



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 17 June 2021

Legislative Assembly

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

PAPERS TABLED

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

LNG INDUSTRY

Statement by Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade) [9.03 am]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to note the significant contribution of the gas industry to Western Australia. Australia's LNG industry began in Western Australia and the state accounted for 57 per cent of Australia's total LNG exports. The additions of capacity from the Gorgon, Wheatstone and Prelude projects over the past five years has been a major factor in Australia overtaking Qatar to become the world's largest LNG exporter in 2020. LNG is now Western Australia's second biggest export, behind only iron ore. In 2020, the volume of the state's LNG sales was over 44 million tonnes, with a value of \$19.3 billion. This growth would not have been possible without good relationships with our key export markets. This means Western Australia has provided critical security of long-term supply over a number of decades and proved itself to be a reliable supplier. The participation of Japanese companies in the North West Shelf project, through a direct interest in the joint venture and as customers with long-term contracts, was key to establishing the industry in Western Australia. Investment and contracts have subsequently come from China, South Korea, the United States of America and other markets. The significance of establishing and maintaining these long-term relationships is highlighted by the fact that in 2020, Western Australia accounted for 28 per cent of Japan's LNG imports and 20 per cent of China's LNG imports.

The LNG industry is also vitally important to the development of other industries in the state. The supply of gas to the WA domestic market from LNG projects, via the application of the state's successful domestic gas policy, helps to ensure the state's energy security and provides opportunities for industry development, including the attraction of value-adding downstream projects. The bottom line of any industry's contribution to Western Australia is jobs, and the construction of LNG projects over the past decade has provided employment opportunities for thousands of Western Australians. I was fortunate to visit the Chevron Corporation's Barrow Island operation recently to gain a better understanding of the scale and complexity of the LNG industry and the contribution it provides to our state. I was very impressed by the focus on environmental management, being on an A-class nature reserve, and the determination to find solutions to challenging problems that people in the industry encounter every day. The skills and experiences of those in our state's LNG industry have the capacity to benefit and assist in many of the challenges other industries in our state experience. The McGowan government established the LNG Jobs Taskforce in 2018 to ensure that the people of Western Australia continue to realise these benefits. The task force's vision is for Western Australia to be a global leader in LNG collaboration, innovation, maintenance and support, exporting services across Australia and internationally, and generating local jobs and business opportunities.

GOVERNOR'S SCHOOL STEM AWARDS

Statement by Minister for Science

MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Science) [9.06 am]: The Governor's School STEM Awards are a chance to recognise and celebrate the best of STEM education in Western Australia. Schools from across Western Australia are encouraged to apply for the 2021 Governor's School STEM Awards with applications opening today. The awards highlight best-practice teaching and learning in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. Recognising educators who take a whole-of-school approach to STEM learning, the awards support the Western Australian government's STEM skills strategy "Future jobs, future skills", which prioritises increasing student participation in STEM subjects to prepare them for jobs in new and emerging industries. Whether they are graduating in 2021 or in 10 years' time, students need solid STEM skills to navigate the career paths of the future. The McGowan government is committed to building a globally competitive and innovative workforce with the capacity to drive the state's technological future and create job opportunities. These awards are just one of the ways we continue to acknowledge and promote STEM pathways in Western Australia.

Since the start of the awards in 2015, outstanding STEM education programs from 25 schools have been awarded a total of \$36 000 in prizes. In 2020, Brookman Primary School became the first school to be inducted into the Governor's School STEM Awards Hall of Fame after winning the leadership excellence award for the third year in a row. This year, two awards will be presented in both the primary and secondary school categories: the leadership excellence award with a \$2 000 prize, and the meritorious leadership award with a \$1 000 prize. Finalists will

enjoy a Scitech visit or a do-it-yourself science kit with a term of science lessons. Applications close at 10.00 am on 26 July 2021. Finalists are expected to be announced in September and the awards presented in November 2021. Whether they are graduating in 2021 or in 10 years' time—I think I have already said that; I should read these things before I read them out in Parliament!—students need solid STEM skills to navigate the career paths of the future. For more information on how to apply and previous winners, please visit the Scitech website.

The SPEAKER: The real worry, Deputy Premier, was that nobody actually picked up that you said it twice!

HON BOB HAWKE — FAMILY HOME — HERITAGE LISTING

Statement by Minister for Heritage

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.09 am]: Madam Speaker, I have a good one for you this morning!

The SPEAKER: Fantastic!

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: I rise today to inform members of the decision of the Heritage Council of Western Australia to endorse the draft heritage assessment of 101 Tate Street, West Leederville, which is also known as former Prime Minister Bob Hawke's house. This is the first step in the process to add places to the state Register of Heritage Places that are integral to the Western Australian story. As many would know, Bob Hawke came from a political family, but their standard of living and cultural practices were more reflective of those of the lower middle class of prewar Australia. This is something that is reflected in the built fabric of 101 Tate Street.

Built in 1929, the Californian red brick bungalow was typical for the lower middle class. The home, with its tall ceilings and dark hardwood floorboards, was host to weekly dinners with the future Premier of Western Australia Bert Hawke, for whom Bob was his favourite nephew and mentee. The sleep-out at the back of the house was where Bob could find some peace and quiet and, we have it on good account, could slip in from nights of partying at the University of Western Australia without disturbing his teetotal mother. It was where the aspiring young leader learnt of the inner workings of the Australian Labor Party and built on his parents' Christian social justice principles and his uncle's understanding of the importance of the labour movement to the working class. It is as big a part of the story of our twenty-third Prime Minister as his time at the University of Oxford or within the Australian Council of Trade Unions. It is where the foundation of his values and his outlook on the world were created, and we are very proud that we are treating this house appropriately. I commend the council's work in recognising, celebrating and preserving our state's stories. I look forward to updating you, Madam Speaker, and the Legislative Assembly as the assessment process progresses.

STATE LIBRARY — FACEBOOK PAGE

Statement by Minister for Culture and the Arts

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Culture and the Arts) [9.11 am]: I have another little gem here. I would like to inform the house about the way the State Library of Western Australia is successfully using social media to share stories about our wonderful state. The library's mission is to collect, preserve and share our stories. In the past it has shared its extraordinary collection through various mediums, such as exhibitions and tours inside the library building in the Perth Cultural Centre. Historically, the State Library is the most visited of all our cultural institutions. However, to ensure that all Western Australians have access to our collections no matter where they live, the library embarked on a strategy to grow its social media presence. It now focuses on Facebook, because it allows for multiple images and multiple links back to the library's website and catalogue. I am pleased to say that this has meant that it is now sharing stories to a wider audience, and, what is more, this communication vehicle is essentially free.

Two years ago, the library's Facebook page had a reach of around one million people. That reach has now increased to more than nine million people over the past 12 months—a massive reach. However, more impressive is the increase in engagement. Engagement is the gold standard for measuring the effectiveness of a Facebook page. Engagement is the measure of how many times the public has interacted with Facebook posts. It indicates that people have read and considered the information rather than it just appearing on their Facebook feed. In the 2018–19 financial year, the number of engagements achieved by the State Library Facebook page was 134 000. Over the past 12 months, the engagement number has increased to over two million. Many of us would wish to have such reach! To put this in perspective, this engagement number is equal to, and often more than, the combined engagement numbers of all the other state libraries in Australia—this is remarkable—and the National Library of Australia. Our state library has achieved this by posting new stories daily, which are all linked in some way to the library's collections. This was important in 2020 particularly, when the library was closed to the public due to COVID-19, to maintain connections with the community and continue to increase its audience. This is a remarkable achievement and has enabled the collection of the State Library and Western Australian stories to radiate far beyond the confines of the library building. I urge all members to follow the State Library's Facebook site as it will give an entertaining and valuable insight into the lives of Western Australians over generations.

