from Fraser, Taylor Orr and Kobe Michael from Farmer, Mason Africa and Alaina Page from the Strickland faction, and Chayce Quinn and Peyton Hodge from the Bradman faction. Thank you for your service.

Members, I would like to acknowledge the student councillors and leadership of Ashburton Drive Primary School in my community in Gosnells. I would like to acknowledge student councillors Callie Abogado, Ava McLaughlin, Ryan Tylor, Kira Travaglini, Grace Stolk and Neve Morrison, and our faction captains Amber Garrigan from Murchison, Keylan Appadoo from De Grey, Ashton Meas from Fortescue and Maliyah Bohari from Gascoyne. Thank you.

I would like to acknowledge the fortieth anniversary of the Gosnells Writers Circle in my community. The Gosnells Writers Circle commenced in 1982 and I say happy birthday from all of us here in the Parliament of Western Australia. Its object, which I support as a former English teacher, is to encourage and promote the craft of writing in all forms. Its criteria for membership is to improve one's writing. It is a not-for-profit group that loves the written word and has many like-minded community members who contribute on a voluntary basis. I give a special shout-out to its magazine, *SHOWCASE*, which has recently published its thirty-fifth issue. I also give a special shout-out to Barbara Gurney and her leadership team. I doorknocked Barbara on the weekend. There is an amazing team of people and I want to thank them for all the things they have done. A number of them have published books; I think 15 of their current members have published a book in the last few years. We know there is a great future for the Gosnells Writers Circle. Thank you.

I would like to acknowledge the fortieth anniversary of the City of Gosnells Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, which was formed in 1983 through the amalgamation of the three existing bush fire brigades—namely, the Gosnells, Orange Grove and Southern Districts Bush Fire Brigades, each of which has its own long history of service. The brigade has continued to grow, with currently a total of five fire trucks, an emergency operations centre and 65-plus volunteers providing a 24/7 fire response. The brigade has gone through a number of different technologies, including pagers and mobiles and utilising water-bombing aircraft. The way that we fight fires in the communities in Gosnells has changed, and the brigade has evolved and stepped up every single time. I look forward to being a part of its fortieth anniversary celebrations in the months to come. I give a special shout-out to Rodney Wallington, AFSM, our chief bushfire control officer, and I look forward to working with the brigade. If members of the community have stories that they would like to share for our anniversary, I encourage them to email me or [brigade@gosnellsbfb.com.au](mailto:brigade@gosnellsbfb.com.au). Again, I want to say thank you to the state government and the Gosnells council for its role in supporting the great work that our Gosnells bush fire brigade has done and will continue to do for many years. I say happy birthday from all of us here in the Parliament of Western Australia.

I take great pride in informing the chamber of the national Prime Minister's Spelling Bee champion who came from Southern River. I would like to give a special mention to Ozi Egesi. For the purposes of Hansard, I will provide the spelling of all the words I am about to say that he passed with. Ozi is a Perth boy. He is an 11-year-old student at Providence Christian College in my electorate who credits his mother with encouraging him to read. He won the national Prime Minister's Spelling Bee just recently and we all greatly congratulate him. He won a return flight to Canberra to meet the Prime Minister and he won an iPad—he might have been more excited about the iPad than about meeting "Albo"! He scored a perfect 30 out of 30 in one minute and 32 seconds in the years 5 to 6 group, despite getting words like baize, adenoids and a number of other tricky words. He is currently in year 6 at

Providence Christian College and we send him all our best. I congratulate him. I would also like to acknowledge Aiden, from Harrisdale Senior High School, who scored fifth place in the years 7 to 8 category. He got 24 out of 30 words in two minutes and four seconds.

I would like to wish Quickmail in my community of Gosnells a very happy thirtieth birthday. Quickmail has been an integral part of the City of Gosnells. If people have received from me a flyer, a newsletter or anything that I have designed in the last few years, be it about youth plazas, local jobs or local trains, Quickmail has supported that. I want to say thank you and happy birthday to another great local supplier in my community.

I would like to acknowledge the fortieth birthday of the Huntingdale Junior Football Club, a fantastic local sporting organisation in my community that trains at Sutherlands Park. I want to acknowledge its leadership over many decades, the number of young people who have trained and continue to train, the coaches, the parents and the supporters. I look forward to being a part of its fortieth anniversary celebrations this year. It has a number of different events. On behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia, I would like to acknowledge its service and the role it has played in our community. Again, on behalf of all of us, we say happy birthday.

I would like to congratulate Natraplas, a local Canning Vale business that was recently nominated for and awarded the Western Australian startup of the year at the RISE Business Awards. Natraplas is a great local organisation. It is a great local Canning Vale business. Over the last 18 months of the COVID pandemic, it donated thousands of masks to my office for distribution to the community, which, at a time of great stress, was greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia, I would like to acknowledge that we greatly appreciate the role that Natraplas has played in our community.

I would like to congratulate Yaso Ponnuthurai on her new role as the head of the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia. She is a great local friend of my community and I say thank you to her for her service.

**DR K. STRATTON (Nedlands)** [5.25 pm]: I rise to add my contribution to the Premier's Statement. The seat of Nedlands is home to fantastic public education. Indeed, it is one of the reasons that families across generations have decided to move to the electorate. We are home to seven public primary schools, one Catholic primary school and three public high schools—Shenton College, Perth Modern School and the brand new Bob Hawke College. These great public education opportunities are why my parents moved to Nedlands over 40 years ago—so that my brother and sister and I could go to Hollywood Senior High School. It is why we moved back to Nedlands when my youngest was a baby—so that my kids could go to Shenton College. That baby just started year 9 at the college earlier this month.

I would like to extend my congratulations to Shenton College on winning the Excellence in School Leadership Award at the WA Education Awards held in late 2022. As the award acknowledged, one of the features of leadership at Shenton College is that it is both expected and entrusted at every level of the school—teachers, students, staff, the parents and citizens association, the board and the school leadership team headed by Principal Mike Morgan and Deputy Principal Chris Hill. As a parent, one of the things I greatly admire and appreciate about the school is that no matter a child's pathway, whether it be ATAR or vocational education and training, they are encouraged, supported and championed to pursue their own goals and their own dreams. This, too, was acknowledged in the award, and it is this exceptional leadership approach itself that creates the outstanding student results that Shenton College enjoys. Shenton considers results well beyond the numbers and the letters on a student's report card; it is their ability to work as part of a team, to care for others, to advocate for themselves and others, and to be the change that they want to see in the world and their own leadership that is also celebrated. That student participation and leadership is supported through a student council with 80 elected representatives from years 7 to 12. I have met many of those councillors over the last two years and I have experienced them as being both leaders and change-makers concerned with bigger social issues such as inclusivity, climate action and youth mental health. They have taken action on these concerns and also have partnered with teachers, non-profit organisations, local community groups and other community members to take action on these important issues. This is a key aim of the school. In the words of Principal Mike Morgan, it is to prepare confident, outward-looking, collaborative young adults for a life of agency, contribution and fulfilment.

I also acknowledge that this leadership has been tested early in the school year. I want to acknowledge the compassion, understanding and respect with which the school has helped a community that has been absolutely shattered by an unimaginable tragedy.

Of course, the outstanding and holistic approach and outcomes at Shenton College make it a very popular school. Indeed, as I have said, many families moved to the area, just as we did, to be in the Shenton College catchment zone. Alongside the P&C president, Adrian Barich, and the board chair, Mal Cooke, we have been working with the Minister for Education on solutions to ever-increasing student numbers. I was therefore proud to stand alongside the then Minister for Education and Training, Hon Sue Ellery, Shenton College students and the principal, as well as Adrian and Mal, for an announcement late last year about both short and long-term strategies to ensure that this growth at Shenton College is sustainable. The college is going to receive a new and innovative double-storey modular building. The new build will be able to accommodate an additional 300 students. It will house 11 general learning classrooms, a science classroom, staff areas and, of course, the usual student facilities. This investment



of \$15 million is an efficient way of accommodating the growth and minimising any impact to student learning while it is constructed. The modular building is anticipated to be available for the school year commencing 2024. For the longer term, the Department of Education is developing a strategy to address enrolment growth at public schools in the western suburbs. With approximately 2 700 students and growing enrolments at Shenton, this strategy will ensure that long-term plans are in place to meet the educational needs of the growing population of young families in these areas as they seek the excellent educational opportunities available in the western suburbs. This strategy will provide the government with recommendations on solutions that will deliver for local students, local families and ultimately our local community. I would like to thank the school leadership, including Adrian Barich and Mal Cooke, for their respectful, informed and engaging advocacy for the needs of the growing Shenton College community.

In another major milestone for secondary public education in the seat of Nedlands, I look forward to the opening of the second stage of Bob Hawke College, which will double student capacity to 2 000 students and include a new performing arts centre, dance and visual arts studios, music rooms and a rooftop garden—the first in the state, apparently. The school is beautifully integrated with its existing environment, utilising Subiaco Oval for physical education and recreation opportunities. The architecture is such that as one walks through the school halls, one feels as though one is surrounded by the tree canopy in Kitchener Park, while also being a seamless part of the urban environment. The recent installation of a signal road crossing on Roberts Road is the delivery of a 2021 election commitment, and helps manage traffic and pedestrian flow and safety around the college.

The students of Bob Hawke College, in particular the social justice club, are wonderful advocates for what they want their school culture and physical environment to look and feel like. The commitment of the social justice club to inclusion and equity is something it should be very proud of, and I know that it continues to undertake this work with the full support of the school leadership, including the board and the parents and citizens association. I am excited to see the social justice club's advocacy come to life when we open the second stage of the college later this term.

In my statement last year, I talked about the important work of TransFolk of WA. TransFolk of WA are a peer-led volunteer organisation providing a range of services and advocacy for trans and gender diverse people. It is the only specific support service in WA for trans and gender diverse people—people who often experience significant discrimination including in accessing medical, social and community services as well as experiencing a greater risk of mental health issues, including self-harm, suicide and social isolation. In 2021, TransFolk of WA was the recipient of a Lotterywest grant to build capacity in its governance, volunteers, policies and procedures. The grant allowed TransFolk of WA to employ someone for the first time to build the capacity that the grant was aimed at. With that success and its ongoing advocacy, TransFolk of WA secured state government funding in August last year. I would like to thank the then Minister for Youth, Hon Dave Kelly, for his announcement last year on International Youth Day of \$300 000 worth of funding over three years for TransFolk of WA to deliver support services and expand its youth service project. The youth service project provides support and assistance for transgender and gender diverse young people through meetings, fortnightly workshops, safe and secure online platforms, social opportunities and community connection. With this funding, TransFolk of WA has employed a youth project officer and a team leader, and now has accommodation at City West Lotteries House in West Perth. This space means that it can work with other LGBTQIA+ organisations also located in the building to continue to build its partnerships and capacity. Indeed, TransFolk of WA's success is in part built on its ability to build relationships with other organisations, creating allies and advocates, including the Perth Inner City Youth Service, located in my electorate, Perth City Farm and Rainbow Futures WA.

Along with others, TransFolk of WA has also been a strong voice for change to Western Australia's Gender Reassignment Board, and I thank it for its advocacy on this important issue of equality, fairness, dignity and respect. I am proud to be a part of a government that will abolish the outdated gender reassignment board, creating instead a simple administrative process for updating gender on important identity documents. This means that people seeking to update sex or gender information on a birth certificate will no longer be required to demonstrate that they have undertaken surgical or medical intervention. Applications will be processed by the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This process is one that is far more equitable for gender diverse people. It is also a far more respectful process that honours people's lived experience and affirms their identity.

Of course, these reforms complement our government's commitment to introduce a new Equal Opportunity Act for Western Australia. These reforms will further entrench anti-discrimination protections to those who are trans, gender diverse or non-binary. As a social worker I have spent my entire 25-year career fighting for systems, structures and communities that are equitable and inclusive. It is, therefore, an honour to be part of the McGowan Labor government that will overhaul and modernise our Equal Opportunity Act. The coming reforms will provide stronger protections for women, survivors of family and domestic violence and LGBTQIA+ communities. It will modernise definitions to recognise the innate harms and disadvantages of sexual and racial harassment; strengthen equal opportunity protections for LGBTQIA+ staff and students in religious educational institutions; and protect family and domestic violence victims from discrimination. I know my community of Nedlands has a strong track record of voting in support of progressive referendums and plebiscites, with the highest yes vote for the same-sex marriage plebiscite in 2017. I know that my community will welcome the changes to this act in both principle and practice.

One of the other ways my community has demonstrated its inclusivity and compassion is being in support of the children's hospice. Nearly 600 community members have signed my open letter in support of the coming children's hospice. It will be the first in WA and will provide best practice care to children at the end of their lives. It will be embedded in nature, by the ocean, and will allow families to be together. I had many local residents contact my office deeply concerned by a local government decision that they felt misrepresented our community. Instead, they wanted families and the dedicated hospice staff to know that our community will provide them with welcoming care and compassion.

The comments that have accompanied that letter have not only told of this welcome and compassion, but also shown the need for the hospice. People have shared with us their own families' experience of caring for a child with a terminal illness. Some of these memories and experiences are decades old. They tell of the experience of family separation; of sterile hospital rooms, despite the warmth and care of hospital staff; and of their child's final view being of a concrete jungle. A local resident wrote, according to my notes —

As soon as I saw this proposal I knew the site was perfect! Natural, secluded, with fresh air and greenery. It won't bother anyone (really!) once its there. The incredibly unfortunate children and their families who will reside there will be lucky in this small way to have such a beautiful place to spend precious moments together. We are a wealthy community in so many ways and this site is just one of the many treasures we have. Let us share it with those who are suffering, it is such a small thing to ask of our community.

According to my notes, another local resident wrote of where priorities should surely lie —

Nobody ever wants to be in the position of having to saying goodbye to a child with a terminal diagnosis. The least we can do as a community is to provide a place of comfort, beauty and care so the families can make this saddest of times a special time.

I thank those nearly 600 community members who signed that letter, shared their stories and showed the children and families who need the use of a hospice exactly what the welcoming values of our community look like. Planning for the hospice continues, and I thank the Perth Children's Hospital Foundation for its ongoing fundraising and advocacy on this important service for our whole WA community.

Finally, I would like to mention two local residents and their contribution to our community. "RecyclemanPerth" is a young man with Down syndrome who runs his own microbusiness in the western suburbs. He collects Containers for Change. In recognition of his efforts, RecyclemanPerth—also known as Vik—won the Individual Change Maker of the Year at the Containers for Change Change Maker Awards gala at the end of the last year. Vik provides businesses and residents with a "Vik bin", which is essentially a rubbish bin, and he leaves them at businesses. He will also deliver one if you are having a party or a function. People place their containers in their special Vik bins. I have one that is permanently outside my office. It has become known as the place to drop off containers. Vik collects that bin once a week, but we often call him to collect it on additional days. He won this award in recognition of keeping eligible containers out of landfill, raising awareness of the Containers for Change scheme and encouraging people to use the Containers for Change scheme. By providing a Vik bin, he has made it easier and more accessible for people to bring in their containers. By running this microbusiness, Vik is not only keeping eligible containers out of landfill and encouraging people to participate in the scheme, but also funding his independence. This microbusiness is meaningful work for Vik, his family and us as a local community, and of course it is also meaningful for our environment.

The other resident that I would like to acknowledge is local author Shannon Meyerkort. Her debut children's book, *Brilliant Minds: 30 Dyslexic Heroes Who Changed Our World*, has recently landed in bookstores. The book began as an idea and a concept because Shannon's own daughter could not find any role models of people who, like her, lived with dyslexia. She could not find any stories of success. The book has been well informed and researched through Shannon's own background in public health and anthropology. It is a collection of stories of people. It does not shy away from the challenges, struggles and difficulties in engaging in mainstream education and the resilience that children and young people with dyslexia need to develop. It also shows children, their teachers and their families that there is always hope, there is always a place for ambition and there are many different paths to be forged, like those that have been forged by people who feature in the book—the chef Jamie Oliver, award-winning director Steven Spielberg, popular Australian author Jackie French, entrepreneur Richard Branson, astronaut Pete Conrad, and Australia's very own Chief Scientist, Dr Cathy Foley. I was lucky enough to collect signed copies of the books, which I will be donating to each of the primary school libraries in my electorate. Just as a plug, Shannon works locally at Dymocks in Subiaco on Thursdays and Fridays and is very happy to sign copies of the book. I would like to thank Shannon for showcasing these stories and experiences and showing children and families that there are multiple pathways.

There is much to look forward to in the seat of Nedlands this year. I have really appreciated how the community has continued to engage with us, particularly in our activation activities on Hampden Road. I would like to thank Hon Don Punch for joining us on our Halloween trail, complete with costume, as we welcomed over 120 families on a trick-or-treat trail with the small businesses on Hampden Road. We repeated that with a Christmas treasure hunt in late December, again with very enthusiastic participation from our local businesses on Hampden Road.