WESTERN GROUND PARROT

Statement by Minister for Environment

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Environment) [9.14 am]: I am pleased to update the house on the state government's world-first translocation of the critically endangered western ground parrot. The western ground parrot is now found in the wild at only Cape Arid National Park and the adjacent Nuytsland Nature Reserve in the south coast region, with an estimated population of around 150 individual birds. Western ground parrots are listed as critically endangered and remain vulnerable to bushfire and introduced predators. The delicate translocation operation involved staff from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, supported by Perth Zoo, Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, BirdLife Western Australia, South Coast Natural Resource Management and other volunteers, to locate and capture the birds in very remote areas.

Seven birds were successfully released as part of this project at a remote location east of Albany. This site has been prepared over the past 18 months, including feral animal control and fire management actions carried out by DBCA staff. The ground parrots have been fitted with radio transmitters and are currently being tracked and monitored. I am pleased to report that all seven released birds are alive and within broad proximity of their release site. I congratulate DBCA, Perth Zoo and the volunteers, including Friends of the Western Ground Parrot, BirdLife WA, and other partner organisations, for their work in helping to protect the western ground parrot. With fewer than 150 birds left in the wild, this translocation is an important and innovative component of the ongoing conservation efforts for the species. I was very pleased to see the significant media interest in this matter, particularly the television coverage on Sunday, 13 June by ABC's *Landline* program, which showcased to a national audience the invaluable conservation efforts being undertaken in Western Australia. I am hopeful this translocation will be a success and we will see a new viable wild population of western ground parrot established that will support the conservation of this species.

HOUSING — POWER OUTAGE — NORTH FREMANTLE

Grievance

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [9.16 am]: I thank the Minister for Housing for taking my grievance. My grievance relates to a devastating and potentially dangerous 94-hour power outage that occurred at a Homeswest property at 15 Harvest Road, North Fremantle, between Sunday, 23 May and Wednesday, 26 May. This Homeswest property contains 38 units and provides housing for a wide cross-section of the community, including elderly residents and families with young children. Therefore, I was dismayed when I was made aware of residents having to suffer through almost four days without access to vital electricity.

In the early hours of the morning of Sunday, 23 May, an electricity pole belonging to Homeswest, located on the property, collapsed. Western Power was called by a concerned resident. To ensure the safety of the residents, Western Power disconnected the property from the mains powerline across the road, indicating it would reconnect it when Homeswest had resolved the issue. Ultimately, residents had no electricity. After an initial visit from an electrician contracted by Homeswest, residents attempted to contact Homeswest again and again, desperately trying to find out when the power would be restored. However, day after day they were informed by Homeswest that funds needed to repair the electricity pole and restore access to power had not yet been approved.

On Tuesday, 25 May, residents at 15 Harvest Road were still without power. In the early hours of 25 May, winter came early, with temperatures reaching a minimum of 5.4 degrees at 5.00 am, the coldest temperature Perth had faced all year. Residents were forced to shiver their way through these freezing temperatures without the electricity needed to heat their homes. This is completely unacceptable. Moreover, the hardship faced by the residents was magnified by the spoiling of the food in their fridges and freezers, causing hundreds of dollars of losses to each unit. Residents of the units at 15 Harvest Road reached out in desperation to my office after being told that Homeswest had no funds. I passed these pleas on to the minister's office.

I was extremely heartened that once contacted, the minister's office worked quickly and effectively in escalating the issue and ensuring that a resolution was finally found. I am additionally happy to report that the minister provided me with a guarantee that if the problem was not resolved by Wednesday, 26 May, a generator would be installed to provide electricity in the event that the repair period was extended. Thankfully, that was not necessary. This power outage ultimately lasted an unacceptable 94 hours, with power being reconnected at only 11.50 in the evening of Wednesday, 26 May. This is particularly disappointing, given that the issue was caused by a collapsed electricity pole.

Moreover, as part of the compensation for this extended power outage, residents were offered \$80 Coles vouchers by Homeswest. However, surely the minister can agree that this is not nearly sufficient compensation for the hundreds of dollars' worth of spoiled food lost by each family and resident. Although residents have been given the opportunity to go through a more extensive process to claim other losses due to the power outage, we worry that this process may be slow and inaccessible to some of the residents in that set of units and therefore only a small proportion of those residents may get the increased money. All residents should be able to easily and swiftly recover the total losses that they suffered through no fault of their own.

Additionally, although I stress my thanks for the minister's quick response and compassion in this matter, I wonder whether a future outage occurring in similar circumstances would leave residents without power for just as long. This whole situation provides a clear indication that reactive solutions are not able to effectively address the problems of residents in these situations and that pre-emptive policies ought to be developed to prevent this awful situation from occurring again. For example, can we have an assurance that after an unplanned outage in excess of 48 hours to a Homeswest property, a generator will be automatically supplied? This would facilitate a structural long-term solution to this problem should it occur elsewhere in my electorate or in the broader Western Australian community. In this regard, more effective communication between Western Power and the Department of Housing is paramount.

This case also highlights several potential issues with the efficiency of the fund approval process for Homeswest in cases of emergencies. Residents report being told day after day by Homeswest that funds had not been approved for the work required to fix the fallen electricity pole to end the power outage. If this is true, policies that will expedite the fund approval process for Homeswest in time-sensitive emergencies should not just be considered by the minister but implemented. People should not have to suffer almost four days without power while waiting for bureaucrats to approve funds.

Another concern was how Homeswest liaised with residents throughout this ordeal. Residents were left largely uncertain as to when the problem would be fixed and when their lives could return to normal. There must be clear communication between Homeswest and residents about the expected time line for fund approval and when they can see their lights switched back on.

In conclusion, I sincerely thank the minister for his speedy response to the matter, once notified. I urge the minister to act decisively to stop history repeating itself; and, firstly, implement clear policies that can effectively respond to power outages affecting Homeswest properties to prevent residents from suffering prolonged deprivation of electricity; secondly, ensure that funding for emergency electrical, gas and water repairs is set aside to enable Homeswest to take immediate action when any of these critical utilities are disrupted so residents do not suffer for days without critical services; thirdly, ensure clear communication with residents about the expected time line for power to be restored; and, fourthly, ultimately ensure that those residents of 15 Harvest Road, North Fremantle, are fully compensated for the awful experience and the loss of food that they went through in May.

I look forward to the minister's action and his response.

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [9.22 am]: I wish to thank the member for Cottesloe for his grievance. I am known to be a straight shooter, and I agree that this simply was not good enough. I appreciate that the member for Cottesloe came forward and addressed this issue. I note that yesterday the member for Roe raised an issue in this house that he had not flagged with me, but obviously had had the opportunity to do so. I am a very accessible minister. I will always do my best to assist any constituent in any electorate. I appreciate the approach that the member for Cottesloe took, because he wanted to resolve the matter for his constituents—and rightly so. I want to put that publicly on the record and thank the member for Cottesloe.

On the history of this, it was on 23 May that an electrical pole fell over and caused a power outage. The power was finally restored at the complex by 8.30 pm on 26 May this year. I absolutely agree with the member for Cottesloe that that was too long, and when he did raise it with me personally, my ministerial office sprang into action. We immediately asked the agency what was going on and stressed the need to have a generator onsite as quickly as possible. It is fair to say that there were some issues. It was not a funding issue, and I am perplexed that the agency said that to the constituents. My office, including my chief of staff, has spent a lot of time on this because we take it seriously, but my advice is that there was an issue with sourcing parts required to repair the pole and, as a result, the main contractor was not able to source this part. Obviously, that resulted in some delay and an additional contractor was engaged to source that part, which did occur. There were going to be further delays because it then needed approval for the generator onsite. As the member knows, it is not necessarily easy to connect a generator as it needs compliance approval to connect the generator to the transmission line. Again, my office intervened in that process and reached out to Western Power so that we could move that along quicker, and that occurred.

I have had a face-to-face briefing on this matter and I am committed to getting better systems in place, because the member is right that all members in this house should be concerned with the length of time that people can be left without power, particularly those who are most vulnerable and in need. The Department of Communities is working with the head contractor to look at, firstly, how we can ensure that we can move quicker on parts and those sorts of processes. We are also looking at securing a generator. My argument, and request to the agency, is that as soon as there is a power outage, it should be sourcing a generator, not waiting to find out whether the contractor can reconnect power, but to go out and source a generator in case it is required; or it should have a number of generators potentially online and, if they cannot source a generator, it should go to Western Power to assist it in this cause. I have absolutely asked the department to ensure better coordination of an alternative power source, and to show a greater sense of urgency in terms of repair and better communication. I understand that the department did go out and doorknock on the Monday, which we should applaud; that is good direct, face-to-face engagement. I understand that people want surety, which can be difficult, but the department should provide some sense of a time line to those constituents.

In relation to the loss of food, again, I appreciate, particularly for this group of vulnerable people, that any loss of food affects their daily or weekly expenditure. The member has identified that an \$80 grocery voucher was provided to assist with the loss of food, and tenants can lodge a claim with the Department of Communities' principal insurance claims officer for items worth over \$80. I will talk to the agency. I am not aware whether this is a complex process, member, so I will ask.

Dr D.J. Honey: I think it is for some residents, as you would understand.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I understand that. It is a bit like electricity credits. As the member for Perth, people were coming to my electorate office, which was providing assistance to people who did not have online access, so I get that point and I will talk to the agency. I do not know the system, and because the member has raised it, and it is an online system and some people do not have access to that, I will find out how to assist them.

I assure the member that I absolutely appreciate him raising this directly with me. He could have scored a political point—he did not and he got the best outcome for his constituents. I thank the member for that. I say to all members of this house, including the member for Roe, who raised an issue about correspondence, that they can approach me and stop me, and my office and I will always do our best to seek to address those issues for their constituents.

STERLING FIRST LIFETIME LEASE SCHEME

Grievance

MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington) [9.29 am]: My grievance this morning is to the Minister for Commerce. I thank the minister for taking my grievance this morning. I am raising a matter of grave importance to many residents in my electorate of Murray–Wellington and the neighbouring electorates of Mandurah and Dawesville. These constituents, such as Mr and Mrs Fardoe, Mrs Taylor, Mr and Mrs Cade, Mr Race, Ms Dall and many more have lost their life savings to a scam investment scheme sold to them by Sterling First Group. I call on the minister to outline the actions the state government has taken on behalf of Western Australian victims of Sterling First and to please provide an update on the case so far.

I understand that the demise of Sterling First is primarily an investment-related issue and the responsibility for action lies with the commonwealth government. On 10 June 2019, Sterling First (Aust) Ltd, the flagship of a group of several property management and investment companies, went into liquidation. Perth-based Sterling First Group marketed its Sterling New Life retirement housing as the smart way to retirement. The Sterling New Life product involved people paying large, up-front sums, usually hundreds of thousands of dollars, to secure long-term leases on properties for up to 40 years. Elderly customers across the country signed up, paying in total more than \$18.5 million. But in June 2019, the Sterling First Group was put into liquidation, leaving more than 100 customers across the country facing possible eviction and heavy financial losses, including many people in Murray–Wellington, Dawesville and Mandurah. People have lost their life savings, some have become homeless and I know of at least one person who suicided.

The Sterling Group scam was particularly shocking. Sterling Group targeted older Australians. The victims are hardworking, honest Australians and Western Australians who were looking for financial security in their retirement. Many were defrauded of their entire life savings. Many feel shame, anger, injustice and humiliation. The state government and I share their anger and disappointment.

I want to share the stories of some of my constituents who are willing for them to be on the record. Mrs Taylor purchased in February 2017 and lost her life savings after selling her home. For two years and 26 days, she has had nothing but harassment from KPMG, the mortgagee of the real estate. Mrs Taylor is fighting cancer, and the stress and harassment from KPMG has not helped with the fight for her life. Mr and Mrs Fardoe put in \$151 000 expecting they would have a 40-year lease, but within three years they were told that not only was their money lost, but also they would be evicted. All their money has been lost.

The state and federal governments need to work together to ensure that our citizens and constituents are not the victims of scams. Although the state government does not have primary responsibility in this area, it is supporting victims where and when it can. My understanding is that as early as 12 April 2017, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's Consumer Protection division raised concerns regarding Sterling First with the commonwealth regulator, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Consumer Protection has provided ongoing advice and support to the affected parties and the Department of Communities has offered affected tenants housing priority or special rental assistance. Consumer Protection also led a liaison group of state and commonwealth agencies, tenancy advocacy and pro bono legal support to share information and coordinate activities to support the impacted parties as much as possible.

On 26 November 2019, on behalf of the McGowan government, Hon John Quigley, MLA, Attorney General; Minister for Commerce, sent a letter to the commonwealth government requesting information about the status of the activities of the Australian Securities and Investments Commission in this matter, together with any future actions that would be taken by that agency. Senator Louise Pratt grilled ASIC over its lack of oversight in federal Parliament on 19 March 2021 during a hearing of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Corporations and Financial Services.

I call on the minister to inform the house and affected victims of Sterling First what action the state government has taken on their behalf and provide an update as to where we are now.

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Commerce) [9.34 am]: I thank the member for Murray–Wellington for her grievance and for raising this very important issue that affects not only her constituents but also those of the members for Dawesville and Mandurah. First of all, I extend my sincere sympathy to the victims of this unscrupulous scheme. This is a terrible circumstance for people to find themselves in at retirement, when they should be comfortable and enjoying the fruits of the years of their work. Some of their stories are quite harrowing. They have been the victims of very unscrupulous failure and the failure of the federal regulator to act in this space. Sterling First was a web of several property management groups and investment companies. Its business arrangements were very complex and opaque and, essentially, this helped it take advantage of older citizens and cheat them out of their life savings and retirement income. The scheme offered retirees the sublease of a property in return for their life savings. Sterling First told tenants that they could enter the scheme by paying their savings into an investment fund and that the returns from this fund would cover their ongoing rent. Tenants understood that they would not need to pay further rent, rates, home insurance and maintenance—really, it was a scheme too good to be true. The member for Murray–Wellington is correct in outlining to the chamber that in 2015, the WA government was ringing alarm bells about the scheme with the federal regulator. The Consumer Protection division moved very quickly to ensure that at least the long-term leases proposed by Sterling First and its subsidiaries were compliant with the Western Australian Residential Tenancies Act 1987. In the meantime, the federal regulator did nothing. In April 2017, the Consumer Protection division again flagged concerns about Sterling First and some of the arrangements it had implemented with the Australian Securities and Investments Commission. Unfortunately, in 2019 Sterling First entered liquidation and only then did ASIC initiate legal action. I share the member’s concerns about the inaction of the federal government on this issue. Investment issues are squarely a matter for the federal government. Obviously, we do not want to leave these Western Australian community members hanging, so the WA government has done everything it can to support these victims. Federal member Andrew Hastie has said some very nice words and offered his sympathies, but he has delivered nothing. They do not need a cup of tea and sympathy; they need action from the regulator. There are clear actions that the federal government could implement to support these people but it simply has not done that.

Mrs R.M.J. Clarke: They’ve done nothing.

Ms A. SANDERSON: Yes, it has done nothing.