I want to thank residents for coming to me with their questions and concerns, to my coffee mornings, and volunteering in my office, particularly those who collected community views for our tree canopy survey. With that, I look forward to 2023, for all that is to come for our local community and also for creating a more just and inclusive community for Western Australia.

**MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee)** [5.43 pm]: It is a great pleasure to rise today. I have noticed that the speeches from many members in this place have been far and wideranging, but many are telling local stories. It is gratifying and a great privilege to hear stories from the suburbs, country towns, places and regions of Western Australia. Some members have touched more broadly on issues affecting the Western Australian community and the Australian community. I want to spend the time I am on my feet today talking about something that I think so much about, that revolves around something even as serious as global climate change. I am talking about the delamination of the globalised society. I am talking about how our world has never been more threatened by the social structures or inaction by governments and peoples around the world to attend to a substantive structural issue that bites both at democracy and at capitalism itself. The capitalist market and capitalist free market has been the deliverer of a quality of life and a standard of living and raised so many people out of poverty that these sorts of matters cannot be ignored by any level of government, particularly those closest to the state government.

Like me, I am sure all members had a stack of books next to their beds, some unstarted, some partially started and some that have been circling for years. I, too, knock them off over the summer when I can. I am not the fastest reader in the world. A book I read over the summer break was particularly poignant to me. I was interested in why there is a skill shortage in Australia, particularly in Western Australia. We can find sectoral issues and localised economic issues that lead to these skill shortages. We can find some structural issues. I looked at it more globally. It seems that every developed nation in the world is suffering from skills shortages. When we deep dive into it and we want to find out the reasons, we get quite shocked by what is happening. Typically, a labour shortage occurs when there are not enough available workers—we all know that—participating in the labour market to meet the demand of employers. As a result, that is one of the contributors to the rampant inflation we have had. In places such as the United States, there are nearly 11 million job vacancies but only 6.5 million workers were listed as unemployed in 2022. The mismatch in the US is a very good example. The high level of job openings is not only affecting employers in the United States. For example, early in 2022, employers in Europe were struggling to fill over 1.2 million open job roles. Australia is no less affected. We are trying to fill 400 000 vacant positions. It is the same in Singapore, with 163 job vacancies for every 100 available candidates. So, there is more work than workers.

There are several reasons for this. As always with these complex issues, there are multifactorial matters. The rapid rise of technology and digital transformation has created demand that many skills are not suited for. There is an ageing demographic in many countries. I will circle back to that. There is basically a shrinking pool of workers. There is a lack of investment in education programs that mismatch the modern skills, which I have already touched on, and a reworking of the workforce. Globalisation has increased competition and made it difficult for companies to find workers in a global labour-constrained market. Of course, the COVID-19 pandemic has had its own implications; it has disrupted education training programs and interrupted immigration policies.

In some cases, skill shortages may have driven a lack of interest in certain fields and industries, as younger generations opt for careers that are experiencing a shortage of skilled workers. We often talk about the local context. There are more teachers driving Haulpak trucks than there are Haulpak truck drivers. For example, a mining boom does not necessarily create more jobs; it actually shifts labour from one industry to another. I want to dwell on this point for a moment. There is an existential crisis that will confront us over the next 10, 20 and maybe 30 years. That is this idea of an ageing demographic—the world's ageing population. The world is ageing. For years, it has been slowly declining. In the United States, more than 10 000 people a day reach the age of 65 years. I repeat: every day 10 000 people in the US reach the age of 65. That is the US's threshold for retirement. It is expected to continue until at least 2029. That is not too far away.

In the world's largest economy and most robust democracy, we have a massive exodus from the workforce, and that is expected to increase. Studies estimate that by 2031, one in six people in the world will be aged 65 years and over; by 2050, that number will double. On top of that, birthrates in many countries are falling, and that is the salient point. People are retiring and leaving the workforce, but fewer babies are being born to replace them. That is a set of diminishing returns right there. Studies have shown that by 2050, the working population in China will drop by 20 per cent; in Japan, by 40 per cent. We all talk about the Japanese challenge, and China is also fast becoming a challenge.

According to UN and World Bank statistics, 75 countries already have fertility rates that fall well below the desired replacement rate of 2.1—that is, 2.1 babies per woman of birthing age. That rate does not meet the replacement requirement; if it goes on, there will be a smaller number of people trying to replace a smaller number of people.

I refer to a recent *The Economist* article titled, “Richer societies mean fewer babies. Right?” It states —

One way to see if this is true is to compare fertility rates across countries with differing incomes and female labour-force participation ... In 1980 countries in the OECD with higher female participation

rates had lower rates of fertility. By 2000 that relationship had flipped: countries with higher rates of female labour-force participation had higher rates of fertility ... Since then, the picture has muddied slightly.

By 2019 the new relationship had weakened a little, and it looks less sturdy when considering GDP per person rather than labour-force participation.

“GDP per person” is actually a good way to talk about it and ask whether women who are making the choice to have children have childcare choices, work-from-home options and the sorts of things that will support them re-entering the workforce. Of course, if they are opting to stay at home, obviously their income will reduce.

Our region is not any different. One of the key demographic challenges facing the ASEAN region is ageing. That might sound odd, considering that it is a region with 660 million people. As with many other countries, the ageing population of ASEAN countries is of concern. The ASEAN population over the age of 60 is expected to reach 18 per cent by 2030 and 25 per cent by 2050. This trend is expected to put significant pressure on healthcare systems, as we can imagine, and social security programs in the region.

That, again, is exacerbated by declining birthrates. That trend is particularly prevalent in Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, where fertility rates have fallen below replacement levels. In Singapore, the fertility rate was 1.14 children per woman in 2020, one of the lowest in the world. This trend will have a significant impact on the region’s workforce, as we can imagine. There will be a smaller pool of younger workers available to replace retiring workers.

To counteract these effects, Australia will need to explore new ways to promote economic growth. Just going through the birthrates, the magic number is 2.1 for replacement. Just to give a complete set, the numbers as at 2020 include Indonesia at 2.04, which is good for us as a destination market; New Zealand, 1.87; United Kingdom, 1.86; United States, 1.84; Vietnam, which is largely a young population with more people under the age of 40, has a birthrate of 1.77; Australia is 1.74; and China, 1.6.

These are the structural issues that confront the entire developed world. Our way around this is to make sure that we are diversifying our economy, investing in technology and innovation and increasing productivity to attract foreign investment. As we have seen recently from the commonwealth government, we will need to do more with social security systems that encourage participation by older Australians in the workforce to maintain their productivity.

Beyond all this, there are the social implications of an ageing population. Fewer children will mean that there will be a smaller future generation to support the older generation. The tax base will be depleted and we will have to consider other ways of raising revenue to support the older generation. This will obviously lead to strain on the social network and social support systems, and the safety net that we are so proud of as the Labor Party. It may also lead to a reduction in the number of workers who can support community services such as healthcare and education.

There is also the impact of globalisation. COVID highlighted and, in part, accelerated people exiting the workforce. In the US during the period of COVID over the last three years, 30 million workers exited the workforce and are not expected to return. In addition to demographic trends, changing economic and geopolitical factors will have an impact on Australia’s future. We have to embrace and understand them. We, as a sub-national government, will have to have a singular focus on how we are going to sustain the quality of life that all Western Australians have enjoyed for two generations; we have become a middle-class power.

The other thing to consider is that we are seeing a decline in US global power. Its capacity to influence the world in the way it used to in the Cold War era, pre-1989, is now diminished. We are moving towards a multi-polar world, where global power will be spread between powers such as the US, China, India and Indonesia. As a result, regional complexities will make it very difficult to provide security. There is an important point to make about globalisation, because security is something that we have all taken for granted. The current global security arrangements started with the Bretton Woods agreement post-World War II, which created a new order that allowed countries to divert a lot of their attention and resources towards growing their own economies and supporting their own populations.

If we think of Europe pre-World War I, for hundreds of years there were always wars between continental European nation states. Bretton Woods brought that to a close. Of course, it caused problems—particularly in the Middle East, which was divided along non-tribal, non-ethnic and non-linguistic boundaries, and in Africa; we cannot deny that. But global sea lanes have largely been secured to allow the passage of trade, and we underestimate that development. We now have so much activity on the oceans; there are container ships that can hold 20 000 containers, and that has been growing exponentially since the end of World War II. That is an emblematic point to make about how global trade is so important to us all. We are seeing a decline in local manufacturing, and these are the things that happen because of globalisation. We can be thankful that our flat screen TVs are so cheap, because they are part of a globalised supply chain. These are all hallmarks of a globalised system that will come under threat when the security of the sea lanes and of nation states and their borders are threatened.

The war in Ukraine is a classic example of that; Ukrainian sovereignty is being heavily threatened by Russia, and that has disrupted the European and global energy markets, and also commodities like wheat and other grains that

Ukraine produced a large proportion of. That is having impacts everywhere. This multi-polar world will require us to understand that the US will be less influential—not without influence, but less influential—and that our relationships with countries like Indonesia are fundamentally important, not just for our economy but also for our security. Engagement with our nearest neighbour cannot be overstated.

As we adapt to changing international systems, this demographic decline is going to require some new and innovative approaches. One issue is our relationship with immigration. The United States has done very, very well out of allowing itself to be a home for the global citizen. The United States as a whole is a unique place. Although it has a declining birthrate of below 2.1 births per woman, it has a unique piece of geography. It has more rivers and arable land than any other country in the world. It has safe, secure borders. It has a two-ocean presence. Its capacity to survive the global demographic changes of an ageing population and the technological changes that we see is going to be very robust, and we should never deny that. The United States also has a very good relationship with its bordering countries, not only Canada, but also Mexico, as much as members might think that it does not. Mexican immigration and its partnership in the North American Free Trade Agreement has created a lot more wealth in Mexico, and more opportunities for both US Mexicans and native Mexicans. That is a good example of how the US will be inoculated in large part through the next 20 years, but not without its challenges.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** I hope I have not belled the cat there. There is nothing new in what I have said. The demographic situation globally and the ageing population of the workforce is going to create extra challenges as we also try to decarbonise economies and attend to this idea that maybe capitalism needs to be reshaped. The idea of free market capitalism and productivity based on consumptive growth is something that we need to attend to. The climate change approach is one of those great opportunities through which we can attend to it. We need to start talking about how we are going to recycle, for example, the amount of electric vehicles, batteries and the like that are going to be coming in and out of our economy. It is a whole new industry, but we have to be innovative and technologically savvy, and we have to create a workforce that is open to the idea that we can go into a circular economy—something that we should be very much focused on.

I want to reserve my last couple of minutes to talk about the Voice. It is all fairly new as we try to get our head around the attitudes of our different electorates towards the idea of a referendum on the Voice. It is very important that each and every one of us is engaged in this. We are at a historic point in time. It will not end Aboriginal disadvantage, poverty or over-representation in incarceration rates, but, like so many attempts before it, it will be a waypoint. It will be a step in the direction towards who we want to be and the narrative of what it is to be an Australian, and, in our case, Western Australian. I went to an event that the member for Bateman organised at which Thomas Mayo spoke. It was a tremendous insight from someone who is a signatory of the Uluru Statement from the Heart. He chatted and presented us with a very reasoned approach about how First Nation Australians arrived at that moment. He read the Uluru Statement from the Heart. I had read it before, but, quite frankly, I had not heard it being read with the intensity that Thomas read it with. One particular paragraph captured my attention. It is not very long, so I will read it out —

We, gathered at the 2017 National Constitutional Convention, coming from all points of the southern sky, make this statement from the heart:

...

With substantive constitutional change and structural reform, we believe this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

That last sentence captured me. I often listen to many of the welcomes to country and I want to find access to it myself. I want to find out not only whether I am welcome, but also how do I engage. How do I find a place with First Nation Australians as a whitefella? It came to me in that last sentence —

... this ancient sovereignty can shine through as a fuller expression of Australia's nationhood.

That gives me an invitation and an opportunity to join with them in part of our national story, to join with 60 000 years of continuous habitation and become an extension of the story that is Australia. Many Aboriginal people in my electorate identify as Aboriginal Australians—absolutely. It does not mean that they are any less committed to their ethnic heritage than they are to the flag. In fact, when I circle around the idea of commitment to a nation, I, as a former soldier, am acutely aware that Aboriginal people were involved in every conflict of this country since before Federation for 87 years before they were even counted as Australian citizens. As a soldier, I find it quite galling that we can ask them to wear this country's uniform and fight, but they cannot actually be of this country. Yet, as descendants of European settlers, we landed in their country. The Voice and the "yes" campaign that I will be wholeheartedly supporting will be part of a narrative that extends back 60 000 years. Yes, it will be one more iteration of what will happen over the next 60 000 years, but I will be able to say to my kids, their kids and the 2 000 generations after I have gone, that they are part of a continuous place that is living with the land, not on the land, and they are working for the land. I use the term "land" in the very broad context of the spiritual encapsulation of the body corporate that is Australia.

I also want to note that small things matter. If some people trivialise this idea that a Voice to Parliament is just another Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission, another consulting body, another hot air balloon or tokenism to First Nation Australians, I say, “Bring it. I will take it.” In my short lifetime, I have seen incremental changes that I never thought I would see. One of them happened in my first year as a member about 12 years ago. I went to the Cockburn RSL Anzac Day ceremony in the mid-morning and they did a welcome to country. It was not just a welcome to country, but they had a spirit dance and some Aboriginal service people there. My little old RSL in Cockburn was honouring First Nation Australians, and if a bunch of old veterans who ran that RSL could handle that and embrace it, there was something in it for all of us. That is the incremental change that we are talking about. It is the change that my son and daughter will embrace in a fuller voice than members or I ever will. The welcomes to country that we all slavishly sit through from time to time, and even some of those longer ones that go on and on, are all hallmarks, waypoints and incremental changes that need to happen. I have so much more ambition for the Voice, but if it is just that, that is good, because many other institutions fail us as a community. This one will not fail Aboriginal people. The point to note here is that with a referendum voice from Australian people to First Nation Australians, there is more to lose than there is to gain. I say to my former soldier mates who might have an indifferent view to this, because they are not as exposed perhaps as I am to the sorts of things that we see in our communities, that if it does them no harm, why do they bother? If it is trivial, that is no problem to them. Why would they deny First Nation Australians the opportunity to be part of a narrative that we own?

Finally, to land on something a little more controversial, some of the other more difficult reading that I did over summer was around Aboriginal resistance. As a former soldier, I am naturally drawn to the idea of conflict, how it resolves itself, how there are no just wars and how each and every one of them are actually destructive in an intergenerational way, regardless of how righteous they may or may not seem at the time. I looked into Aboriginal resistance in Western Australia. Nationally, there were some very good things, but I obviously tried to keep it close, particularly to the Beeliar area, where my seat is. I read articles about Aboriginal resistance to the European invasion of Australia by John Silvester in the *Journal of Black Studies*; Aboriginal resistance in Western Australia between 1826 and 1864 by Neville Green, which was very interesting reading; and Aboriginal resistance in the pastoral industry in Western Australia by Anne Scrimgeour, which was also very interesting. The authors talked at length about the things that had happened, like Yagan, the Aboriginal resistance leader; the Pinjarra massacre that we hear about from time to time; and various other acts like the battle of Pinjinnie—I do not know that one quite so well, but reference was made to it—and the Canning Stock Route conflict. I looked at these conflicts to see what their characteristics were. Basically, Aboriginal people had been assimilated into the settler lifestyle of the colony. Some were attracted to the trappings of assimilation, even though they were not full beneficiaries of it. But there were some who did resist.

As a former soldier, I find it very difficult that there is nowhere to honour them. One can go to Gallipoli, as I have, to see the Turkish monument to the Australian diggers who fell at Gallipoli. The moving poem by Ataturk talks about the sons of Australia now being in the bosom of the Turkish people, and how they own their enemy and everything they stood for, and respect and honour them. Where is the place in this state where we hold our former adversaries close to us and say, “Your dead are our sons and daughters now”? Where do we say that these people are understood? Where is the truth telling? We can find any number of war memorials on the big green up there that are a testament to the men and women of Western Australia who fell in countless conflicts. We are building a memorial for the Korean War—the forgotten war—and there is no end of support or funding for that. Where is the monument to the resisters, the original soldiers of Australia, where we can say, “We see you, we understand you, we respect you and we honour you”? Thank you.

**MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton)** [6.12 pm]: I am excited to rise to add my reflections on the past six years and expectations for 2023. As we begin the new sitting year, our seventh, I do so with a sense of gratitude and optimism, feeling energised and positive about what the McGowan Labor government has delivered, is delivering and will continue to deliver into the future. Deliver—that is what this government has been doing for the people of the electorate of Bicton and beyond since 2017. We have delivered on the commitments that we made prior to March 2017, and we have delivered or are delivering on the commitments that we made in the lead-up to the historic 2021 state election. Now, with the commencement of 2023, we are ready and raring to go to work harder than ever to keep delivering good government, important infrastructure and vital societal supports, because that is what the McGowan Labor government does.

As we commence the year, we do so on this side of the chamber with vitality and focus, in stark contrast to the embattled and quite literally absent members of the opposition. Since first coming to government in 2017, our state has seen significant economic and health challenges, particularly during the years of the global pandemic. The McGowan government greeted those challenges with diligence and vigour and is well prepared, as a united team, for whatever comes next.

My contribution today will be part reflection and part looking forward. As we commence this year, I believe it is important to spend some time looking back at where we have been in preparation for navigating the road ahead of us. Firstly, I would like to acknowledge and thank the Premier, the cabinet and all my caucus colleagues for their incredible efforts and achievements thus far. I would also like to congratulate the newly appointed ministers and

parliamentary secretaries, and thank all who have served in these positions during the time that I have been in this place. It is a privilege to serve my electorate in the Parliament as part of a diverse and cohesive team. It is as important to me as it is to them that we remain mindful of whom we are here to serve and the enormous responsibility that comes with that service. I would also like to acknowledge and commend the Premier and my colleagues who have spoken before me, and thank them for their thoughtful and positive contributions to the debate.

As I look back over the time since I first became the member for Bicton, I see the many great things the government has delivered in my electorate of Bicton and across our vast state—things that are making both an immediate and a long-term positive difference to the people of Bicton and beyond. We have delivered to schools through the schools maintenance blitz funding to help improve the physical appearance, safety, access and amenity of schools across Western Australia. Delivering on school maintenance was made possible because of the work of the McGowan Labor government to deliver on budget repair. The schools maintenance blitz funding is tangible evidence of this government's commitment to good financial management.

At Melville Senior High School, which is the only public high school in the electorate of Bicton, we are delivering upgrades with the allocation of \$100 000 to the school canteen, \$925 000 to STEM classrooms and \$7.5 million for a new gymnasium that will sit alongside the old and no longer fit-for-purpose building. Together with the \$4.5 million delivered by the McGowan Labor government in 2020, I am pleased and proud as both the member for Bicton and a Melville Senior High School parent to know that our government sees investment in public education in the electorate of Bicton and right across Western Australia as a top priority. The McGowan government's careful, diligent and disciplined approach to the state's finances means that every public school across Western Australia has received funding for vital maintenance work. All but one school in the electorate of Bicton is more than 50 years old, with at least two local primary schools having been built over 100 years ago. We know that ageing buildings require lots of work to keep them viable and fit for purpose. In all, \$724 624 was committed under the schools maintenance blitz funding in my electorate. The McGowan government has continued to deliver science labs across Bicton, with Bicton Primary School having run its lab successfully since 2019, and Attadale and Palmyra primary schools opening theirs in 2021 and Melville Primary School last year, in 2022. We are preparing our kids for the jobs of the future by investing in these science labs, STEM and coding.

As I mentioned earlier, many of my local public schools are ageing and no longer cater adequately for the changing needs of their communities or meet community expectations for facilities of learning. Richmond Primary School had an ageing administration building back in 2021. It celebrated its centenary that year, and that building definitely looked every bit of those 100 years. That was the case until just over \$700 000 was committed to update the building to incorporate contemporary features whilst maintaining the heritage exterior. It was a pleasure to attend the official opening following the refurbishments at the end of 2021, and then to see the now fit-for-purpose admin building in action throughout 2022. Similarly, Attadale Primary School opened its purpose-built early learning centre in our first term of government. It was wonderful to be at the official launch of the new school site-based early learning centre back then, and it is wonderful to think that those first students are now, in 2023, making their way through the middle years of primary school better equipped by the wonderful opportunities the dedicated centre opened up for them. The early years are such a crucial time in a child's life and lay the foundation for life outcomes. Play builds imagination and creativity, fosters cognitive growth, delivers emotional and behavioural benefits, improves literacy, encourages greater independence and promotes physical fitness. That is why I am so pleased and proud to have provided \$50 000 towards a nature playground at Palmyra Primary School, which I had the honour of officially opening and testing out last year.

Post-secondary education and training is a top priority of the McGowan Labor government, which it has demonstrated repeatedly since 2017. Many of the skills that are now in short supply are learnt at TAFE and training institutions, and by reducing or removing fees altogether, we are creating opportunities for young people to launch their careers by getting the skills that employers want, without expensive course fees. This in turn leads to more local skills and more local jobs. TAFE can be an important alternative pathway into university.

This is a great example of how the McGowan Labor government is leading the way in job creation, job security and career pathways for Western Australia's school leavers. Small to medium-sized enterprises are incredibly important employers. SMEs represent around 97 per cent of all businesses in WA. From manufacturing and business services to retail, hospitality, transport and so much more, the sector is a significant employer and job creator. This government is continuing to deliver for the small business owners of Bicton and beyond, and as someone with a small family business myself, I know firsthand how important it is that small business owners have access to resources, opportunity and support. In some parts of my electorate, income from small business ownership is the primary source of income for over half of that local population. In Attadale it is about 42 per cent. I acknowledge the former Minister for Small Business for his leadership in this area with the work that he did in the procurement space through our commitment to local content in state government procurement via the implementation of the Western Australian Jobs Act. I would like to congratulate the new Minister for Small Business, Hon Jackie Jarvis, and I am excited to see her bring her vast personal knowledge to a portfolio that has great significance for my electorate. The small business owners of Bicton simply want the best opportunity to secure work and grow their businesses, and that is what this government is doing.

The Western Australian Jobs Act, initiated when we came to government in 2017, sets out the government's commitment to ensure that the \$25 billion-plus spent annually on state government procurement maximises opportunities for local businesses and creates more jobs for Western Australians. The WA industry participation strategy sets out the pathway to this opportunity. There is a renewed confidence amongst the small businesses of Bicton and a sense that our economy is continuing to be on the up under this government's leadership. Likewise, the changes to payroll tax have also been welcomed by local small business owners. The delivery of payroll tax relief for WA businesses has long been called for by the sector, and proves once again that we are a government that listens. Again, this change was only made possible due to the McGowan government's careful budget management, which resulted in the payroll tax cut for nearly 12 000 small and medium businesses in WA, with around 1 000 businesses in Western Australia no longer being liable for any payroll tax, while also cutting payroll tax liability for an additional 11 000 businesses. The lifting of the exemption threshold to \$1 million over two years has been good for many small business owners in Bicton. These changes continue to provide important tax relief, with reduced costs for businesses leading to their ability to expand and create more jobs, which many are achieving, despite the challenges of the global pandemic and the ongoing economic fallout.

Good financial management is important to the people of my electorate. I know this because when I knock on the doors of Attadale, Bicton, Melville, Palmyra and East Fremantle, I am told repeatedly that this government has been doing a great job of managing the state's books through six years of challenge and change. It also means that several locally important infrastructure projects, both big and small, have either been delivered or are in the process of being delivered, including the East Fremantle Oval redevelopment, the signalised crossing of Canning Highway, nature playground at Davis Lawlor Park in Attadale, the pump track and nature playground in Gourley Park in East Fremantle, the Port Beach sand nourishment project, facility upgrades to Melville Reserve, and an equipment fit-out at Karlup Ceramics Studio in Alfred Cove. I am deeply grateful to the McGowan government for the announcement on the weekend that Bicton Baths will be the first place in the Swan River to have a shark safety swimming enclosure.

Another area I am personally very proud that the McGowan government is delivering in is preserving our environment and building healthy and resilient communities. We are taking the challenges of climate change very seriously. As a long-term community environmental advocate and former health and fitness leader, it is in these matters that I am most emotionally connected and engaged. My personal passion and commitment has deepened and strengthened through my experience as the member for Bicton over the past six years, and I am now more than ever aware of the link between a healthy planet and healthy communities. Wetlands keep our water cleaner and our air clearer, plus they contribute to mental and physical wellbeing and provide a home for a diverse group of animal and plant life. We came to government back in 2017 with a commitment to protect the Beeliar wetlands. I am proud that we delivered permanent protection of this important and significant place.

In my electorate of Bicton, I made a personal commitment to protect the open spaces adjacent to the Attadale foreshore on the Swan Estuary shoreline, which is an internationally significant bird migratory route, and contains a regionally significant bushland and wetland linkage that runs from Alfred Cove to Point Walter. I am therefore personally proud that it was the McGowan Labor government that delivered on protecting this important local open space by refusing to sell the crown land at Alfred Cove for the purposes of an artificial wave park. This resulted in continuous use of the crown land and the land adjacent as a vital natural buffer zone between river and land. Since then, the McGowan Labor government has delivered \$2 million towards greater river health by supporting the work of the Nature Conservancy's artificial shellfish reef restoration projects in local waters of the Swan River. We have delivered a new bird viewing deck at Point Waylen in Attadale so that all, including those with low mobility, can enjoy the spectacular scenery and abundant birdlife without negatively impacting on this ecologically and culturally significant place.

Our beautiful tree-filled open spaces along the river and our local parks are incredibly special to the people of my electorate, and the literature on the importance of public open space and its associated benefits is plentiful; they are well documented. Just some of these benefits include providing places for people to meet, socialise, play and connect, which is associated with increased physical activity and improved mental health. I think it is fair to say that access to these opportunities is more important than ever. No less important are the ecological benefits associated with pockets of urban bushland, local parks and reserves. Large, established trees provide habitat for birds and other wildlife, welcome shade for humans and are a vital antidote to the urban heat island effect. That is why I am particularly proud to have, with my colleague the member for Bateman, successfully campaigned alongside our communities to ensure that 13 parks in Bicton and Bateman are protected now and into the future as public open space. I acknowledge and thank the community campaigners who worked to help achieve this fantastic outcome.

I know firsthand what people power can achieve, so I strongly encourage those who live throughout my communities to get active on the issues that matter to them, like Tom and Jenny who established the Melville Bird Sanctuary and Discovery Centre and have single-handedly raised the establishment of a bird sanctuary in Alfred Cove to a point of such prominence that it is now well into the planning stages. I also acknowledge those involved in the Melville Tree Canopy Advocates community campaign, who are doing whatever they can to ensure greater protection of our local tree canopy.



I would also like to take the opportunity now to recommit to the people of my electorate that I will continue to do all that I can as their local member to protect our local natural environment now and into the future. The connection between a healthy environment and healthy humans is unmistakable. Healthy ecosystems provide the shelter, food, clean air and water that sustain all living organisms, including us. It is evident that under the leadership of the McGowan Labor government, our state's precious natural environment will remain a top priority.

Two-thirds of the electorate of Bicton is blessed to be bordered by the beautiful Swan River and we are incredibly fortunate to have several active and dedicated environmental community groups, including the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group, the Bicton Environmental Action Group, the Friends of East Fremantle Foreshore, the Melville Senior High School sustainability group, the Friends of Attadale Foreshore and Santa Maria College's Eco Sisters.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many community volunteers dedicating their time, knowledge and skills to care for the natural places throughout the electorate of Bicton. I greatly admire the commitment of these individuals who go about their activities of weeding, planting, rubbish collection, revegetation work, citizen science data collection and many more important actions, despite rain, mosquitoes or heat. It is always a joy to work side by side with some of these awesome individuals when time allows. It is wonderful to know that some of these groups will receive funding through this government's river care community grant program and natural resource management funding. I am proud to be a member of a government delivering the kind of environmental action my community expects.

In conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude for the opportunity to represent the people of Bicton in the Parliament of Western Australia. It is an enormous privilege, and one that I never take for granted. I am proud of what I have been able to deliver so far for my communities in my role as the member for Bicton and I look forward to working hard, engaging with my local communities and delivering more for Bicton in 2023.

**MS R.S. STEPHENS (Albany)** [6.30 pm]: I am delighted to provide an update on the McGowan government's initiatives that have improved the lives of people in Albany. After two years in this place, it is a privilege to deliver an address, but it will be hard to condense it into the short amount of time I have because so much has happened in my electorate and across Western Australia under the McGowan government.

I am delighted to be back in Parliament for 2023. I think we have all had a short break and have been busy working in our electorates. I would like to start with health in my area. We have been delivering on some key health initiatives in Albany. I know former member for Albany Peter Watson, back in the day, really championed funding for a radiation oncology unit at the Albany Health Campus. We have provided \$13 million and the unit is now under construction. As I speak, the last piece of specialist equipment is being installed. We look forward to opening that unit in the next few months. We have also funded an additional 70 car parking bays. Like any hospital, there will never be enough car parking bays, and it has been welcomed by our community.

Another health initiative the government provides for regional constituents that I get a lot of support from and thanks for is the patient assisted travel scheme. Our government has invested \$19.7 million in the initiative and increased the overnight allowance to \$100. I have noticed that some of the more vulnerable people in my area are catching planes to Perth, and that assistance for when they have to stay in Perth has been welcome. I have a family member who is coming up to Perth for a specialist appointment who will be able to use PATS to make sure that they can get care. A number of people in my community also come up to Perth for specialist care at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women when they are delivering their baby. PATS has helped those members of my community.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is an incredible service that is vitally needed in regional areas. Funding of \$10.9 million to upgrade aircraft has been welcomed. I track the flights to Albany quite a lot; they come and go. The number of times that they come down to get critical patients is significant. Having these aircraft available has been vital for constituents in Albany who need to get to Perth for specialist treatment in emergency situations. When my dad was not well, he used the Royal Flying Doctor Service. My nephew was diagnosed with a hole in his heart when he was only 18 months old and it was vital that he got to Perth quickly to receive support.

We spoke about Ronald McDonald House with the Premier in the chamber this afternoon. There was another welcome announcement from the McGowan government about that service for regional communities. My family has used Ronald McDonald House. It is an incredible service for people who are going through hard and traumatic times with young children. People can go to that house where the volunteers cook for them and there are all sorts of activities that brighten their day. It is not only for the child who is unwell, but also the families. They can meet and network with other people in the community who are going through a hard time. My sister stayed there while my nephew had open-heart surgery. Unfortunately, her husband had had open heart surgery the week before, so I was at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children with my nephew while my sister was supporting her husband. We had two patients in hospital at the same time after open-heart surgery, which was pretty horrific. My sister was able to go back to Ronald McDonald House where she was able to chill out. When William was well enough, he went to Ronald McDonald House. He loved all the support services. He got teddies and all sorts of things while he stayed there. I know that it made my sister's experience much easier.

The investment of \$9.6 million will double the number of guestrooms. I know Ronald McDonald House probably will be oversubscribed because it is such a fantastic place to stay. It supports over 2 000 families a year who need to come to Perth. I always volunteer for McHappy Day. It is incredible to be able to give back. It sounds like the organisation is doing great things as well to support community members up here in Perth.

There is \$30 million to double the capacity of the dental service in Albany with a brand new clinic. The service is needed and the increase has been well received by our community.

Last year, we opened a permanent BreastScreen clinic in Albany. I know some of the member for Moore's constituents use the facility when they come to Albany to go shopping.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** It's the member for Roe.

**Ms R.S. STEPHENS:** I did say "member for Roe"—didn't I? I am sorry, member for Roe.

People know that the facility is in Albany permanently, so when they come down for the school holidays or to do their shopping or other things in the community, they know that they can book in and use it. Some women have mentioned that they did not feel comfortable going into the van, but now they can get to know the staff and rebook appointments, knowing that the permanent facility will be open when they visit.

In the housing space, there is the Spencer Park renewal project. It is great to see that there is some construction going on along Hardie Road. Upgrading the road is part of the \$4 million Spencer Park renewal project, which will see eight new two-bedroom units built. Roslyn from local company Holmes Architecture has been appointed to design the units. I grew up in Spencer Park. We had some really ugly housing commission flats, but they have gone and Spencer Park is going through a real transformation. The school is open and willing to take on new students and the shopping centre is being upgraded. It is an amazing suburb that houses our hospital and other facilities. I quite often say to people that they should buy real estate in Spencer Park because it is going through such a transformation and it is close to all our facilities.

We are working with the City of Albany to make sure that the parks in the area are upgraded. Part of the \$4 million in funding will provide access ways to Mokare park. I did a mobile office in the area and met with some of the residents who are really keen to start a community bushcare group, which I think will be fantastic. The community can really own what is going on in the park.