From the state government’s point of view, when Sterling First went into liquidation, the Consumer Protection division reached out to the 98 groups of tenants affected by the collapse and connected them with various agencies, including Circle Green Community Legal, which was formerly Tenancy WA. The WA government provided \$195 000 to Circle Green to provide ongoing specialist legal advice to assist 43 of those tenants. This has culminated in a number of law firms providing pro bono assistance through Law Access and spearheading legal defences in the Magistrates and Supreme Courts on behalf of a number of those tenants. We have also assisted victims by helping them find alternative housing. As the member for Murray–Wellington mentioned, the Department of Communities has an open invitation to those tenants to be on the priority housing list and assist them into alternative accommodation. In the meantime, a number of victims have lodged complaints with the federal government agency, the Australian Financial Complaints Authority, but have been left waiting for a response. AFCA has received nearly 150 complaints from investors and tenants about the collapse of Sterling First and it is sitting on those complaints until it receives clarification from the federal government about the compensation scheme of last resort. The compensation scheme of last resort was a recommendation of the Royal Commission into Misconduct in the Banking, Superannuation and Financial Services Industry, which we all know the federal Liberal Party was dragged kicking and screaming to hold. It was not until its Nationals partners threatened to cross the floor and vote with the federal Labor Party to support the establishment of the royal commission to examine these unscrupulous players across the finance sector that the federal government agreed to hold the royal commission. It did not want to hold the inquiry and it has barely implemented any of the recommendations, including this recommendation that would help this group of people.

The former Minister for Commerce, the Attorney General, also wrote to the federal minister asking what action would be taken to address the collapse of Sterling First. He responded by saying that legislation for a compensation scheme would be ready by the middle of this year. We are in the middle of this year and approaching the federal parliamentary winter break and we have seen nothing—nothing has been either drafted or flagged.

The federal government urgently needs to establish a compensation scheme of last resort. That has been reinforced by a WA Supreme Court decision that was handed down on 1 June this year. In a private civil action brought by an investor through the Sterling First scheme against renters through the scheme, Hon Justice Smith held that although the investor could terminate the lease, they could not recover outstanding rent, which meant that the investor lost future expected rent and the renters lost their life savings. In handing down his decision, Justice Smith noted that all parties to the court proceedings were innocent victims who have all suffered a loss by the actions of third parties being held by Sterling First and its associates. These innocent victims deserve help and they need the federal government to quickly set up the compensation scheme of last resort.

The federal government is asleep at the wheel on this issue. I know some victims of Sterling First have received advice discouraging them to make complaints to AFCA. Let me assure all those victims that initiating a complaint with AFCA is the best way of ensuring that the federal government facilitates a compensation scheme of last resort and that all Sterling First victims will be eligible. I thank the member for her advocacy on this issue.

MADDINGTON HOMESTEAD*Grievance*

MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie) [9.42 am]: My grievance today is seeking the support of the Minister for Heritage to secure the restoration of the Maddington Homestead in my electorate. This has been an ongoing and longstanding issue and the subject of parliamentary questions, debate and petitions in this place for a number of years. I want to acknowledge one of the leaders in this campaign—that is, Patricia Morris, AM, JP, Honorary Freeman of the City of Gosnells, who chairs the City of Gosnells' history, heritage and advisory group.

The history and significance of Maddington Homestead is fairly well known in my electorate, but let me provide a little background on it for members today. Maddington Homestead was built from 1836, but the earliest outbuilding on the property was built in 1832, just three years after the Swan River Colony was established. The house is a large two-storey structure, described as Georgian revival style. It had two cellars, four lower rooms and four upper rooms. The historical importance of Maddington Homestead not just to the local area but to Western Australia cannot be understated. It is an extremely rare example of a substantial settler's house that was constructed in Western Australia prior to the convict era. It is associated with prominent figures in the history of Western Australia, such as John Randall Phillips; Major William Nairn, who, when he purchased land, was the oldest European male in the colony; Surveyor-General John Septimus Roe; and other earlier settlers. The house is the oldest surviving residence in the district, although it has to be said it is just barely surviving at the moment. In fact, it is at a critical point: we could completely lose the homestead and the history that it embodies or, at this point, we could move to save it. The homestead also illustrates the innovative and creative use of material such as the wattle and daub that make up the bulk of the material used for it. Major William Nairn built the two-storey Georgian-style home, starting work in 1836, and the property tells a story of the early days of British settlement on the Swan River.

There is a strong Aboriginal connection to the Maddington park property with records of contact with Aboriginal people on and around the property. Sadly, not all of them were peaceful, often due to the British lack of understanding and acceptance of the local Aboriginal culture and way of life. As a result, gunports were incorporated into the structure of the house. In 1837, it was the scene of a conflict when Buoyen, a Whadjuk Noongar man, was accused of injuring two shepherds. Buoyen was tried and sent to Rottnest Island for the rest of his life. However, one incident was recorded in 1841 when a bushfire that had destroyed a nearby farm was heading towards Maddington Homestead. The neighbours were all battling the fire when a group of Aboriginal people arrived to help them save the homestead and outbuildings. It is these stories that need to be told. They can show people how we were, how far we have progressed and how much further we have to go, especially in our relationship with Australia's First Nations people. There are some very interesting stories to be told about the reason behind the choice of site for the homestead. The number one reason was proximity to the river, which provided the preferred means of transport at the time.

The agricultural story is very interesting as well. They trialled different crops and tested different animal husbandry methods. Major Nairn experienced footrot amongst his flock, bearing in mind that this is prior to the introduction of merino sheep into the colony. He managed to adapt his practices and became renowned for the success of his sheep husbandry. There are reports that the challenges of building the homestead actually wore Nairn down. In 1843, Nairn mortgaged the property to Surveyor-General John Septimus Roe.

In recognition of its importance, the homestead was entered into the state Register of Heritage Places in 2001. When the property was sold to the current owners in 2003, it was on the understanding that the structure of the homestead would be restored to a reasonable state as part of subdividing the land for residential development. However, this has not happened. Two fires, in 2004 and 2005, caused extensive damage to the homestead, so the cost of repair has obviously risen. However, it could be argued that the owner's priority was subdividing the land and that the homestead was merely an afterthought. Although I acknowledge that Golden Group, the owner, has spent some money on the homestead, that money has not gone into physically repairing the building and now the owner is citing a downturn in business as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for not proceeding with work.

The Maddington Homestead and surrounding land constitutes the final stage of Golden Group's larger project, the Golden Maddington River Estate. The first stages of the estate are complete and, according to Golden Group's website, it is a \$40 million project. The cost of repairing the homestead is a liability on the books of Golden Group. It could be argued that a portion of the income derived from the Golden Maddington River Estate residential subdivision should have been ring fenced by the company for years to repair the homestead. The Golden Group, according to its website, has land development projects in the pipeline in Western Australia with a value of \$5.52 billion, plus some 2 000 hectares in Eneabba for an as-yet uncosted project. That amount does not include \$22 million for a development project in Queensland and a further \$250 million for development projects in Victoria.

Given the resources of the company, it would not be unreasonable for the group to fulfil its obligations to bring the Maddington Homestead back up to a reasonable standard. What is more, this part of Maddington desperately needs a community gathering point, complete with a community meeting room, a local cafe, a hub for trail walkers around this part of the Canning River and perhaps a workplace for those keen to nurture environmental projects that are so needed on this stretch of the Canning.

I hope the minister agrees with me and brings the legislative resources of the state government to bear to persuade the Golden Group that the opportunity to develop land in Western Australia comes with obligations to the community and that repair of the Maddington Homestead is its prime obligation in this instance.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Heritage) [9.49 am]: I genuinely thank the member for Thornlie for his ongoing concerns about this particular Western Australian heritage asset, Maddington Homestead. I also acknowledge Pat Morris and those other keen and passionate supporters of the protection of this place of state significance. My first comment to the member is: I agree with him; Maddington Homestead is a significant place in our state's history. The member has outlined in his grievance this morning a range of stories associated with the homestead over its long life and also highlighted something that I did not know—that is, the significance of the earlier outbuilding in that the structure was established in 1832.

The member is right; under the watch of the homestead's current owner, and due to a range of events, including some destructive fires and vandalism, the building has been damaged and is in a deteriorated state. As the member said, the property on which the homestead is located has been subdivided for residential development and it is true that it was understood that works would occur to restore the physical fabric of the homestead as part of that process. This has not occurred, and that is very sad and disturbing. I understand the member's frustration with the failure of the owner to appropriately protect this important state asset.