The Albany ring-road is another fantastic project. Anyone who has been down to Albany lately will know it is pretty hard to miss. Dirt is being moved around all over the outskirts of Albany. It is a \$175 million project. The first grade separation has opened on Menang Drive and cars can fly over it on their way to the airport. The project has created over 1 000 local jobs. The construction is on time. Obviously, commuters are a little bit upset at the moment because roads have been closed, but the amount of work that has happened and will happen during the summer will create an 11-kilometre free-flowing route from South Coast Highway all the way down to Albany Highway, through to Princess Royal Drive. It will get trucks off our main roundabout, which will improve the efficiency of our freight route and stop the congestion at the entry to our city. The next stage down to Frenchman Bay Road has commenced and is going really well. We do not get many big road infrastructure projects in Albany so it is fantastic to see the scale of this project.

I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Transport, Rita Saffioti, for her record investment in regional roads. Many of the people who came down to Albany over the summer period whinged about the many roadworks, but, unfortunately, to improve roads we need to do roadworks. I think we have seen significant investment. Even just in the great southern area we have had over 18 major road projects worth over \$19 million of investment. Some of the safety features and upgrades such as the widening of the shoulders and putting in the audible edges cannot be underestimated because they save lives. The feedback I get from the community is that simply widening the shoulders and adding the audible edges is welcomed.

In education, late last year the Premier and I were able to open the new refurbishments to Mount Lockyer Primary School, which is one of the oldest primary schools in my area. That was a \$16.6 million upgrade. It is an incredible transformation. The school has embraced not having as much outdoor space while it is under construction. A new principal has started there. The year 7 graduation had 110 year 7s. The school has nearly grown to capacity because so many people are living out that way. They are fortunate and happy for the facilities that they have been able to move into. I commend the parents and citizens association that really advocated to former member Peter Watson on some of the challenges and barriers of ensuring that all the kids could fit into the hall for the school assembly. As the government, we listened and were able to make sure that those facilities were fit for purpose for those students.

A new performing arts centre is being built at Albany Senior High School. That is transforming one of our old youth centres where I used to play basketball and we had to sit our exams on old wooden chairs back in the day. This will be an amazing facility for our young people to do performing arts. It will also have a training element whereby students will be able to do a certificate II or III in different hospitality vocations and performing arts, and it will provide the community with a space in which to watch young people perform. We have had a lot of investment in STEM classrooms in our area, as well as refurbishments to the school science labs at two of my old schools,

Mount Lockyer and Spencer Park Primary Schools. During the election, I was able to meet with the P&Cs and chat to them about which small projects I could support them on. It was interesting that there were so many different projects in the electorate that people wanted funding for. I will list some of those. South Stirling Primary School wanted a library upgrade. That is a little school with about 25 kids in South Stirling. I got to open that and sit on the beautiful new library chair. The kids loved all their new books. At Little Grove Primary School, we developed an early childhood playground centre, at Yakamia Primary School, we developed a nature playground, and at Mount Lockyer we were able to contribute to the new playground facilities. At Flinders Park Primary School, we were able to assist with a new PA system that was used for the first time when school went back this year. Albany Primary School decided to paint “no bullying” murals in the toilet blocks, which I thought was interesting. They look fantastic. Spencer Park Primary School students painted some colour walls on the outside of the school telling their stories. Each year group has a different wall on which it has been able to put up artwork.

The training sector is an area I am quite passionate about, and I visited South Regional TAFE yesterday. The new trade training centre is well underway, with the construction contract being awarded to Wauters Building Company, which is a local building company that has done some major projects in the area. It will be an amazing facility that will upgrade the old facility that is over 50 years old. It will tailor the training in the metals, engineering, automotive, building and construction trades, as well as the carpentry and joinery trades. The trade centre will be in one location rather than separated throughout the college. That will obviously mean we will be able to train more jobseekers in our area, which is another fantastic reason we need these state-of-the-art facilities to keep our locals and apprentices trained in our area.

Last year, with the former Minister for Education and Training Sue Ellery, we opened the autonomous skills area. That is a whole new language that I am sure my kids will know more about than I will. It refers to some of the autonomous workplace operations. It is for robotics, drone works, new laser cutters and mobile communication. We met with the group of students who are doing their cert II in autonomous workplace operations from school. There were students from the Mt Barker, Denmark and Albany catchments who were really enjoying this new course that was able to be offered in Albany for the first time. That \$500 000 for equipment for South Regional TAFE was welcomed.

Last year, I was fortunate enough to go to Singapore with the Great Southern Development Commission for a Discover Great Southern event, which was really focused on ensuring that we could put the great southern on the international map as a premium food and wine destination. Like many, I love going out and eating beautiful produce and wine. Sometimes we are the poor cousin to Margaret River. That narrative is changing, and changing in a very fast and good way. We took more than 50 great southern winemakers and food producers to Singapore over three days where former minister Hon Alannah MacTiernan, the CEO of the development commission and I were able to showcase what the great southern had on a plate. The winemakers were able to speak to investors and we were able to host a dinner at the high commissioner’s house where the produce showcased from my area was the akoya oyster. For someone who does not like oysters, they are meant to be amazing. Harvest Road is steaming ahead with those. Green Range Lamb is part of Dirty Clean Food, which the member for Maylands talked about earlier today. That is an amazing farm that sits at the site of Cheynes Beach where the happy lambs wander around to graze. It produces the best fat on a lamb cutlet. A farmer could probably explain the terminology better than I can, but that is what people were looking for, and it was absolutely delicious. The Futari Wagyu beef farm is located down the road from my house. Futari Wagyu exports produce, especially from Albany and the great southern region. I would like to acknowledge Natasha Monks, the CEO of the Great Southern Development Commission, who led the delegation. The comments from the industry were, “Why haven’t we done this earlier?”, and, “Why can’t we collaborate?” I think the commissions have a fantastic connection and are bringing people together and really making sure that our regions are put on the map.

I would like to touch on Lotterywest. I think that in the regions everyone is always asking for funding. Lotterywest in my region has delivered on some quite diverse programs and projects. Only last week, it delivered \$100 000 to the City of Albany for *First Lights: Binalup* that will reflect on the Mammang culture and celebrate the local multicultural community. The event will be held in April. That will be a fantastic event that will project us into the 2026 bicentenary.

The Premier mentioned earlier some of the recovery and support that Lotterywest has been doing with different agencies around supporting our communities. One of the organisations in my community is Pivot Support Services. It was able to receive \$50 000 during the COVID pandemic that really helped support people in my community who were experiencing hardship. That program has been able to continue in another way, but it was really the support of Lotterywest that was able to assist that program. Another organisation that received funding was Gondwana Link, which received \$614 000 towards the delivery of an ecosystem restoration activity and cultural programs for Noongar people. That is another organisation that goes all the way across to Esperance to deliver amazing biodiversity projects that protect the environment. It especially involves Noongar people in restoration activities. This money has gone towards education in a certain area out near the Fitzgerald biosphere. They are some of the projects that have received Lotterywest funding.

Albany is the home of the Anzacs, and Lotterywest is delivering \$110 000 to the RSL Albany sub-branch to cover the cost of the 2023 Anzac Day events.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms R.S. STEPHENS:** I would like to finish with a short story from one of my community members who received a regional economic development grant. This young man, Elliott Reynolds, I think received \$150 000 to expand his business's shed. Elliott produces potter's wheels in Albany that are exported all over the world. The business is called Venco. Now I know them, I see them all over the place and in movies and things. It is incredible that this young man—he is about 28—with this grant is going to be able to transform his business and double its capacity. When the Activ Foundation left Albany, he was able to employ a lot of the people who had minor disabilities to help in his business. He also employs an Indigenous apprentice. He is a young person, but this grant that will transform his business will also provide job opportunities for more vulnerable people in our community. I think the RED grants have such a place in our regions. I commend former Minister MacTiernan for the work she did in the RED grants. I look forward to seeing other organisations apply for those grants in the future.

I will leave my Premier's Statement reply there. I look forward to an exciting 2023 with the rest of my parliamentary colleagues and the minister. I thank the Premier for his ongoing hard work, and I look forward to working with the McGowan Labor government for the next few years.

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie)** [6.51 pm]: I am very pleased to follow on from so many other members who have spoken with great enthusiasm, confidence and positivity about what is going on right across the state. So many good and exciting stories is really something to behold. In my electorate, we have had some great progress with a key piece of infrastructure, Thornlie Senior High School, which desperately needs an upgrade. The school is over 50 years old now. It did not receive the big, multimillion-dollar upgrade that I know schools in other areas have had the benefit of. It was with great pleasure that I had Minister Buti come and visit the school and meet the principal, Donna McDonald, and the school P&C president, Michelle Manolas, and vice-president, Tracey Nelson. Between them, they were able to put forward to the minister a very clear case as to why Thornlie Senior High School desperately needs a major upgrade. I know they made that case most forcefully and clearly.

Minister Whitby has also been in the electorate recently. He was able to see the benefits of investment in the Canning River. There is an idea that a river in an urban area is often the first connection point for people who are newly arrived to Australia. Many people in my area are in that category. They can make that cultural connection with the natural environment or ecology of Western Australia and the south west area by being able to access the river. However, if the area is not particularly welcoming or it looks a little bit run-down, they will not make that connection.

Moving on to policing matters, we have had more than our fair share of illegal trail bike usage. However, I am very pleased to report to the Minister for Police that I think the overall sentiment is that that problem, thanks to a special task force, has ameliorated somewhat. Having said that, just yesterday I saw a balaclava-wearing person doing a wheelie along Yale Road. Just when you think you have got on top of something, it suddenly turns the other way. We have to persist with our work on illegal trail bike usage.

Minister Saffioti has done wonderful work with the transport links and train line extensions, including investment in cycling infrastructure, and I will come back to matters cycling in a moment. The Minister for Water will be pleased to know of progress with the Kelvin Road–Albany Highway water pipe. It is a very complicated and expensive project at well over \$10 million, but an essential one to enable a piece of urban renewal to take place in Maddington. Unfortunately, the original pipe was too close to the surface at Albany Highway so we could not do any intersection upgrades, which then prevented a whole lot of urban renewal happening on the old Maddington Oval site. Thankfully, we have managed to move that pipe. We are now proceeding with the upgrades to the intersections and urban renewal can take place. That will be a real boost for the whole Maddington community. We are going to do things like move the City of Gosnells operations centre out of its current location, which is right next to the Maddington train station. Urban renewal is something that our government can be so proud of. It is often quite expensive to kickstart it, and then you have to rely on private capital to come in and do things, but we have really paved the way for a lot of good stuff there.

I was delighted that the Minister for Sport and Recreation was able to confirm for me that Peter Bol, our Olympian—a man who lived for quite some time in his youth in the Thornlie electorate, and his family still live in the Thornlie electorate—had the very good news that his B-sample for an erythropoietin, or EPO, doping allegation has not confirmed his first sample. That means Peter Bol is able to compete again, which is good news.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** What about the damage to his reputation?

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I think the member is right. I know that Peter Bol was in the running for Australian of the Year in the youth category. Because of the allegation that was hanging over him, I think it has fallen away. The community will get behind Peter Bol now. I hope the suffering he has gone through can soon become a memory.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** Are you going to write a letter to Sport Integrity Australia?

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I do not have those contacts, but I am happy to talk to the member about it offline to see what can be done there.

There are two other matters in the sport portfolio, including the great work done by the Minister for Sport and Recreation around trails and centres like Dwellingup, Collie, Nannup and the Perth hills. All the great trails were absolutely fantastic, giving people a brilliant recreational opportunity. The ultimate of trails in Western Australia is the Bibbulmun Track, and in particular, for me, the Munda Bididi. I was able to do my second end-to-end Munda Bididi ride from Albany to Mundaring this time. I did it in nine days. We hear a lot about the Camino trail pilgrim walk to Camino de Santiago in Galicia in north western Spain. It is in green Spain with the Atlantic Ocean bringing in lots of rain, so even in summer they get lots of rain in that area. Pilgrims come from all over Europe to do this walk and they are looked after on the journey; people are respected. That idea is emerging with the Munda Bididi as well. I recall arriving at the Brockman tourist centre and how greatly I was welcomed as a Munda Bididi rider. I was certainly very red in the face at the time and they said to me, “Are you sure you shouldn’t be resting up and having a nice cool swim in Lake Brockman?” I said, “No, I’ve got to get to Dwelling tonight.” I had to stick to my schedule but they were quite concerned for my welfare and gave me a wonderful meal even though I think the kitchen was closed. That is the sort of quality of welcoming that all of us can appreciate. Similarly, Donnelly River Village gave a beautiful welcome, as well as places elsewhere along the way. You do see signs that some of our tourism cafe and restaurant sector has still not quite caught up. They are still waiting for backpackers and staff capability and experience to really kick in and deliver the quality of service we might all enjoy.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** How long did you say it took you?

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** It was nine days.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** How far is that?

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** It is 1 050 kilometres, but to put it into perspective, minister, the record is two days and 17 hours held by a young man by the name of Craig Wiggins. He is an elite athlete and also someone who has incredible bike handling skills and incredible endurance because he is able to ride without sleeping. I believe in his two days and 17 hours, he had a few hours’ kip in Manjimup, but it was amazing. I can sort of see how someone could get down to four days if they went through without sleeping.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** Maybe the Minister for Sport and Recreation can have a crack at the record!

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** I am glad the member has raised the general view of fitness in this place because that is a theme I want to come to—the importance of fitness. I would say that this Parliament overall, if we averaged it out, is probably the fittest Parliament in the history of Western Australia. That is something we can be proud of and something that we can all aspire to. There are all sorts of reasons why it is good to be fit and healthy, but the issue of longevity is one that really interests me. We all want to live for as long as possible with what has been called a health span. That means for as long as possible with good health. There is no point living into our 90s if we are completely bedbound. That is my personal view. We want to live as long as possible and as well as possible.

Some great research is coming out around the importance of a particular level of exercise. This is not the super intense stuff or the incredible endurance feats. This is called zone 2 exercising. I acknowledge the work of Dr Inigo San Millan at the University of Colorado School of Medicine. He is in the exercise physiology and human performance laboratory and he and Dr Peter Attia from Stanford University and Johns Hopkins Hospital—now based in Austin, Texas—are doing this research, and there are others as well.

What does zone 2 mean? I am sure many of us have smartphones and watches that tell us that we are walking at a rate in zone 2. It really seems to come down to our ability as an individual to improve our mitochondrial efficiency. It is all about that mitochondrial efficiency. The mitochondria really determine the amount of fat burning that we are able to do and the amount of oxygen that we are able to deliver to our muscles, but how do we improve that? It is not by necessarily exercising in some sort of short burst or at some very low level either. Zone 2 can be measured in the amount of lactate in our muscles, but that is hard and a bit painful to do; it is not practical. There are a few surrogates we can use and one is by exercising at a rate that is 75 per cent of our maximum heart rate, so in my case that is about 133 beats per minute. It is not too hard to get a heart rate monitor and do that. But there is an even simpler surrogate that we can use; that is, if we are exercising at a level at which we can just maintain a conversation—it is a bit uncomfortable, but we can just maintain a conversation—we are probably in zone 2. We have to do that for about an hour, and if we can do that four times a week, we are well on our way to really improving this very important thing, mitochondrial efficiency.

I say that we have a great sporting culture in Western Australia, but sitting down spectating and watching sport is not a sporty thing to do. I know that there are arguments that elite sport is there to inspire us and, yes, it is a wonderful thing to do. It gives us conversation as well. It helps us bond. Perhaps most important of all, elite sport has that capacity to bring together people from different cultures. We all know when the Olympics or world cups are on; there is this sense that the whole world is focusing on a particular event and coming together. That is a great thing. But let us not kid ourselves that when we are watching sport, we are improving our health in any way. I have

personally found that one way around that is to set up my stationary bike in front of my TV when I am watching sport. I can do an hour on the trainer with a special program. There are loads of these very good programs and I do commend that to people.

Having said all that, I have a weakness for watching elite cycling and I had the pleasure of meeting Jai Hindley, who won the Giro d'Italia in the middle of last year and who is a very serious contender for the Tour de France this year. I admire what Jai and all those elite cyclists do. A quote about cycling from former Tour de France winner Greg LeMond is "It never gets easier; you just get faster." In other words, we all suffer the same. That is rather a touching idea and we can all ride on the same roads and suffer the same; some people just go a whole lot faster!

I want to conclude with a bit of an analogy because I know in our culture we often talk about sport as a metaphor for what goes on in our world and we often resort to those Americanisms, saying things such as, "I'll touch base with you", "Hit that one out of the park" —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** "Step up to the plate."

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** "Step up to the plate" is the classic one—all those sporting ideas. I think that as a government, we are performing as a brilliant team and we are a peloton, really. We are the lead group. It is interesting just to take it a little further. It is interesting to ponder who the protected riders in our society are, who are the Jai Hindleys. I think some of the new technology sectors that the Premier spoke of earlier today—the space technology and our film industry—are the sectors that could really lead our economy. We just have to nurture them along and protect them a little bit initially and then they will be able to really take off at the right stage. Then, of course, we have the domestiques. These are the people in cycling who support us along the way. Our public service—our education, health and police services—is all about making sure that society functions. That is the role of the domestiques. There are also the breakaway riders who go way out in front, and I see our resources sector is a bit like that. Will it be able to sustain it over the centuries? It is making a great contribution to the interest in the race. Then there are the climbers—those general classification winners like Jai Hindley—and their amazing capacities, their watts per kilo that they are putting out. I think these are the leaders in our society—the professionals, the scientists, the creatives—who can really transform our society with their contributions. There are many others. Then, of course, we have the lanterne rouge. In the peloton there are the people who get dropped totally, and we see that on the global stage. The UK economy is perhaps a classic example of that; it is the only G7 economy that has not regained the level of gross domestic product that it had prior to the COVID pandemic.

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Then there's the opposition, who ride like *The Hillbilly Bears*. Do you remember that cartoon with the Hillbilly Bears?

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** Yes. Our opposition—where would we place them in the peloton?

**Mr W.J. Johnston** interjected.

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** We will find a good way to describe them, but it could be a lanterne rouge situation as well!

I think we should have confidence in the way the Western Australian economy is performing; it is absolutely outstanding. We can all be very proud of that. I am really struck by the ongoing cohesiveness of our society—this confidence that the Western Australian public has in us as a government and in decision-makers in general. It is very different from the level of cynicism that I encountered when I first came in here back in 2008. It was around for such a long time and it was so damaging. I think it is really fascinating to ponder how much a society, a community, can achieve when there is a good and strong rapport between the decision-makers and the broader community. So much of that is down to the excellent leadership that we have, and I commend the leadership of the Premier and our ministers. This is a great time to be in Western Australia and I see us going from strength to strength. I am very happy to support the Premier's address.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**.

*House adjourned at 7.10 pm*

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### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

#### WATER — RIGHTS IN WATER AND IRRIGATION ACT

**562. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* (the Act) and ask:

- (a) How many FTE within the following are focused on enforcing water regulation in relation to the Act:
  - (i) Water Corporation; and
  - (ii) Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER);
- (b) What is the process for ensuring the DWER is kept informed of any breaches to Section 17 of the Act which are determined by staff in other departments, government trading entities or agencies;
- (c) What is the process for ensuring DWER is made aware of any breaches to Section 17 of the Act by staff at Water Corporation;
- (d) For each financial year 2020–21, 2021–22, 2022–23 to date, how many Section 17 breach notices were:
  - (i) Issued;
  - (ii) Successfully prosecuted;
  - (iii) Withdrawn; and
  - (iv) Not pursued by DWER;
- (e) What are the ten worst local government areas for being issued breach notices of Section 17 in 2022–23 to date; and
- (f) For 2022–23 to date, how many breach notices were made based on tip offs from:
  - (i) DPIRD employees;
  - (ii) Private Citizens;
  - (iii) Referred internally within DWER;
  - (iv) Referred from Water Corporation; and
  - (v) Western Power, Horizon Power or Synergy?

**Ms S.F. McGurk replied:**

- (a)
  - (i) Zero.
  - (ii) Two dedicated FTE with eight specialist positions providing regular assistance, as well as licensing officers from across the regions contributing to identification of compliance issues and supporting initial assessment of compliance matters.
- (b) External reports of possible breaches of Section 17 of the Act are managed in accordance with DWER's *Compliance and Enforcement Policy* (2021) and relevant internal guidelines. .
- (c) The Water Corporation management procedures, including the Corporation Compliance Breach Reporting Framework, requires the classification of possible breaches, recording, internal review and external reporting of a non-compliance with Section 17 of the Act to DWER.
- (d)

	Section 17 breach (i.e. direction) notices	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23 (to date)
(i)	Issued	1	0	1
(ii)	Successfully Prosecuted	0	0	0
(iii)	Withdrawn	0	0	0
(iv)	Not pursued <sup>1</sup>	25	8	0

<sup>1</sup>Reports of 'possible' breaches of Section 17 of the *Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914* received by DWER that have been closed and that did not result in the issue of a Section 17 breach (i.e. direction) notice. In these cases, an alternative management pathway was determined to be appropriate (e.g. alternative enforcement action or no enforcement action).

- (e) The one Section 17 breach (i.e.) direction notice issued by DWER this financial year was in the Shire of Harvey.

(f)

	Source of initial report	2022–2023 (to date)
(i)	DPIRD employees	0
(ii)	Private citizens	1
(iii)	DWER officer	0
(iv)	Water Corporation	0
(v)	Western Power, Horizon Power, Synergy	0

**GOLD CORPORATION — INTERNATIONAL FUNDS TRANSFER INSTRUCTION REPORT**

**611. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier:**

I refer to Gold Corporation and ask:

- (a) Did Gold Corporation fail to file a single international funds transfer instruction (IFTI) report in the 2021 financial year, despite operating an international gold trading app and selling bullion to customers in 130 countries?

**Mr M. McGowan replied:**

- (a) Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 612.

**GOLD CORPORATION — RISK MANAGEMENT**

**612. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I refer to Gold Corporation and ask:

- (a) Did Gold Corporation fail to file a single international funds transfer instruction (IFTI) report in the 2021 financial year, despite operating an international gold trading app and selling bullion to customers in 130 countries?

**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

Gold Corporation continues to engage with the auditor authorised by AUSTRAC regarding international funds transfer instructions and will comply with any requirements. Gold Corporation did not file any IFTIs in 2020–21 or any previous financial year, including 2008–09 to 2016–17.

**GOLD CORPORATION — RISK MANAGEMENT**

**613. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier:**

I refer to revelations over recent months surrounding governance failures at Gold Corporation and the Auditor General Compliance Frameworks for Anti–Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Terrorism Financing Obligations (CTFO) and I ask:

- (a) During the time you were Minister responsible, did Gold Corporation have a risk rating against all customers; and
- (b) When the Gold Pass product launched is it true that best practice risk management was not possible due to the fact there was no single view of a customer making AML/CTF obligations difficult?

**Mr M. McGowan replied:**

- (a) Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 593.
- (b) Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 652.

**WESTERN POWER — PORTABLE GENERATORS**

**614. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the large-scale portable backup generators used to power towns like Quairading in the event of an outage, and I ask:

- (a) What categories of these larger scale portable generators in Kilo Volt Amperes (KVA) ranges are available to be deployed by Western Power in the event of outages;
- (b) Where are these large generators stored;
- (c) How many such generators has Western Power had in each year from 2016/17 to 2021/22; and
- (d) What matters are considered in the process of deciding to send a generator to a particular location in response to a power outage?



**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

- (a) High Voltage Injection Units (HVIUs) are used to power towns like Quairading. A High Voltage Injection Unit is a 2000 kilo Volt Amp step-up transformer with high voltage and low voltage switchgear. It supplies power at 22,000 Volts or 33,000 Volts.
- (b) Western Power's HVIUs are stored at Western Power's Forrestfield Depot when not in service.
- (c) The quantity and size of Western Power's HVIU fleet is listed below

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Year to Date 2022/23
<b>High Voltage Injection Units (HVIU)</b>							
2000 kVA HVIU mobile	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
2000 kVA HVIU fixed	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Total HVIU</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

- (d) Western Power follows a standard operating procedure when deciding to dispatch a generator in response to a power outage.

Western Power will always prioritise public safety and respond to reported hazards first before power can be restored. The decision to dispatch a generator is based upon the following factors:

Estimated time to repair the network compared to generator deployment time. In most circumstances it will be faster to restore the network rather than dispatching a generator.

Availability of resources including staff to transport and operate the Emergency Response Generator, materials to repair the underlying fault and consideration of fatigue management.

Impact of the outage on vital locations, key third-party infrastructure sites or sensitive customers such as hospitals or customers with life support equipment.

**WESTERN POWER — PORTABLE GENERATORS****615. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to Western Power's portable generator stock, and I ask:

- (a) How many portable generators in Kilo Volt Amperes (KVA) are available to be deployed by Western Power in the event of outages;
- (b) Where are these generators stored and how many are at each location;
- (c) How many of these generators has Western Power had in each year from 2016/17 to 2021/22; and
- (d) If generator numbers have declined over this period, can the Minister explain why?

**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

- (a) The quantity and size of Western Power's portable generation fleet is listed in the table below.
- (b) Western Power's portable generators are stored at Western Power's Forrestfield Depot when not in service.
- (c) See table.
- (d) The number of generators increased because of the continued investment by Western Power on behalf of the people of Western Australia.

	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Year to Date 2022/23
<b>Low Voltage Emergency Response Generators (ERG)</b>							
500 kVA (base fleet)	8	12	12	12	12	12	12
500 kVA (summer hire)	4	0	0	0	0	2	8
300 kVA	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
100 kVA	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
45 kVA	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total ERG</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>

<b>High Voltage Injection Units (HVIU)</b>							
2000 kVA HVIU mobile	1	2	2	2	2	2	2
2000 kVA HVIU fixed	0	0	0	0	1	1	1
<b>Total HVIU</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

## WESTERN POWER — STAFF

**616. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to Western Power's staff across regional WA, and ask:

- How many employees have been based in each of the regions and the metropolitan area in each year from 2016/17 to 2021/22; and
- How many employees have been located in the head office in Perth for each year from 2016/17 to 2021/22?

**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

Workforce headcount includes; employees and casuals. Excludes all contractors and board members.

(a)

<b>Region</b>	<b>30/06/2017</b>	<b>30/06/2018</b>	<b>30/06/2019</b>	<b>30/06/2020</b>	<b>30/06/2021</b>	<b>30/06/2022</b>
Perth	2233	2264	2354	2455	2433	2495
Central West	50	53	55	59	59	66
Central Wheatbelt	82	83	83	81	81	87
Eastern Wheatbelt	10	10	9	10	8	8
Goldfields	11	12	12	13	13	15
Great Southern	72	73	73	73	74	70
Mid West	7	7	8	8	7	8
Northern Wheatbelt	7	10	10	10	10	10
Peel	8	8	5	5	59	62
South West	185	190	193	192	195	197
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2665</b>	<b>2710</b>	<b>2802</b>	<b>2906</b>	<b>2939</b>	<b>3018</b>

(b)

<b>Work Location</b>	<b>30/06/2017</b>	<b>30/06/2018</b>	<b>30/06/2019</b>	<b>30/06/2020</b>	<b>30/06/2021</b>	<b>30/06/2022</b>
Head Office	1071	1229	1308	1354	1396	1460
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1071</b>	<b>1229</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>1354</b>	<b>1396</b>	<b>1460</b>

## SYNERGY — POWER GENERATION

**617. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to Synergy's power generation capacity, and ask:

- How many gas supply contracts does Synergy have for gas supply to its gas plants;
- What is the total contracted gas volume per annum;
- What is the start and end date for each of those contracts;
- What is the contracted annual volume of gas for each contract;
- When does the contract for coal supply with Premier Coal end; and
- What is the annual volume of coal under this contract?

**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

The Member should be aware, these agreements to supply gas include one announced by the Hon Peter Collier when he was the Minister for Energy in November 2011. The gas supply agreements included an announcement regarding a 20-year contract with Gorgon Joint Venture that commenced in 2015.

- Synergy operates in a regulated competitive market with other market participants. Public disclosure of prices and other contractual terms impact on Synergy's ability to negotiate future gas supply contracts. Due to this, the details of Synergy's contractual arrangements with gas suppliers are commercial in confidence.

- (b) As above.
- (c) As above.
- (d) As above.
- (e) The contract is until 2030.
- (f) The annual volume of coal varies under the contract in accordance with the contract terms.  
Details of the annual volumes are commercial in confidence

#### COAL-FIRED POWER STATIONS — CLOSURE

##### 618. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the government's proposal to close Collie coal fired power stations and the need for the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to seek offers of reserve capacity to fill the gap left by Collie closure, and ask:

- (a) What is the estimated annual cost of keeping Collie plants on care and maintenance; and
- (b) What is the estimated cost of paying for reserve capacity to fill the void created by Collie coal power closure?

##### Mr W.J. Johnston replied:

- (a) Firstly, I note the basis of the question is inaccurate. The Government's sensible, managed transition to a greater use of renewables plans for closure of the Collie Power Station in late-2027, and Muja D in late-2029. This is a decision that has been welcomed by AEMO and gives clarity to the power station workers and the Collie community

AEMO's request for supplementary reserve capacity closed in October 2022 to ensure additional generation capacity was on standby for the summer of 2022/2023. This capacity was in addition to the generation available at the Muja and Collie Power Stations, and other generators participating in the Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM). The ability to call for supplementary reserve capacity is core part of the WEM's design to ensure there is sufficient capacity in the South West Interconnected System to meet demand at peak periods.

- (b) Nil. Collie and Muja Power Stations participate in the capacity market. When new generation and storage enters it will receive capacity payments in the same manner.

#### TRANSPORT — TIER 3 RAIL LINES — BUSINESS CASES

##### 619. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to Question without Notice No. 976 asked in the Legislative Council regarding Tier 3 rail lines in the agricultural network, and the Minister's statement that the previous government allowed the Tier 3 lines to be closed, and I ask:

- (a) Which lines were closed by the previous government; and
- (b) Will the Minister table pertinent documents showing the previous government approving closure of these lines, and if not, why not?

##### Ms R. Saffioti replied:

I thank the Member for the Dorothy Dixier.

- (a) The Liberal–National Government allowed over 704 kilometres of railway to be closed, including the:  
Gnowangerup – Tambellup line;  
Nyabing – Katanning line;  
Bullaring – West Merredin line;  
Merredin – Naremben line;  
Bullaring – Yilliminning line;  
Narrogin – Yilliminning line;  
Kulin – Yilliminning line;  
Quairading – York line;  
Trayning – West Merredin line; and  
Perenjori – Maya line.
- (b) I table several pertinent documents [See tabled paper no [1811](#).]:  
A media release from former Transport Minister, the Hon Simon O'Brien MLC, dated 15 November 2010, in which he is quoted as saying 'no rail lines would close';

The front page of the Thursday, 7 March 2013 edition of *FarmWeekly*, in which the lead article is titled ‘Liberals support a viable Tier 3’.

The Legislative Assembly Economics and Industry Standing Committee’s October 2014 report titled *The Management of Western Australia’s Freight Rail Network*, which said “much evidence has been presented to show that the assumptions on which [the Strategic Grain Network Report] was based no longer hold true”; and

A *Merredin-Wheatbelt Mercury* article from 30 July 2014, in which the Member for Central Wheatbelt is quoted as saying ‘she did not think it was “acceptable” the government could not intervene to help find a resolution’.

#### POLICE — CADET PROGRAM

##### 620. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the State Government’s Police cadet program that has recently been expanded to members of the general public as young as 16, and I ask:

- (a) How many recruits did WA Police employ in each year from 2016/17 to 2021/22;
- (b) Of those recruits, how many completed the training and full 12-month course for those years; and
- (c) Of those who didn’t complete the course, what were the major reasons for not completing it?

##### Mr P. Papalia replied:

The Western Australia Police Force advise:

(a)

Years	Cadets Employed
2016/17	25
2017/18	17
2018/19	16
2019/20	53
2020/21	22
2021/22	65

(b)

Years	Cadets completed the training and full 12-month course
2016/17	13
2017/18	13
2018/19	10
2019/20	40
2020/21	9
2021/22	54

(c) Alternative employment.

#### INSURANCE COMMISSION — BELL RESOURCES SETTLEMENT

##### 621. Dr D.J. Honey to the Attorney General:

I refer to the government’s settlement in 2020 over the distribution of compensation obtained from the banks, referred to as the Bell Litigation, and ask:

- (a) Was it the government that sought to make Court proceedings relating to the final settlement confidential;
- (b) If so, why did the government seek this secrecy; and
- (c) If it was not the government that proposed that matters be kept secret, why did the government agree to it and thus deprive the community of transparency over this significant matter?

##### Mr J.R. Quigley replied:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not applicable.
- (c) Any applications filed relating to settlement were filed by liquidators of the Bell Group companies. The Government was not a party to those applications.

## WATER RESOURCE AVAILABILITY — SOUTH WEST REGION

**622. Dr D.J. Honey to the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the water resources available and water drawdown in the south west region, covering the three years 2019–20 to 2021–22, and ask:

- (a) What was the sustainable ground water yield for the superficial aquifers in the Perth regional area;
- (b) What was the sustainable ground water yield for the superficial aquifers in the south west region outside Perth;
- (c) What was the sustainable ground water yield for the deep aquifers in the Perth regional area;
- (d) What was the sustainable ground water yield for the deep aquifers in the south west region outside Perth;
- (e) What was the sustainable surface water yield for the south west region including Perth;
- (f) What volume of water was drawn from Perth's superficial aquifer for each of those years;
- (g) What volume of water was drawn from Perth's deep aquifer for each of those years;
- (h) What volume of water was drawn from superficial aquifers in the south west region outside Perth for each of those years;
- (i) What volume of water was drawn or flowed into dams from surface water sources in the south west region including Perth;
- (j) Does the Department of Water compile, or receive from any other organisation, annual estimates on total water flows for each region, sustainable yields and usage from different sources, and if not, why not; and
- (k) If the Department does have such reports, will the Minister table the last 5 annual reports on water availability, and if not, why not?