In 2009, a protection order pursuant to the former Heritage of Western Australia Act 1990 was issued by the then Minister for Heritage to provide an additional layer of protection, but, as we know, due to the limitations of that former act, this order could not require the owner to undertake any conservation works. As the member knows, the McGowan government, through me, as Minister for Heritage, introduced, passed and has now made law the new Heritage Act 2018 and that gives me, as minister, statutory authority to initiate a process that can require an owner to undertake repair works to a place on the state register.

Due to the advanced deterioration of Maddington Homestead and the owner's continued failure to address conservation protection issues, the Heritage Council of Western Australia has issued a repair notice to the owner. This is significant, because this is the first repair notice to be issued by the Heritage Council under our new act. I hope that this indicates to not only the wider community in the member's electorate, but also the owners the seriousness in which I see this matter. It is unfortunate that this notice has needed to be issued, but the fact of the matter is simple: this is a state asset that is now under this group's ownership and it needs to respond to this notice. The notice contains specific works that the owner has to undertake, and there are repercussions for failure to do so. Failure to do so is likely to result in the Heritage Council recommending to me, as Minister for Heritage, that a repair order be issued. If a repair order is issued, there are serious ramifications for contravention of that repair order, including penalties of up to \$1 million, one year's imprisonment and also a daily penalty of a \$50 000 fine. The issuing of the repair notice draws a line in the sand for the owner to understand the seriousness of the situation with the deterioration of this state heritage asset. I am certainly calling upon the owner to ensure that it carries out, as is its responsibility, the requirements outlined in the repair notice. I will be watching very closely the owner's response to that notice.

I regret that we have reached this point, but it is because of the advocacy of the member and his community—I thank him sincerely for that—that the matter has now reached the stage it has reached. The Heritage Council has seen how serious the matter has become and has seen fit to issue that repair notice. The ball is now firmly in the court of the owner to ensure that it upholds the responsibility it has as the owner of that property. Indeed, I am very hopeful that it understands the serious nature of the position we are in.

I can assure the member that the Heritage Council and I will continue to pursue the repair of Maddington Homestead through the mechanisms available under the Heritage Act that I have outlined. I also assure the member that state assets such as Maddington Homestead remain key and pivotal aspects of our state's history. The stories that are attached to that structure are significant for our state. I am hopeful that the member's fierce advocacy on behalf of Maddington Homestead will bear good fruit and that we will protect that asset through the cooperation of the owner and that that will be done in a timely manner.

I thank the member for his grievance this morning and I again thank him for his absolute passion for heritage issues and particularly for the protection of Maddington Homestead. I appreciate it.

FISHERIES — SOUTH COAST BIOREGION

Grievance

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [9.56 am]: Today my grievance is to the Minister for Fisheries. I provided some background information yesterday on the 12-month delay in the implementation of the south coast bioregion management plan in order to complete community consultation, involve small fishing operators in the final stages of consultation and revisit dividing the SCB into two distinct zones. Firstly, I want to acknowledge that this process for the south coast bioregion began in September 2015 under the previous government.

I will go through some of the issues. Throughout the consultation process, small fishing operators located in Albany and Esperance continually raised concerns about the proposed managed access arrangements through the independent

access panel and the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, and directly with the Minister for Fisheries. Although they have secured access to near-shore netting and squid jigging, the small scale of their operations is such that they need diversity of catch to remain commercially viable. In Esperance, the issues relate more to the failure by the government to recognise that the SCB should not be treated as one single fishery across its approximately 1 500-kilometre span. The effect of this is that the access and management methodology being applied to the west subzone is also being applied to the east subzone, and they are inherently different in terms of biology, geography, economy and the operating circumstances of the fishing operators.

The DPIRD discussion paper states —

The nature of these fisheries does not currently warrant complex or costly management arrangements. As such the Department is proposing to focus on implementing simple, cost effective and efficient management arrangements with the main priority being limiting access.

That tells me that the department does not want to do the work; therefore, the small fishers will have to suffer the consequences. This clearly indicates that the current access and management arrangements are about minimising the administrative burden on the department and simplifying monitoring of catch and environmental impacts. New management arrangements will come into effect on 1 July 2021. However, further community consultation is not expected to commence until the second quarter of 2021, according to the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Smaller operators have been excluded from the second phase of consultation.

The draft south coast bioregion management plan of February 2020 was not made publicly available online and was distributed only to licensed commercial fishers and those with a vested interest. The impact is that the new management arrangement will come into effect on 1 July 2021, by which time the fishing operators believe there will be little or no chance of having the arrangement reversed and they will be faced with having to close their businesses in either the short or medium term. Small fishing operators in Albany and Esperance strongly believe that their concerns have not been listened to, even to the extent that neither the minister nor the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development has bothered to adequately rebut the issues raised or undertake meaningful engagement to investigate workable solutions.

There is a very real risk that the new arrangements will have a catastrophic effect on small inshore operators in Albany and licence holders in Esperance, with some being forced out of business. South coast commercial fishing operators often hold a number of licences to create a viable year-round fishing operation. Effectively, these operators are being thrown under the bus, simply to make life easier for DPIRD, which will essentially force small operators out of business and make access easier for the big operators. Where does this leave our locally based fishing industries and the local communities?

On behalf of the Esperance fishing operators, I say that part of the problem is the failure by the government to acknowledge that the south coast bioregion should not be treated as one single fishery. DPIRD's scientific analysis recognised that the width of the continental shelf is greater in the eastern subregion of the SCB than in the western subregion, therefore impacting on fishing practices and catch, but no recognition of this has been included in the proposed management arrangements. Most, if not all, eastern subregion operators' line fishing is supplemental to other licensed fishing activities. Because the nature of the fishery in the eastern subzone is fundamentally different from that in the western subzone, it was unfair and inequitable to apply the same minimum catch threshold for entry to the future fishery. In particular, application of the same eligibility criteria to both subregions of the SBC did not reflect the difference in economic impact on the eastern subregion operators.

I ask the minister, on behalf of these small fishing operators, to delay the implementation of the south coast bioregion management plan for 12 months in order to complete that community consultation, and to involve small fishing operators and meet with them in person, obviously in both Esperance and Albany, and to revisit the decision to divide the south coast bioregion into two distinct zones. Thank you.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [10.02 am]: I thank the member for Roe for his grievance. I was actually in the member's electorate last week, in Esperance, and subsequently met with quite a group of fishers in Albany, including one, I think, from Esperance. It was a very useful discussion.

Governments, of course, have to make decisions. Those decisions do not always meet the needs of every single person. In making those decisions, we try to find the best balance. In this case, fisheries, there are multiple stakeholders, and there are questions of sustainability. In my short period as Minister for Fisheries, I have the utmost admiration for how the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development goes about managing its response to what are very complex issues that incorporate a number of variables. I know that the staff in that department are keenly aware that their decisions impact on the livelihoods and future operations of commercial fishers, but they have a broad spectrum of responsibilities.

I want to go to the time line of events on this particular issue. This issue has a long history. As the member pointed out, it goes back to the time of the previous government. It is an issue that was identified some time ago. In November 2013, the then Minister for Fisheries approved a review of south coast commercial fish trap, herring

G-net and open-access line and net fisheries. On 9 December 2013, the then Department of Fisheries issued an investment warning to all fishing boat licence holders in relation to the fisheries the subject of the review. So the information about this review and the possible consequences of it was clearly out there in 2013, enabling people to start thinking and incorporating that into their business thinking.

In 2015, the management paper was released for public consultation. That provided an overview of the review and future management proposals. In 2016, Fisheries engaged an independent access panel to provide recommendations on access to the fisheries under the review. The panel comprised the chair, Ian Cartwright, and Ian Taylor and Graeme Stewart, who travelled extensively throughout the region to undertake consultation. The panel provided a final report in 2016. Fisheries considered the access report and a range of other information, legislation, precedents, policies and principles relating to access and formed the view that the adoption of the IAP's recommendations would result in an excessive number of vessels gaining access and consequently impact on cost-effective management, viability and a number of other issues.

In January 2017, still under the previous government, the then Minister for Fisheries wrote to the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, the peak body representing commercial fishers, seeking its views on the fisheries' alternative criteria. For a range of reasons, WAFIC did not support the alternative criteria and was of the view that the review should progress in line with the proposed management framework outlined in the independent access panel's recommended access criteria.

In April 2018, DPIRD provided the then minister, who is sitting next to me, with advice on the review and sought his consideration and approval of access criteria for fisheries under the review. The recommendations that came out of Fisheries were reviewed within the framework of WAFIC, which is an industry consultation body, and the then minister acted on that advice. Further advice was obtained from the Southern Seafood Producers WA Association, which represents commercial fishers on the south coast. The advice provided by that body confirmed its support for the IAP recommendations, the immediate implementation of management plans for these fisheries, an independent appeals process, and that developing fisheries should not be limited at this time.

In January 2019, the then Minister for Fisheries finalised the review by approving the access criteria recommended by the independent panel and drafting two new management plans for the south coast line and fish trap managed fishery.

Therefore, the notion that this is somehow being done at the department's convenience is actually incorrect. There has been a long process of engagement and examination of the issue to try to come up with the best balanced decision to meet the needs of the fishery for the long term and the needs of the people who are operating in the fishery.

In December 2020, the then Minister for Fisheries approved new management plans for the south coast line and fish trap managed fishery and the south coast nearshore net managed fishery. Those access arrangements included catch criteria that have been long established for these sorts of issues.

In 2019 and 2020, DPIRD worked closely with two working groups that had formed to assist in the development of the operational arrangements for new fisheries. That included multiple trips to Albany and Esperance to meet with the working groups. DPIRD staff travelled to Albany and Esperance in mid-May and met with over 45 fishing boat licence holders eligible for access to the two new fisheries to brief them on the application process. DPIRD is currently receiving applications and expects to issue 94 licences for the south coast line and fish trap fishery, 55 licences for line fishing, 46 licences for squid fishing and 11 licences for fish traps.

There has been a long process of engagement across three governments. That is a recognition of the complexity of this issue. In my view, the fact that an investment warning was announced clearly signalled to the market that this was underway. The catch criteria came out of the industry. People who may have arrived late in this industry or purchased fishing boat licences without a catch history in that fishery clearly needed to make some further investigation into the implications of acquiring those licences. The criteria that have been adopted have been well understood within the industry over many years, are legally robust and have been based on extensive consultation. But it means that fishing boat licence holders who do not qualify for access will need to purchase or lease a licence.

That is the sort of churn we see whenever there is a change within the fisheries framework, and the commercial sector has to adjust to that. Ultimately, the commercial sector, along with everybody else, has an interest in sustainable, well-managed fisheries, and that is what this government and the previous Liberal-National government were committed to.

We will continue to follow the advice of industry. The Western Australian Fishing Industry Council has been a key player in this advice, as has the Southern Seafood Producers WA Association. I do not intend to intervene in the zonal issues that the member raised. We have four bioregions stretching over many diverse areas, and they are well established as well. I thank the member for his grievance.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): We turn to committee reports. Member for Willagee, the smell of curry is wafting down to the chair.

ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE*First Report — Turning to India: Investing in our future — Tabling*

MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee) [10.10 am]: I rise today to table the first report for the forty-first Parliament, but not the first report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee. The committee was constituted by the Parliament a couple of weeks ago. Members might be surprised that we are tabling a report so soon. It is not because of the efficient, effective and high work rate of the committee that we have been able to do it; rather, we formed the view that a functional response, if you like, was required from the committee to ensure that this report gets a fair hearing, as so much work was done in this area. The report I am referring to was produced in the fortieth Parliament under the guidance of the member for Swan Hills, the then Chair of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee. *Turning to India: Investing in our future* is a significant report and it deserves due consideration through the whole process.

The committee felt that the process needed to be restarted to ensure that the report saw the light of day. The report contains 124 findings and 37 recommendations for the government's consideration. The inquiry was a long one, spanning almost a year and a half in duration. The former committee commenced the India inquiry in August 2019 and did not conclude its work until 2020, after some extensions. I would like to thank the previous committee members—the members for Swan Hills, Warren–Blackwood, Cottesloe, Jandakot, Forrestfield and Churchlands—who went about their business with this significant undertaking. The scale of the report probably matches the scale of the opportunity and the vastness of the country that it contemplated, which is India, of course. Unfortunately, our trading relationship with India has declined over recent years.

Dr J. Krishnan interjected.

Mr P.C. TINLEY: That was the old committee. I am talking about the new committee.

The principal reason for that decline relates to resources, with a decline in the export of gold, of all things. The other issue over time has been the removal of the direct flight to India, which we know is all-important.

The committee found that the opportunity for trade with India is vast, but it found that because of this vastness and because it is a large trading market, the effort from a small jurisdiction such as Western Australia could be diluted. We in Western Australia know that if we want our economy to diversify beyond the resources sector, we have to diversify our markets. Nine of our top 10 trading partners are in Asia. India represents a particularly important opportunity to us, particularly given that we share the same ocean. We also have key strategic interests and key economic and cultural alignment, not the least of which comes from the Indian diaspora right throughout the Indo-Pacific region, including Australia. There are huge opportunities available. The Western Australian government has been alert to that. It has two key strategies to assist in the guidance and development of the exploitation of the opportunities that are presented to us, the first being Diversify WA. The policy recognises the state's reliance on a narrow band of industry sectors and the risk of this to the economy, so it is a known known. The other strategy is the Asian engagement strategy, which also provides us with a purpose, if you like, or direction to that diversified economy in relation to the Asian-engaged markets that are so important to us.

It is a great pleasure to table the report in concert with the new committee of the forty-first Parliament. I thank the members of the committee for their forbearance because it had to be done very quickly. The member for North West Central, as deputy chair, and the members for Cockburn, Joondalup and Riverton form the new committee. I thank our committee staff, Ms Vanessa Beckingham and Ms Sylvia Wolf, for their quick work to ensure that this report could be re-tabled. For the edification of members, when a Parliament is prorogued, the reports of committees and/or other business are dissolved. By re-tabling this report, we are seeking a whole-of-government response. As chair of the committee, I have written to the Premier seeking support for a whole-of-government response, as it sees fit and in the fullness of time, to the areas covered in the committee report's recommendations and conclusions. I now table the report.

[See paper [284](#).]

DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton) [10.15 am]: Thank you for the opportunity to make a few observations on the report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee. I wish to thank the previous committee for doing extensive research and presenting a report of such detail. India is an emerging economy. Pre-COVID, expected gross domestic product growth was six per cent for the next 20 years. COVID has reset that. We have seen India going through some very difficult times in the past few weeks, but it is not all doom and gloom; things are reversing. From a daily COVID-19 case number of about 400 000, they have managed to bring it down to 67 000 as of yesterday, which is a great achievement. I take this opportunity to thank the authorities and the frontline workers who have worked hard to reverse those numbers and fight against COVID. Similarly, I am confident that India will emerge very strongly at the other end of the COVID pandemic, and will become economically strong as well.

At this juncture, I thank the McGowan government for the support it has given to India during the crisis, with a \$2 million COVID grant. The Indian diaspora here in Western Australia are making significant contributions in

many ways. The report clearly states that we need to be networking. At this juncture, I really appreciate the initial efforts taken by the current Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests in working very well with the Indian diaspora, which is eventually to work, and intense strong networking with India.

There is a huge opportunity in the education sector. In India, kids have not been to school in the last 18 months, unlike our kids here in Western Australia. They are looking to us as world leaders when it comes to managing the pandemic and providing education to the next generation. There is a huge opportunity to study in Perth, which is recommended in the report—to encourage a student exchange program, which will eventually increase the number of international students contemplating entering the workforce here in Western Australia, and also the economy of Western Australia.