**Ms S.F. McGurk replied:**

Answer

- (a)–(i) Sustainable yields are determined in water allocation plans prepared by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, which establish an annual resource allocation limit. The tables below provide the allocation limits, volume of water licensed and estimated abstraction (volume of water drawn) from the Perth and South West region superficial and deep aquifers (groundwater) and surface water for the three years 2019–20, 2020–21 and 2021–22 respectively.

2019–20

Region <sup>i</sup>	Resource Type <sup>ii</sup>	Sum of allocation limits <sup>iii</sup> (GL) @ 30 June 2020	Volume of water licensed (GL) @ 30 June 2020	Estimated abstraction <sup>iv</sup> (GL)
Perth	Superficial aquifers	335	270	288
Perth	Deep aquifers	150	149	119
Perth	Surface water	226	226	21
South West	Superficial aquifers	57	42	29
South West	Deep aquifers	151	160 <sup>v</sup>	96
South West	Surface water	447	358	164

2020–21

Region	Resource Type	Sum of allocation limits (GL) @ 30 June 2021	Volume of water licensed (GL) @ 30 June 2021	Estimated abstraction (GL)
Perth	Superficial aquifers	334	266	311
Perth	Deep aquifers	163	163	134
Perth	Surface water	226	225	30
South West	Superficial aquifers	57	42	36
South West	Deep aquifers	151	160	94
South West	Surface water	448	361	160

2021–22

Region	Resource Type	Sum of allocation limits (GL) @ 30 June 2022	Volume of water licensed (GL) @ 30 June 2022	Estimated abstraction <sup>vi</sup> (GL)
Perth	Superficial aquifers	312	277	Not yet available
Perth	Deep aquifers	162	162	Not yet available
Perth	Surface water	226	226	Not yet available
South West	Superficial aquifers	57	43	Not yet available
South West	Deep aquifers	151	161	Not yet available
South West	Surface water	445	358	Not yet available

<sup>i</sup> Perth comprises the following water resource management areas: Canning River, Cockburn, Cockburn/Kwinana Coastal, Dandalup River System, Gnangara, Gwelup, Helena River, Jandakot, Kwinana Peel Coastal, Mirrabooka, Murray, Murray River and Tributaries, Perth, Rockingham, Serpentine, Serpentine River Catchment, South West Coastal (Coastal, Colburra Downs, Falcon, Island Point, Mandurah, Whitehills, Lake Clifton), Stakehill, Swan, Swan Coastal, Swan River and Tributaries, Wanneroo, and Yanchep management areas. South West region comprises the following water resource management areas: Blackwood, Bunbury, Busselton Coast, Busselton–Capel, Capel River, Collie, Donnelly River and Tributaries, Dwellingup, Harvey, Lower Blackwood, Middle Blackwood, Muir–Unicup, Nornalup, Preston Area, Shannon–Gardner, South West Coastal (Myalup, Wellesley, Harvey, Lake Preston, Kemerton), Upper Blackwood, Warren River and Tributaries.

<sup>ii</sup> ‘Deep aquifers’ includes the following resources: Cattamarra Coal Measures, Leederville, Lesueur Sandstone, Sue Coal Measures Yaragadee, Mullalo, Lower Collie Group, Muja, Stockton. ‘Superficial aquifers’ includes all Superficial, Surficial and Mirrabooka resources. Fractured Rock and saline resources are excluded.

<sup>iii</sup> The annual allocation limit defines how much water can be abstracted for consumptive use from a proclaimed water resource. It includes all water that can be taken under licence and estimates of water uses that are exempt from water licensing.

<sup>iv</sup> Estimated abstraction includes metered data and estimated abstraction for uses that are unmetered, including uses that do not require a licence such as garden bores.

<sup>v</sup> The Deep aquifers of the South West are shown as over-allocated with respect to the allocation limit. This is primarily due to licenced entitlements for safe dewatering of coal mining operations in the Collie Basin.

<sup>vi</sup> Data collection and quality assurance for Estimated abstraction in 2021–22 is not yet completed.

- (j) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation undertakes its own data collection from more than 300 streamflow gauging stations and 3000 groundwater monitoring bores throughout the state. The information collected is available online via the Department’s Water Information Reporting tool.

In Western Australia, annual streamflow information is not used to determine a different sustainable yield from year to year. Instead, sustainable yields are determined in water allocation plans, which establish an annual resource allocation limit.

- (k) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation’s annual reports include a summary of the total annual licensed water entitlement for Western Australia’s groundwater and surface water resources. The Department’s last five annual reports have previously been tabled as follows:

Reporting year	Tabling date	Tabled paper number
2017–18	9 October 2018	1890
2018–19	25 September 2019	2805
2019–20	23 September 2020	3716
2020–21	13 October 2021	704
2021–22	26 October 2022	1617

## LANDGATE OFFICES — SALE

**623. Dr D.J. Honey to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Finance:**

I refer to the Landgate building in Midland, and ask:

- (a) What is the total lettable area of the building;

- (b) What was the rent per square meter paid in the last year of the lease;
- (c) What was the amount for other outgoings in the last year of the lease;
- (d) Who owned the building at the time of its handover to government ownership;
- (e) Did ownership of the building change during the lease period, and if so, who was the original owner;
- (f) When did government first occupy the building and begin paying rent;
- (g) What was the total rent paid over the period of the lease;
- (h) How many parties put forth proposals for the building; and
- (i) Did any proposals, other than one from Georgiou Group, entail sale of the building to the proponent?

**Dr J. Krishnan replied:**

- (a) The total net lettable area of the building is estimated at 17,692 square metres, subject to final survey.
- (b) \$295.54 per square metre per annum.
- (c) \$154.28 per square metre per annum.
- (d) Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia.
- (e) The original owner of the building was Allco Midland. The building was subsequently acquired by Superannuation Funds Management Corporation of South Australia.
- (f) 15 September 1993.
- (g) Approximately \$180 million, noting this represents the best estimate due to some lease payment related data being incomplete as different systems were utilised to administer the lease since it commenced in 1993.
- (h) Two.
- (i) Yes.

LANDGATE OFFICES — SALE

**624. Dr D.J. Honey to the parliamentary secretary representing the Minister for Finance:**

I refer to the Landgate building in Midland, and ask:

- (a) What is the total lettable area of the building;
- (b) What was the rent per square meter paid in the last year of the lease;
- (c) What was the amount for other outgoings in the last year of the lease;
- (d) Who owned the building at the time of its handover to government ownership;
- (e) Did ownership of the building change during the lease period, and if so, who was the original owner;
- (f) When did government first occupy the building and begin paying rent;
- (g) What was the total rent paid over the period of the lease;
- (h) How many parties put forth proposals for the building; and
- (i) Did any proposals, other than one from Georgiou Group, entail sale of the building to the proponent?

**Dr J. Krishnan replied:**

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 623.

TRANSPORT — LEVEL CROSSINGS

**625. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) For each of the regions below, can the Minister please detail the amount spent on level crossing safety and upgrades for each of the individual financial years 2017–18, 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22 and to 2023:
  - (a) Great Southern;
  - (b) Gascoyne;
  - (c) Peel;
  - (d) Mid West;
  - (e) South West;
  - (f) Wheatbelt;
  - (g) Goldfields–Esperance;
  - (h) Kimberley;

- (i) Pilbara;
  - (j) North Metropolitan;
  - (k) South Metropolitan; and
  - (l) East Metropolitan?
- (2) For (1) please breakdown amount spent by Federal and State contributions?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (1)–(2) The following table outlines the infrastructure-related spend by Main Roads and the Public Transport Authority:

Financial year	Total
2016/17	\$5,787,356
2017/18	\$7,138,293
2018/19	\$12,325,493
2019/20	\$12,978,218
2020/21	\$109,662,978
2021/22	\$83,794,082
2022/23 (forecast)	\$250,441,274

This does not include daily PTA maintenance.

In the years outlined, Main Roads did not receive any funding from the former Liberal–National Federal Government for level crossing upgrades.

In addition to this expenditure, more than \$100 million has been spent (allocated) in the Pilbara region to replace existing rail crossings with new bridges on main roads and/or highways, including:

Great Northern Highway – Koodaideri Bridge

Roy Hill – Munjina Road Bridge

Great Northern Highway – Roy Hill Bridge

Great Northern Highway Realignment (including the Nelson Point Bridge) – currently underway

Great Northern Highway – Solomon Bridge – to commence later this year.

**TRANSPORT — LEVEL CROSSINGS**

**626. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal–State Relations:**

- (1) For each of the regions below, can the Minister please detail the amount spent on level crossing safety and upgrades for each individual financial year 2018–19, 2019–20, 2020–21, 2021–22 and to 2023:
- (a) Great Southern;
  - (b) Gascoyne;
  - (c) Peel;
  - (d) Mid West;
  - (e) South West;
  - (f) Wheatbelt;
  - (g) Goldfields–Esperance;
  - (h) Kimberley;
  - (i) Pilbara;
  - (j) North Metropolitan;
  - (k) South Metropolitan; and
  - (l) East Metropolitan?
- (2) For (1) please breakdown amount spent by Federal and State contributions?

**Mr M. McGowan replied:**

- (1)–(2) Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 625.



## TRANSPORT — LEVEL CROSSINGS

**627. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) For each of the regions below, please detail the amount spent on level crossing safety and upgrades for each individual financial year 2018–19:
- (a) Great Southern;
  - (b) Gascoyne;
  - (c) Peel;
  - (d) Mid West;
  - (e) South West;
  - (f) Wheatbelt;
  - (g) Goldfields–Esperance;
  - (h) Kimberley;
  - (i) Pilbara;
  - (j) North Metropolitan;
  - (k) South Metropolitan; and
  - (l) East Metropolitan?
- (2) For (1) please breakdown amount spent by Federal and State contributions?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 625.

## TRANSPORT — INFRASTRUCTURE DIAGNOSTICS VEHICLE

**628. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) I refer to the Infrastructure Diagnostics Vehicle (IDV) and ask since the IDV arrived in Perth in 2017:
- (a) How many times has the IDV broken down? (Please provide the dates and mechanical reasons for each breakdown);
  - (b) How many issues has the IDV identified? (Please detail by type of issue, date identified, and date issue was resolved);
  - (c) How many times has operation of the IDV interrupted passenger rail services;
  - (d) How many times has the IDV checked the following lines in 2022:
    - (i) Joondalup Line;
    - (ii) Fremantle Line;
    - (iii) Airport Line;
    - (iv) Midland Line;
    - (v) Mandurah Line;
    - (vi) Armadale Line;
    - (vii) Thornlie Line; and
    - (viii) Regional service Lines:
      - (A) Kalgoorlie–Merredin;
      - (B) Merredin–Northam;
      - (C) Northam–Midland;
      - (D) Armadale–Byford; and
      - (E) Byford–Bunbury;
  - (e) How many Perth Transport Authority (PTA) staff have been trained in using the IDV;
  - (f) How many engineering managers are trained in using the IDV;
  - (g) How many IDV Operators are currently employed by the PTA:
    - (i) Have all IDV Operators been trained in using the IDV; and
    - (ii) Do all operators have a certificate 3 qualification;

- (h) Has the PTA estimated the savings to date of having the IDV compared to manual inspections and if yes, what were the savings;
  - (i) What is the life of the IDV and when does PTA anticipate replacing the vehicle; and
  - (j) What has been the average yearly cost for operating the IDV?
- (2) I refer to the C-Class passenger carriages and ask when will the first train with C-Class carriages be ready for commuter use?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (1) It should be noted that the contract for the IDV was awarded in January 2016.
- (a) Six.
  - (b) and (d) The Infrastructure Diagnostic Vehicle operates on the Public Transport Authority's (PTA) electrified network and supports project planning for major preventative maintenance.
  - (c) Three.
  - (e)–(g) Nine PTA staff have been trained to operate the IDV, with all operators having a Certificate III qualification.
  - (h) Savings of \$60,000 have been realised to date, with further savings to be confirmed.
  - (i) The minimum operational life is 30 years.
  - (j) \$735,000
- (2) Two six-car C-series trains are now undergoing mainline testing, with the first C-Series train to enter passenger service in late 2023.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — PERTH CBD REVITALISATION GRANTS

**629. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to the Perth CBD Revitalisation Grants awarded to date and ask:

- (a) Please list the applicant, amount requested and the amount provided for each event successful in receiving funding;
- (b) Please list the applicant, amount requested and reason for not awarding the grant for each event unsuccessful in receiving funding;
- (c) How many successful applicants did not proceed with their event and in that instance, was all money returned;
- (d) How many successful events were new events:
  - (i) Of new events, how many were unsuccessful in receiving funding; and
- (e) How much money remains unspent of the \$4 million reserved for the scheme?

**Mr J.N. Carey replied:**

- (a) The Perth CBD Revitalisation Grants has been a popular and successful program which has attracted a high number of applicants. Through rounds one and two, a total of 42 applications were successful and received a total of \$3,141,460.33

It should be noted the details of the successful round one and two applications have been made publicly available.

Below are the successful organisations and the grant amount received.

Sneakerland, \$100,000.00; Artrage, \$81,022.40; MF Productions Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Henryk PA Pty Ltd trading as digs Culture, \$100,000.00; Channel 7 Telethon Trust, \$100,000.00; WA Strongman, \$20,000.00; Creative Nation Australia Pty Ltd, \$90,000.00; Perth International Jazz Festival Inc, \$90,500.00; Jennifer Rossen, \$100,000.00; Treasury WA Pty Ltd, \$80,000.00; Propel Youth Arts WA, \$90,224.00; Geoffrey Drake-Brockman, \$49,500.00; Assembly + Co, \$100,000.00; Varsity Northbridge PTY LTD, \$49,900.00; Pride Western Australia Incorporated, \$100,000.00; Football West, \$98,530.25; The Ellington Jazz Club, \$33,950.25; Assembly + Co, \$100,000.00; Assembly + Co, \$100,000.00; Lumos Creatives, \$67,867.00; Animation Artroom Pty Ltd Trading Screen arts, \$31,512.00; Triple 1 Three Limited, \$85,000.00; City of Perth, \$100,000.00; Caroline James Events Pty Ltd, \$30,000.00; City of Perth, \$95,000.00; STRUT Dance Inc, \$100,000.00; Above the Line Event Management (ATL Events), \$68,000.00; Spare Parts Puppet Theatre, \$100,000.00; Campbell Management Services Pty Ltd trading as CMS Events, \$20,000.00; O'Hanlons (WA) Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Rebound WA Inc., \$61,100.00;

Centrestage Promotions Pty Ltd, \$50,000.00; Electric Racing League Pty Ltd, \$40,325.00; Propel Youth Arts WA, \$49,831.00; WestCycle, \$100,000.00; Escape This Pty Ltd, \$37,665.97; Mary G Foundation, \$100,000.00; Artrage, \$61,533.36; Organisation of African Communities in WA Inc (OACWA), \$80,000.00; Caroline James Events Pty Ltd, \$15,000.00; Artrage, \$100,000.00; Happy Heart Pty Ltd, \$65,000.00

- (b) All applications were assessed by the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries against the assessment criteria as provided in the guidelines.

All applicants, including those which were unsuccessful were provided the opportunity to request specific feedback on their unsuccessful applications which may help inform their applications for Round 3 of the grants which opened 1 February 2023.

Below are the unsuccessful applicants and the amount requested.