The resources sector will go to the front level if direct flights are able to be achieved between Western Australia and India. There is a huge opportunity for Western Australia as overseas people travelling to India may come to Perth first, rather than choosing one of the other destinations like Singapore, Malaysia or Thailand. The report clearly states that we need to lobby to increase the number of business visas and investment visas to put Western Australia first and to make it easier for people to get into Western Australia. The report also says that we need strong representation in commonwealth government visits to India so that we can create opportunities for people in India to build strong relationships with Western Australia.

In 2016, Western Australia had a sister-state relationship with Andhra Pradesh. The Indian government set-up is quite complex, with 36 different subset governments running in the states. We need to establish relationships with each of them, to build a stronger and more diversified economy in Western Australia. The Premier is now considering initiating talks with the Andhra Pradesh government to rebuild our sister-state relationship status. We need to also connect with the other Australian states and learn from them about how they do business with India. There is a huge opportunity for exchanges of expertise in technology, resources, education, health and many other areas. Both countries could be exchanging resources to make things better for each other.

I thank the chair for taking the initiative straightaway in this committee. We hope the government will step into action as soon as possible. Thank you for the opportunity to speak.

FINANCIAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May.

MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition) [10.21 am]: I will be very brief. I rise on behalf of the opposition to support the Financial Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I understand that this bill was introduced previously and there have been no amendments made to what we dealt with previously in this house. It seems eminently sensible to seek to strengthen some of our public sector management practices. I understand that part of the bill—the Treasurer covered this in his second reading speech—requires agencies to formally notify their minister in the event that they experience financial difficulties. I would have thought that anyone outside the house watching the passage of this very interesting piece of legislation would have expected that to be something that already happens, but obviously there are no formal requirements in place in that regard. A whole raft of things in the legislation have come out of a number of reviews to strengthen the requirements of the public service and the ways in which they manage their financial responsibilities. From the opposition's perspective, we have no objection to that.

We appreciate the briefing that was provided. I have no doubt that when this bill reaches the Legislative Council our shadow Treasurer will have a few questions, but from my perspective, we have discussed this in our joint party room and we have no objections to the intent and purpose of this legislation, so we do not intend to spend any more time going over the information that has been presented.

MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Treasurer) [10.23 am] — in reply: I thank all members for their support and their comprehensive contributions to this important piece of legislation. Members will know, having read the Financial Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, that it is incredibly interesting stuff; it is fascinating, I am sure, for many members in this place. Essentially, it is designed to put in place a range of recommendations from various analyses and reports into the financial management framework for Western Australia, to improve governance and accountability, to enhance efficiency and effectiveness, to reduce internal red tape, to make sure that any problems or issues within agencies that require attention are brought to attention and dealt with, and to ensure that there is greater accountability in the provision of public money and more efficiency in the way that Parliament operates. I thank members for their support.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

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

AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from 15 June.

MR P. LILBURNE (Carine) [10.25 am]: I rise in the Legislative Assembly this morning to support the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021, which was introduced by the Minister for Fisheries, Mr Don Punch. ARMA, as it is known, seeks to do a number of things. Firstly, it seeks to amend the meaning of “aquatic resource”; secondly, it seeks to remove the requirement for the CEO to publish notice of a decision to grant, vary or transfer an agricultural licence; and thirdly, it seeks to introduce a requirement on the minister to review the operation and effectiveness of ARMA after five years from the repeal of the Pearling Act 1990.

There is no doubt that marine resources is a topic close to the heart of the Carine electorate and its surrounds. The protected areas that conserve the biodiversity of underwater life in Western Australian marine parks are very important and dear to me. It was within the electorate of Carine, which I represent, that Western Australia’s first marine sanctuary, Marmion Marine Park, was established on 13 March 1987. My family moved into the Carine area in 1977 and have enjoyed the natural beauty of the area. My father bought a recreational boat for our family in 1978 and we regularly cruised the waters of the Marmion Marine Park after launching our boat at the Ocean Reef Marina. When we approached the marina along the limestone road with our boat on its trailer, at what is now the westernmost section of Ocean Reef Road, we were surrounded by banksia woodland and scrub.

As a child, I watched the first marina become established and patrolled by the Whitfords Volunteer Sea Rescue Group. I am also very, very happy with the current development of the Ocean Reef Marina by the McGowan Labor government; to see it move into the next phase is truly fantastic. I used to snorkel along the Three Mile Reef section of Marmion Marine Park. I dived to around three metres’ depth in crystal clear waters to see the abundant fish life. Species that I swam with included schools of herring, snapper, garfish, dhufish and king prawns. I also watched in awe at the behaviour of western rock lobsters, or crayfish, walking in single file along the bottom of the ocean. Lastly, I would like to state that I watched the magnificent sea lions on numerous islands in this marine park.

This magnificent experience as a young man created my interest in protecting the incredible biodiversity of our waters in Western Australia. When I enrolled in my first university degree, I chose environmental management as my minor area of qualification. During this time I was lectured and mentored by Professor Pierre Horwitz at Edith Cowan University. Professor Horwitz taught me how to calculate biomass in ecosystems, food webs and food chains, and their analysis. During my courses I completed environmental impact assessments inside the said Marmion Marine Park. The aesthetic value of Marmion Marine Park is further demonstrated by the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club, which resides in my electorate. I attended this fantastic organisation last month when I was the guest of honour of the Rotary Club of Karrinyup. The sunsets over Marmion Marine Park bring enjoyment and pleasure to all who witness this daily phenomenon.

The amendments to this bill by the Minister for Fisheries will assist the breeding data and the decision-making processes for balancing the ecological sustainability between recreational and commercial stakeholders in the fishing community. The Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development office carries out the scientific resources work to monitor the balance that I have previously discussed between recreational and commercial users of this resource.

I recently posted on my social media page a visit my family, friends and I made to the AQWA tourist attraction at Sorrento Quay Hillarys Boat Harbour. The biodiversity of the local marine environment within the Carine district, which I represent, is clearly displayed with the underwater aquarium travelator.

The WA McGowan Labor government is funding a \$6.8 million project to upgrade the jetties in the area through the WA Recovery Plan. The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation released a report in 2019 stating that commercial fishing and aquaculture contributed \$989 million per annum to the Western Australian economy and supported over 6 000 jobs in Western Australia. The establishment of an artificial reef seven kilometres off the coastline is underway within this area to support the sustainable fishing project controlled by the state government. This development by the McGowan Labor government will further enhance effective breeding areas for the native species in Western Australian waters.

The Aquatic Resources Management Act will enable a structured approach to providing secure fishing access rights for all sectors, but with resource sustainability at its core. One location in my electorate where people can gauge the scale and splendour of Marmion Marine Park is the Mount Flora Regional Museum in North Beach. This repurposed water tank that supplied fresh water to the developing suburbs of Carine, North Beach and Marmion now houses over 160 years of the local area’s history. People who cannot access the water or tourist attractions like AQWA can appreciate the natural beauty with the view from the observation deck on top of the Mount Flora Regional Museum.

In conclusion, I thoroughly endorse the amendments proposed in this bill and will support its progress through this place. This bill will strengthen the sustainable management of WA’s recreational and commercial fishing zones through centralised data gathering and increased regular regional research. I commend the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021 introduced by the Minister for Fisheries.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): Member for Mount Lawley—landlocked Mount Lawley, I might add!

MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary) [10.33 am]: No, not at all, Madam Acting Speaker! You see, the electorate of Mount Lawley takes in the entirety of the suburb of Mt Lawley and travels up Walcott Street and then up Wanneroo Road, then you hang a right into Morley Drive, then you come back down Wellington Road, down Walter Road and then down Central Avenue. But when you get to the banks of the beautiful Derbarl Yerrigan, the Swan River, you see that the electorate actually comes through East Perth and Bardon Park. That whole stretch between Bardon Park and the East Perth power station is located within the wonderful electorate of Mount Lawley.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Member, I am sorry I asked!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Not at all! It is important for people to understand that the Mount Lawley electorate stretches from Yokine in the north, Mt Yokine as they call it up there sometimes, through Mt Lawley, all the way down to the beautiful banks of the Swan River.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Member, do you have a yacht club on that stretch of the river so you could launch a bid for the America's Cup?