Chetty Family Trust, \$47,195.00; City of Perth, \$100,000.00; Springfield Trust Investment Trust, \$100,000.00; LDS Events Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Brainless Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; LDS Events Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; LDS Events Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; LDS Events Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Awesome Arts Australia Ltd, \$73,960.00; Vaultsports/PropTech Hub WA, \$18,500.00; Freeze Frame Opera Inc, \$80,560.00; WA Comedy, \$61,640.30; PropTech Hub WA, \$29,750.00; Builderz WA, \$8,500.00; Margaret River Roasting Co, \$35,000.00; Palace Cinemas Raine Square, \$45,000.00; Strange Festival, \$100,000.00; Centrestage Promotions Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Neighbourhood Watch Chinese Group, \$100,000.00; WA Music Industry Association, \$66,000.00; True North, \$60,000.00; Move Party People, \$100,000.00; Ron Keshet, \$100,000.00; Ultimo Catering & Events Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Perth Heat Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; The Trustee for Talk2 Media, \$100,000.00; West Australian Opera, \$95,000.00; Hearts of Darkness Inc, \$44,961.00; Myall Yoga & Wellbeing Studio, \$48,720.00; GRAI – GLBT Rights in Ageing Inc, \$47,500.00; Tennis West, \$100,000.00; Peep The Culture, \$30,000.00; Disclosure Promotions Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Hearts of Darkness Inc, \$40,050.00; The Property Care Guys Pty Ltd, \$7,500.00; Worthi Global, \$37,262.00; Youth Disability Advocacy Network, \$81,000.00; Kieran Dibb/Opendeckfest, \$30,500.00; Ultimo Catering & Events Pty Ltd, \$62,500.00; Perth Symphony Orchestra, \$23,000.00; Chesshill Consulting T/A Dark Stry, \$21,500.00; Afro-Disiac Events, \$41,500.00; Boss Arts Creative, \$75,546.00; WM Network Group Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Erth Apothecary TA Somic, \$44,420.00; Happy Heart Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Lucky Projects Pty Ltd, \$99,600.00; Markr Global Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; The Shoe Bar & Cafe, \$18,836.00; Irwin St Lower Pty Ltd, \$20,000.00; Sound Hospitality PTY LTD, \$100,000.00; Hadiqa Pty Ltd, \$30,000.00; Johnny Fox's, \$98,294.72; Bamboozled Quizmasters, \$36,819.05; HICOM Care, \$100,000.00; Good Sammy Enterprises, \$100,000.00; LDS Events Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Epilepsy WA, \$60,000.00; Spinifex Events WA, \$100,000.00; The Perth Diocesan Trustees – The Cloisters, \$95,990.00; Carnival Amusements, \$49,500.00; Kamile Gallery, \$99,940.00; CBRE, \$88,531.00; Music Book Stories Inc, \$12,868.00; Diamond Fitness WA Pty Ltd, \$48,462.50; Spacecubed Ventures Pty Ltd, \$48,000.00; RTRFM, \$85,000.00; Frankensound, \$100,000.00; Momentum For Australia, \$35,000.00; Freeze Frame Opera Inc, \$74,950.00; Creative Mazes, \$72,230.00; Centre for Stories, \$73,834.00; Mr. Dealer, \$35,000.00; Intlang Corporate Consulting Pty Ltd, \$50,000.00; Seven Network (Operations) Limited, \$100,000.00; E Design Solutions Pty. Ltd. T/a Luxtree, \$100,000.00; AHOY Management, \$100,000.00; East Perth Community Safety Group, \$25,000.00; Rep Kulture Pty Ltd, \$30,265.09; Ai-Linh Truong, \$65,670.48; Bar Pop Management Pty Ltd, \$45,000.00; Madame Ma's Proprietary Ltd, \$23,595.95; Assembly + Co, \$100,000.00; The Trustee for Dee Family Trust, \$100,000.00; True North Church (Whitford Church of Christ Inc), \$40,000.00; Curate (Curate Arts Incorporated), \$78,048.62; Ten Foot Tall Management Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Stefan Smith, \$100,000.00; Strange Festival, \$100,000.00; AVC Operations Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; Pretzels Pty Ltd, \$100,000.00; JLL, \$100,000.00; Perth Festival, \$100,000.00; element WA, \$74,200.00; Activate Perth, \$100,000.00; Christian Lovelady, \$75,278.00; Perth Institute of Contemporary Arts, \$48,218.00; Caroline James Events Pty Ltd, \$95,000.00; City of Perth, \$100,000.00; Design Institute of Australia, \$100,000.00; Afro-Disiac Events, \$24,850.00; O'Hanlons (WA) Pty Ltd T/A The William Street Bird, \$100,000.00; Masten Identity, \$100,000.00; Snowlion Events, \$25,000.00; Luxtree, \$100,000.00; TWR Capital Pty Ltd, \$36,000.00

- (c) One applicant that successfully applied for funding in round two has since advised the event will not go ahead. The funds were not paid as the grant agreement was not finalised and will be made available in round three.
- (d)–(d) (i) The purpose of the program is to increase activation across the CBD. This has been achieved through the events funded. The successful and unsuccessful applicants are listed in in (a) and (b) respectively.
- (e) The remaining \$958 540.67 will be allocated through round three of the CBD Revitalisation Program which is currently open.

## TRANSPORT — DRIVING INSTRUCTOR LEARNER PERMIT AUDITS

**630. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

With respect to the Department of Transport's (DOT's) Driving Instructor Learner Permit Audits announced in April 2022; I ask:

- (a) Have any Driver Instructors had their access to DOT's online PDA booking system blocked due to multiple and speculative bookings; and
- (b) Has DOT investigated this issue and found a solution to the problem?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a)–(b) Nil instructors currently; however, DoT is considering several strategies to minimise any misuse of the PDA booking system by instructors.

## TRANSPORT — OFF-ROAD VEHICLES — ONLINE REGISTRATION

**635. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Local Government:**

I refer to a question asked during Budget Estimates on 24 May 2022 in which the Minister said the move to online registrations for Off Road Vehicles was progressing and ask:

- (a) When will the transition from the paper-based system to online registrations be completed?

**Mr J.N. Carey replied:**

The State Government is progressing reforms to replace the existing paper-based registration system with a new online system. The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries is working with the Department of Transport to this end, noting that any changes will require amendments to legislation.

## SOUTH COAST HIGHWAY — UPGRADES

**636. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the RAC's Risky Roads survey, which named South Coast Highway as the fifth riskiest road in regional Western Australia and ask:

- (a) Will the Minister please outline upgrade works scheduled for the South Coast Highway?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) Since 2017, the State Government has invested \$54 million upgrading South Coast Highway, including:
  - Upgrading the Mead Road, Kalgan River and Kojaneerup sections between Albany and Jerramungup, including widening and construction of three passing lanes
  - Rehabilitating pavement and widening the seal between Munglinup and Esperance.
  - Undertaking 32km of seal widening between Ravensthorpe and Munglinup.
  - Rehabilitating pavement rehabilitation and seal widening near Thomas Road, 10 km west of Ravensthorpe.

Project development work is underway for further upgrades of South Coast Highway.

## TRANSPORT — TRELIS — CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

**637. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

In view of the Corruption and Crime Commission's (CCC) review of the Department of Transport's (DoT's) management of unlawful access to Transport Executive and Learning Information System (TRELIS), is the Minister satisfied that the Department has implemented the four recommendations of the August 2021 CCC report?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

In July 2022, the Department provided the CCC with a response to their Report outlining the actions that have been or are currently being undertaken to address the recommendations.

The Department is currently awaiting the outcomes of the review.

## TRANSPORT — PRACTICAL DRIVING ASSESSMENTS — WAIT TIMES

**638. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) Please advise current Practical Driving Assessment (PDA) wait times at each of the following test centres:
  - (a) Cannington;
  - (b) City West;
  - (c) Joondalup;

- (d) Kelmscott;
- (e) Mandurah;
- (f) Midland;
- (g) Mirrabooka;
- (h) Rockingham;
- (i) Success;
- (j) Welshpool;
- (k) Albany;
- (l) Broome;
- (m) Bunbury;
- (n) Busselton;
- (o) Carnarvon;
- (p) Esperance;
- (q) Exmouth;
- (r) Geraldton;
- (s) Kalgoorlie;
- (t) Karratha;
- (u) Kununurra;
- (v) Newman Sub Office; and
- (w) Tom Price Sub Office?

(2) What is the average pass/fail rate for PDAs at each of the above testing locations?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

(1) The Department of Transport (DoT) PDA system is live, meaning bookings become available when new bookings are released, or as existing bookings are changed, swapped or cancelled.

Currently, DoT releases PDA bookings daily for two weeks at a time.

(2) Please see pass rates for C Class, R Class, LR Class, MR Class, HR Class, and HC Class assessments below, respectively:

28.30%, 33.60%, 100.00%, N/A, N/A, N/A; 27.40%, 32.40%, 40.00%, N/A, N/A, N/A; 32.20%, 40.40%, 42.20%, 69.00%, 50.00%, N/A; 39.40%, 79.20%, 78.30%, 73.00%, 61.80%, N/A; 29.00%, 56.90%, 77.80%, 85.70%, N/A, N/A; 27.30%, 34.60%, 65.80%, 53.50%, 50.00%, N/A; 26.00%, 34.40%, 37.50%, N/A, N/A, N/A; 33.40%, 42.80%, 60.30%, 59.00%, 45.50%, N/A; 36.20%, 45.10%, N/A, N/A, N/A, N/A; N/A, N/A, N/A, N/A, N/A, N/A; 52.90%, 69.80%, 92.30%, 74.10%, 84.60%, N/A; 53.60%, 49.10%, 86.00%, 60.00%, 69.70%, 20.00%; 33.70%, 35.20%, 42.10%, 64.00%, 0.00%, N/A; 37.00%, 47.00%, 57.10%, 45.00%, 42.90%, N/A; 61.50%, 88.90%, 83.30%, 88.90%, 94.40%, N/A; 52.90%, 53.80%, 87.50%, 72.70%, 100.00%, N/A; 65.70%, 90.00%, 85.70%, 75.00%, 94.40%, N/A; 53.80%, 46.00%, 87.50%, 87.50%, 57.10%, 40.00%; 34.40%, 39.60%, 59.60%, 48.50%, 37.50%, N/A; 55.70%, 60.90%, 76.90%, 71.40%, 44.40%, 100.00%; 58.30%, 65.00%, 78.60%, 63.60%, 58.60%, 75.00%; 48.20%, 50.00%, 100.00%, N/A, 100.00%, N/A; 47.60%, 84.60%, N/A, 66.70%, N/A, N/A.

**METRONET — BAYSWATER TRAIN STATION**

**644. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

Regarding the Bayswater Station:

- (a) Please detail the updated construction timeline;
- (b) Please detail the updated cost of the project;
- (c) How will the collapse of Firm Construction impact:
  - (i) The delivery of the project; and
  - (ii) Payments to subcontractors; and
- (d) With respect to compensation for businesses and residents, how many cases remain outstanding?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) The New Bayswater Station Project will be completed in line with the Morley–Ellenbrook Line opening.
- (b) The budget is unchanged.
- (c) The main contractor, Evolve Bayswater, is taking responsibility of all sub-contracts previously managed by FIRM Construction. There is currently no impact to the existing timeframes or payments to subcontractors.
- (d) Residential compensation claims are assessed at project completion. The project is currently working through one business compensation claim.

## STEPHENSON AVENUE EXTENSION

**645. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the current issues with the Stephenson Avenue extension and ask:

- (a) What is the updated timeline for completion;
- (b) What additional costs have been incurred to date;
- (c) What is the revised budget for the project; and
- (d) Are Main Roads anticipating further delays due to supply chain issues or further negotiations around the project?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) Late 2024.
- (b)–(c) Supply chain and labour pressures continue to present challenges to WA infrastructure projects. However, the budget for this project remains \$165 million.
- (d) Construction is anticipated to be complete in late 2024.

## BUNBURY OUTER RING ROAD

**646. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and ask:

- (a) Since the State Budget in May 2022, have there been any additional cost overruns? If so, please detail;
- (b) Will the 2024 delivery timeline for the project be met; and
- (c) Is Main Roads undertaking any further consultation on the project? If yes, please detail with who and when the consultations are likely to occur?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) No.
- (b) The project is anticipated to be complete in late 2024.
- (c) Main Roads and the South West Gateway Alliance continue to engage with local residents, businesses and the community in relation to BORR.

Two external business-focused advisory groups continue to meet regularly to facilitate project input from stakeholders, including business owners and Aboriginal community members.

The Alliance is also engaging with residents that may be affected by upcoming and future works.

The BORR Community Hub is also open for the community to learn about the project, interact with the project team and explore employment and associated opportunities.

## TRANSPORT — SHIPPING AND SUPPLY CHAIN TASKFORCE

**647. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the Shipping and Supply Chain Taskforce established by the WA Government to examine the state's shipping industry and supply chains that link WA with the east coast and international customers:

- (a) How many times has the taskforce met and on what dates; and
- (b) What is the reporting timeline?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a)–(b) The Taskforce Chairs have held many meetings with interested groups, companies, agencies and individuals since its inception in March 2022.

It is due to report to Government in March 2023.

## TRANSPERTH — TECHNICAL ISSUES

**648. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

- (1) I refer to Question on Notice 570 and ask:
  - (a) How many times since March 13 2021 has there been a technical issue or major delay (more than 20 minutes) in service for the AvonLink service;
  - (b) How many times since March 13 2021 has there been a technical issue or major delay (more than 20 minutes) in service for the MerredinLink service;
  - (c) How many times since March 13 2021 has there been a technical issue or major delay (more than 20 minutes) in service for the Prospector service;
  - (d) How many times since March 13 2021 has there been a technical issue or major delay (more than 20 minutes) in service for the Australind;
  - (e) How many times since March 13 2021 has there been a technical issue or major delay in ferry services? Please detail for each ferry in use; and
  - (f) How many of the over 340 railcars have been removed from service due to technical fault since March 13 2021?
- (2) Do Transperth and TransWA contractors record the number of times buses are deployed to cover cancellations in train services?
- (3) Are Transperth and TransWA contractors required to provide notice to the Public Transport Authority when buses are deployed to cover cancellations in train services?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (1) Details on on-time performance, customer satisfaction and other key performance indicators for Public Transport Authority services are contained within the Public Transport Authority's Annual Reports.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) Transperth and Transwa request bus contractors provide coverage for any cancelled train services as required.

## TARGET 120

**649. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Community Services:**

- (1) I refer to the Target 120 program and ask, as at 29/11/2022 for each Target 120 region please identify:
  - (a) The total number of families who have been assisted by the program;
  - (b) The total number of families currently being assisted by the program; and
  - (c) The total number of families who have refused to be assisted by the program?
- (2) What is the average length of time a participant stays involved in Target 120? If possible, please detail the average length by region?
- (3) What is the average length of time a case stays involved in Target 120? If possible, please detail the average length by region?
- (4) What is the total Target 120 staffing (both not for profit and within the Department of Communities):
  - (a) Headcount; and
  - (b) Full Time Equivalent (FTE)?

**Ms S.E. Winton replied:**

Diverting at youth risk away from the criminal justice system is complex, difficult, and important work. The McGowan Government's successful Target 120 program for at-risk youth steers young people at risk of offending away from the justice system, helping create safer communities.

The McGowan Government has invested \$31.5 million to deliver Target 120 at 20 sites across metropolitan and regional West Australia. As of 29 November 2022, the Department of Communities advises:

- (1) Bunbury (a) 12 families, (b) 7 families, (c) 5 families; Armadale (a) 17, (b) 6, (c) 13; Kalgoorlie (a) 15, (b) 6, (c) 33; Kununurra (a) 17, (b) 11, (c) 6; Northam (a) 2, (b) 5, (c) 4; Albany (a) 3, (b) 7, (c) 16; Port Hedland (a) 1, (b) 8, (c) 8; Mirrabooka (a) 22, (b) 6, (c) 25; Geraldton (a) 22, (b) 5, (c) 4; Rockingham (a) 16, (b) 8, (c) 26; Midland (a) 9, (b) 7, (c) 30; Broome (a) 1, (b) 7, (c) 4; and Ellenbrook (a) no families, (b) 1 family, (c) 2 families.
- (2)–(3) Bunbury 478 days; Armadale 471; Kalgoorlie 431; Kununurra 335; Northam 147; Albany 275; Port Hedland 167; Mirrabooka 312; Geraldton 378; Rockingham 400; Midland 231; Broome 72; and Ellenbrook not applicable.

- (4) (a) 40, of which 30 were Department of Communities (Communities) employees and 10 were Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) employees.
- (b) 38.3 FTE, of which 30 FTE were Communities employees and 8.3 FTE were ACCO employees.

Note:

Different locations have different commencement dates.

#### METRONET — SEWERAGE

**650. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Planning:**

- (1) I refer to Question on Notice 560 and ask again how many METRONET development areas currently have properties which do not have access to deep sewerage systems?
- (2) Which sites have received new or upgraded sewerage infrastructure to support urban development in METRONET Station Precincts?
- (3) If there are no sites, please detail why sites which should have new or upgraded sewerage infrastructure have not received that investment to date?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (1)–(3) METRONET is working with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and Water Corporation to identify priorities for new or upgraded sewerage infrastructure to support urban development in METRONET station precincts. Information on individual sites can be provided at a later date.

#### DISABILITY SERVICES — COMMUNITY AIDS AND EQUIPMENT PROGRAM

**651. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Disability Services:**

- (1) How many people with disability on Aged Care Plans currently receive assistance from the Community Aids and Equipment Program (CAEP)?
- (2) Of those in (1) how many people who receive CAEP assistance have disabilities due to polio?
- (3) How many times has the Minister exercised discretionary funding to assist people with disability on Aged Care Plans receive assistance through CAEP?
- (4) Is the Minister aware of a service gap between patients on the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) and Aged Care Funding, resulting in people with disability on Aged Care Plans being out of pocket for new assistance equipment such as electric wheelchairs?
- (5) What action is being taken to assist people with disability as outlined in (4)?

**Mr D.T. Punch replied:**

- (1)–(5) The Australian Government administers the Aged Care program, therefore the State Government has no visibility of this cohort.

Eligibility for CAEP is determined by criteria. Diagnosis is not one of the criteria; hence the number of people receiving CAEP due to polio is not recorded.

#### GOLD CORPORATION — GOLD PASS

**652. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

- (1) I refer to the Gold Pass application and ask will the Minister please provide the number of downloads of the Gold Pass app and active users for the financial years:
- (a) 2018–19;
- (b) 2019–20;
- (c) 2020–21; and
- (d) 2021–22?
- (2) For each financial year in 1, will the Minister please detail:
- (a) The number of downloads by country of origin;
- (b) The number of active users or accounts by country; and
- (c) The number of total active accounts as at 29 November 2022?
- (3) I refer to Question on Notice number 593 and ask:
- (a) What is the difference between a risk rating at an enterprise level and at a business unit level;



- (b) Since March 2017 and until March 2021 were the Gold Corporation Management and the responsible Minister aware that Gold Corporation operations fell under the Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing (AMLCTF) regime; and
- (c) Since 2017 was the responsible Minister or their office aware that Gold Corporation operations fell under the Anti Money Laundering and Counter Terrorism Financing (AMLCTF) regime?
- (4) I refer to the launch of both the Gold Pass Application and the Perth Mint Gold Tokens and I ask:
- (a) How much gold, and at what value has, purchased in both Australian and US Dollars;
- (b) What is the total value of Perth Mint Gold Tokens purchased;
- (c) In what countries have Perth Mint Gold Tokens been purchased;
- (d) How many Perth Mint Gold Tokens have been bought back by Perth Mint and were these bought back at a loss; and
- (e) When was the decision made to develop and launch the Perth Mint Gold Tokens, and who authorised the development and launch:
- (i) Prior to this decision being made, was legal advice sought regarding compliance under AMLCTF and other relevant legislation including in the USA; and
- (ii) Was the Minister or his office notified about the decision to develop and launch the Perth Mint Gold Tokens; if so:
- (A) When did this occur; and
- (B) In what form did this occur (email, phone, text, in person)?
- (5) What is the forecast cost of remediation of Gold Corporation if they fall foul of any AUSTRAC findings?
- (6) Does the Gold Corporation have a contingency reserve and if so, what is the balance of that reserve?
- (7) Has Gold Corporation got self-insurance?
- (8) Was AUSTRAC consulted prior to the launch of the Gold Pass App or Perth Mint Gold Tokens?

**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

- (1) (a) 2018–19: 4344 downloads, 1488 verified/open accounts
- (b) 2019–20: 13,609 downloads, 8459 verified/open accounts
- (c) 2020–21: 21,775 downloads, 10,666 verified/open accounts
- (d) 2021–22: 8,272 downloads, 4545 verified/open accounts

Note: Downloading the Gold Pass app and opening an account are separate processes, and not all downloads lead to the user opening an account. A user with an account that is verified/open can trade, but the user may elect to not be “active”.

- (2) (a) See table below.
- (b) See table below.

Financial year	Downloads		Verified/Open Accounts	
	Australia	USA	Australia	USA
2018/2019	1923	1	1487	1
2019/2020	10288	440	8229	266
2020/2021	11599	1952	9752	914
2021/2022	5194	297	4400	145

- (c) 26,700
- (3) (a) The difference relates to which party undertakes the risk rating, i.e. each individual business unit within the organisation, or a centralised team that operates across the organisation.
- (b) During that period Gold Corporation management were aware. Management continued with established processes and procedures which had been in place since before 2017.
- (c) The question of Gold Corporation’s coverage by Anti–Money Laundering and Counter–Terrorism Financing (AML/CTF) legislation is a question of law, and therefore in accordance with Standing Orders I cannot be asked to answer.

However, Gold Corporation's compliance with AML/CTF requirements has been a high priority for me since I became Minister. For this reason, I engaged with both the Auditor General of Western Australia and AUSTRAC to seek reassurance regarding this compliance, as I have outlined to the Legislative Assembly on 22 November 2022, 21 September 2022, 20 September 2022, and 26 May 2022.

I continue to work with Gold Corporation and external agencies, including Treasury, to improve Gold Corporation's compliance with all obligations.

- (4) (a) Not applicable – the purchase of a unit of Perth Mint Gold Token entitles the holder to the equivalent value in physical gold, which is securely stored by Gold Corporation. Each Perth Mint Gold Token is ultimately backed by the gold inventory of Gold Corporation.
- (b) As of 30 December 2022, total issued supply was 1,192.91043 Perth Mint Gold Token at an approximate value of AUD 3,193,661 / USD 2,171,884.
- (c) Australia and United States of America.
- (d) Gold Corporation has not bought back any Perth Mint Gold Tokens and has not had any losses.
- (e) Perth Mint Gold Token is the result of a commercial partnership between Gold Corporation and an Australian company, Trovio. Perth Mint Gold Token utilises the Gold Pass app and The Perth Mint branding.

Following discussions between Trovio and Gold Corporation, authorisation for Gold Corporation to collaborate with Trovio was provided by the then CEO and Board of Gold Corporation in August 2019. Trovio launched Perth Mint Gold Token in October 2019.

- (i) No.
- (ii) No.
- (A) Not applicable.
- (B) Not applicable.

- (5) Gold Corporation is investing in a remediation program to strengthen its compliance with AML/CTF obligations. This program is currently underway and will continue regardless of any findings by AUSTRAC. This remediation program is budgeted to cost \$34 million over three years.
- (6) No.
- (7) Gold Corporation maintains a comprehensive external insurance program that covers the entity's most significant risks. As with all insurance arrangements, there are thresholds and exclusions which the external insurance does not cover, and for which Gold Corporation would meet the relevant liability.
- (8) No, the question misunderstands the functions of AUSTRAC. AUSTRAC is a government regulator and does not provide approvals of individual products issued by any financial institution.

INFRASTRUCTURE WESTERN AUSTRALIA —  
MAJOR INFRASTRUCTURE PROPOSAL ASSESSMENT

**653. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier:**

- (1) Can the Premier please detail the second project to undergo the Major Infrastructure Proposal Assessment (MIPA), given the Geraldton Port Maximisation Project is the only project listed on the Infrastructure WA website as at 29/11/2022?
- (2) When is the summary report due to be tabled, given the MIPA guidelines state a summary version of the report must then be released within 6 months?
- (3) Will the Premier use his discretion to refer the North Ellenbrook Interchange to be put through the Major Infrastructure Proposal Assessment process, given it was announced after 1 January 2022?

**Mr M. McGowan replied:**

- (1) A number of projects are currently undergoing Major Infrastructure Proposal Assessment by Infrastructure WA.
- (2) Summary Reports for assessed projects will be tabled within six months of being released.
- (3) Refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 603.

AGRICULTURE AND FOOD — GREAT SOUTHERN PREMIUM FOOD AND WINE SHOWCASE

**654. Mr R.S. Love to the minister representing the Minister for Agriculture and Food:**

- (1) Will the Minister please table the names and details of the more than 50 attendees who participated in the Great Southern Premium Food and Wine showcase in Singapore on 8–10 November?

- (2) Did any of the attendees travel on the same flight as the Minister for Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC?
- (3) How much was spent by The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development (DPIRD) on branding for the “Discover Great Southern – Western Australia’s Hidden Gem”?

**Mr D.T. Punch replied:**

- (1) Representatives from the following organisations joined the business mission:

Alkoomi  
 Castelli Estate  
 Cherubino  
 Dukes  
 Forest Hill Vineyard  
 Frankland Estate  
 The Next Hundred Years  
 Plan B!  
 Plantagenet Wines  
 Swinney  
 Dirty Clean Foods  
 Blackwood Valley Beef  
 Green Range Lamb  
 Futari Wagyu  
 Gloria Dieu  
 Great Southern Truffles  
 Leeuwin Coast  
 Moojepin Foods  
 Mt Barker Free Range Farms  
 Great Southern Wine Producers Association  
 Wines of Western Australia  
 Australia’s South West  
 Austrade  
 Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
 TourismWA  
 Great Southern Development Commission

[See tabled paper no [1812](#).]

- (2) Yes.
- (3) Zero.

TRANSPORT — MID-TIER PUBLIC TRANSPORT STRATEGY MEETING

**655. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to a recent meeting between Hon Rita Saffioti, Minister for Transport, and the consortium of 15 local governments relating to planning a Mid Tier Public Transport strategy and ask:

- (a) What work has the Department of Transport undertaken already in relation to Mid Tier Public Transport;
- (b) Have key corridors been identified by the Department of Transport, Western Australian Planning Corporation (WAPC) or Public Transport Authority? If yes please detail the corridors identified and level of priority;
- (c) When will the Government announce that it is preparing a Mid-Tier Public Transport Strategy for Perth;
- (d) What funding or resourcing has been committed to developing the Strategy;

- (e) Will all options of Mid Tier transport be considered by the strategy? If any options will be excluded, please detail those options and why they are being excluded;
- (f) Will any strategy be complete ahead of the 2024/25 financial year;
- (g) Given the Local Government consortium have already undertaken a significant amount of work, what additional research will the Department of Transport undertake;
- (h) Will the interaction between Mid Tier Public Transport and existing train infrastructure be considered by the strategy;
- (i) Will the interaction between Mid Tier Public Transport and future train infrastructure be considered by the strategy; and
- (j) How will this plan differ from the Perth Greater CBD Transport Plan?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a)–(j) The McGowan Labor Government’s METRONET program is the largest investment in heavy rail in Perth ever. With many previously announced projects currently in delivery, the focus is now turning to how to complement the heavy rail network through mid-tier transit solutions.

In 2023, the METRONET Office will lead a cross-transport portfolio project to investigate short, medium and long-term mid-tier transit options for Perth, building on the large body of work already completed in recent years, including that from stakeholders including local government.

**HOSPITALS — MATERNITY BYPASSES**

**656. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to hospital bypass events in which hospitals divert patients to alternative locations due to capacity issues, workforce shortages and other strains on our healthcare system and I ask:

- (a) How many maternity bypasses occurred across the metropolitan and country health services in each month in the following years:
  - (i) 2021–2022; and
  - (ii) 2022–date?

**Ms A. Sanderson replied:**

- (a) (i)–(ii)

Month-Year	EMHS	NMHS	SMHS	WACHS
Jul-21	2	4	8	0
Aug-21	6	5	10	0
Sep-21	8	10	10	0
Oct-21	11	13	12	0
Nov-21	5	8	12	1
Dec-21	2	8	11	0
Jan-22	6	8	13	1
Feb-22	1	5	4	1
Mar-22	14	9	12	1
Apr-22	6	7	8	1
May-22	10	6	14	3
Jun-22	4	7	5	2
Jul-22	12	5	12	4
Aug-22	9	6	11	2
Sep-22	5	8	18	2
Oct-22	3	7	6	1
Nov-22	5	5	12	1

## TOURISM — CABIN FEVER EVENT — SOUTH WEST REGION

**658. Ms L. Mettam to the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer to the media statement on November 20, 2022, titled “Margaret River and South-West region’s tourism and events grow” about the expanded program of events for Cabin Fever and ask:

- (a) What is the increased funding commitment being provided to the Cabin Fever event in:
  - (i) 2023; and
  - (ii) 2024; and
- (b) How much State government funding has been provided to the event in each of the previous years it has been held?

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

I am advised:

- (a) Tourism Western Australia is sponsoring the Cabin Fever event through the Regional Events Program and the increased funding is:
  - (i) \$125,000 in 2023; and
  - (ii) \$125,000 in 2024.
- (b) Tourism Western Australia previously sponsored the event through the Regional Events Scheme:
 

2018 – \$10,000;

2019 – \$15,000;

2020 – \$15,000 – however, as the event was cancelled due to COVID-19, the funding was carried over to the 2021 event – so total funding in 2021 was \$30,000; and

2022 – \$20,000.

## GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS’ HOUSING — MOORE ELECTORATE

**660. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Housing:**

- (1) How many Government Regional Officer Housing (GROH) houses in the following towns are available to nurses?:
  - (a) Moora;
  - (b) Jurien Bay; and
  - (c) Dalwallinu?
- (2) How many of the GROH houses in each town are fully occupied?
- (3) How many health districts in WA do not allow nurses to occupy GROH houses?
- (4) Are there nurses quarters available in Moora and Dalwallinu?

**Mr J.N. Carey replied:**

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 661.

## GOVERNMENT REGIONAL OFFICERS’ HOUSING — MOORE ELECTORATE

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  - (a) Moora;
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- (2) How many of the GROH houses in each town are fully occupied?
- (3) How many health districts in WA do not allow nurses to occupy GROH houses?
- (4) Are there nurses quarters available in Moora and Dalwallinu?

**Mr J.N. Carey replied:**

- (1)–(3) The Department of Health as WA Country Health Services (WACHS) operate their own employee housing program.
- (4) The Department of Health have advised yes.

## WESTERN POWER — STANDALONE POWER SYSTEMS

**662. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Energy:**

- (1) Of the 180 Stand Alone Power Systems (SPS) due for installation by Western Power in 2023, how many will be in each of the following Shires:
- (a) Shire of Northampton;
  - (b) Shire of Chapman Valley;
  - (c) City of Greater Geraldton (Mullewa ward);
  - (d) Shire of Irwin;
  - (e) Shire of Morawa;
  - (f) Shire of Perenjori;
  - (g) Shire of Mingenew;
  - (h) Shire of Three Springs;
  - (i) Shire of Carnamah;
  - (j) Shire of Coorow;
  - (k) Shire of Wongan Hills;
  - (l) Shire of Dandaragan;
  - (m) Shire of Victoria Plains;
  - (n) Shire of Goomalling;
  - (o) Shire of Dowerin;
  - (p) Shire of Gingin;
  - (q) Shire of Chittering;
  - (r) Shire of Toodyay; and
  - (s) Shire of Moora?
- (2) When will the SPS be installed?
- (3) When will the townsite of Latham have a SPS installed?

**Mr W.J. Johnston replied:**

- (1)–(2) Western Power has commissioned over 150 stand-alone power systems (SPS) to date. Western Power expects that round three of its Stand-alone Power Systems program will see 183 SPS installed, 11 of which will be in the Local Government Authorities (LGS's) asked by the Member;
- (a) Shire of Northampton; 0
  - (b) Shire of Chapman Valley; 0
  - (c) City of Greater Geraldton (Mullewa ward); 0
  - (d) Shire of Irwin; 0
  - (e) Shire of Morawa; 3
  - (f) Shire of Perenjori; 0
  - (g) Shire of Mingenew; 0
  - (h) Shire of Three Springs; 0
  - (i) Shire of Carnamah; 1
  - (j) Shire of Coorow; 1
  - (k) Shire of Wongan Hills; 6
  - (l) Shire of Dandaragan; 0
  - (m) Shire of Victoria Plains; 0
  - (n) Shire of Goomalling; 0
  - (o) Shire of Dowerin; 0

- (p) Shire of Gingin; 0
- (q) Shire of Chittering; 0
- (r) Shire of Toodyay; 0
- (s) Shire of Moora; 0

Western Power expects deployment may commence in April and continue throughout 2023.

Western Power is proposing the deployment of up to 74 SPS in the LGA's of Carnamah, Coorow, Perenjori and Three Springs. Deployment is not yet confirmed. Should the proposal proceed Western Power anticipates commencement of works in late 2023. A further 98 are in other LGAs not asked as part of this question.

- (3) There are currently no plans to deploy SPS to the Latham townsite. Western Power is continually working with customers to understand future power requirements and will consider deployment of SPS where appropriate.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT — OFF-ROAD VEHICLE AREAS

**663. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Local Government:**

Will the Minister please detail scheduled development and upgrade works at Off Road Vehicle Areas in 2023 and beyond and detail funds to be expended.?

**Mr J.N. Carey replied:**

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) regularly seeks input from each of the land managers of off-road vehicle (ORV) areas on the necessary maintenance and upgrades required at their ORV areas to provide a quality and safe experience for riders.

Since the 2020/21 Financial Year, \$336,245 from the ORV Special Purpose Account has been released, including funding for maintenance and upgrades across the Local Government areas of the Shire of Gingin, Shire of York and City of Wanneroo.

The importance of key ORV areas such as Lancelin are recognised through Financial Assistance Grants and attract additional funding in those local government's calculations. For example, additional funding is provided to the Shire of Gingin due to their management of ORV sites totalling approximately \$80,000.

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