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Sadly, no, although if you stand in Bardon Park, you can see the Maylands Yacht Club just there in the distance.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Maybe try a joint application with the member for Maylands!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Absolutely, member! One of the great state assets we can see when we stand on the shores of the Swan River is the brilliant Optus Stadium. When it is lit up it, it just looks incredible.

I rise to speak in support of the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. I thank the former Minister for Fisheries for his interjection. The reason I stand to speak in support of this legislation is that fundamentally it speaks to the values of the McGowan government that are so important and influence and drive the way in which we deal with legislation in this place.

I start by thanking the member for Carine for his contribution and I apologise to him. I was supposed to be speaking before him, but I am glad I did not, because I was illuminated by his contribution. I must say to the member for Carine that the ocean front his constituents enjoy is some of the best ocean front in Perth. It is one of those beautiful spots. I saw a social media post this morning referring to Tim Winton's quote that when he stands on the shore with the continent to his back looking out over the water watching the sun descend, he has his bearings; he knows where he is. I have butchered the quote, but it speaks to what it means to be a citizen of Western Australia and a resident of Perth. Enjoying the brilliant beach frontage that the member for Carine has in his electorate is one of the great joys of many people in the electorate of Mount Lawley. We can head straight down Scarborough Beach Road or head to the Peasholm Street dog beach in Scarborough to exercise our dogs, which is something I love doing. The former member for Mirrabooka was also a regular attendee at that beach. It is a great community asset that is shared and loved by all.

That brings me back to the point I was going to make. This legislation again speaks to the sorts of things that this government does. Ever since we were elected in 2017, we have been assiduous in modernising our statutes—making sure they are fit for purpose and up to date. We have also been dedicated to cutting red tape, making sure that the necessary regulations are in place and that they are clear, precise and well understood. We are also interested in promoting sustainability. As a community and government, we are looking at ways in which we can strike the right balance to make sure that the regulatory regime that we have in place serves all aspects of the community for the foreseeable future. In striking the right balance, we have to make sure that the resources we have at our disposal can help diversify the economy and drive the growth in jobs.

I want to speak to the incredible asset that Western Australia has. I already touched on that point when I addressed the member for Carine's comments. This point has been made by many members in their contributions to this debate. I remember the extensive contribution from the member for Cockburn. Members would be aware, without taking account of the islands in the measurement, that Western Australia has over 10 000 kilometres of coastline from the Kimberley coast, the Pilbara coral coast, what is known as the Canning coastal region, the Batavia coast, the turquoise coast and the sunset coast—as we come down into the areas represented by the member for Moore, who is present in the chamber—to the south west coast and all the metropolitan coastline, which is enjoyed by thousands of people living in Perth. Then there are the south west capes, the Leeuwin coast to Albany along the south coast and then that south-east stretch of the south coast from Albany to the state border.

Even just today, I noticed that the way we manage our coastline is of intimate concern to people in the community. The member for Roe raised a grievance with the Minister for Fisheries. I was not in the chamber, but I was listening to that grievance and I could hear that there were many factors in play. Such a delicate balancing act needs to be maintained for us to deliver those important McGowan government objectives of modernising our statutes, cutting red tape, promoting sustainability and setting the right balance. When we think about all the areas that make up the Western Australian coastline, we can see why that is also important, because we are the beneficiaries of an incredible

diversity that we get to enjoy. That is in stark contrast to many other jurisdictions. Two things sit side by side when it comes to enjoying that diversity. Firstly, there is the question of sustainability and, secondly, the exploitation of the resources in a sensible way. Although it is a beautiful coastline that provides tourism opportunities and a wonderful aesthetic, it also provides and supports jobs. Making sure that we get the balance right is incredibly important.

I was looking at some of the aquaculture that exists in the Kimberley. One of my constituents, Randall Wells, spoke to me the other day. He is a terrific chap who is on the Mount Lawley Senior High School Parents and Citizens Association. Randall is often in my office to talk about the need for a performing arts centre at Mount Lawley Senior High School. He has been lobbying me about that for quite a while. He was very pleased with the announcement that when Edith Cowan University relocates its facilities to the CBD, the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts facilities will be transferred to the high school. We agreed that the subcommittee of the P&C that dealt with whether or not the school would get a performing arts centre is probably *functus officio* now, as you would understand, Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk), having achieved its objective.

Randall is a business consultant and he talked to me about one of his clients who operates an aquaculture business off the Kimberley coast. This business demonstrates the way in which a sustainable, comprehensive and thoughtful management of the resources can work in concert—no pun intended when I have been talking about the performing arts centre—to deliver fantastic results for the community and also maintain a great environmental balance. He talked to me about two of the endeavours that his client is engaged in, which are farming the beautiful and prolific barramundi in the Kimberley and tying that in with farming tropical rock lobster. Obviously, there are important markets for those products in Australia and overseas. Trading these delicious commodities is really important. I cannot do his description justice, but because of the tidal flows in the north Kimberley, this is an incredibly environmentally sustainable endeavour that combines the aquaculture of the barramundi and the tropical rock lobster. They actually work in concert to promote the growth of both species in a commercially viable way.

Obviously, this bill will amend the Pearling Act. Pearling is an important part of the history, tradition and culture of the Kimberley. I listened to Michael Loney as he was taking a group of school students through the Parliament foyer reference the mother-of-pearl inlay in the black swan. That has been incorporated because of the important part pearling plays in the history and tradition of Western Australia. Randall also spoke to me about pearl meat. I had never heard of pearl meat, so forgive my ignorance.

The ACTING SPEAKER: It is delicious.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: That is what everyone says.

Paspaley Pearls produces pearl meat. I will quote from its website. I will read it slowly because I will have to email the link to Hansard, but I will do that as well. It states —

Sourced from the pristine waters of Northern Australia, Pearl Meat is the adductor muscle of the *Pinctada maxima* oyster—the same species that produces Paspaley’s rare Australian South Sea pearls.

Pearl Meat is MSC certified, recognising the delicacy as a wild caught, sustainable seafood which can be traced to an environmentally sustainable source.

At the end of the oyster’s pearl producing lives, the edible part of the oyster—Pearl Meat—is simply rinsed in saltwater and frozen. In recent years, Pearl Meat has been adopted by some of the world’s leading western chefs as an exclusive, rare ingredient, with a mere six tons sourced annually.

Mr M.J. Folkard: With a little butter and garlic, my friend, it’s spectacular.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: I am sure the member for Burns Beach would give it a fair crack. The website also states —

... Pearl Meat is sweet and firm—yet tender. Described as a cross between calamari and lobster in taste —

That is a great combination —

the flavour profile varies significantly depending on preparation.

Prized as a delicacy in Asia for centuries and highly regarded for its medicinal properties, Pearl Meat is an excellent source of Omega 3. It is low in salt, high in protein and contains no trans-fats.

Mr M.J. Folkard: It is an aphrodisiac, I believe.

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: Happily, it does not say that on the Paspaley Pearls website, so I cannot speak to that, member for Burns Beach!

The ACTING SPEAKER: I think giving out a strand of pearls would be more successful, member!

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: What it does say, member, is —

An additional nutritional benefit is the presence of the trace element iodine which boosts metabolism and energy and increases thyroid function.

This is something of which I had no previous knowledge, yet in researching my very brief contribution for this legislation, I was minded to look at the diverse ways in which our aquaculture industries can work in concert to

deliver such a variety of outcomes. Pearls, rock lobster, barramundi and pearl meat are all being produced in an environmentally sustainable way, supported by a government regulatory regime that also makes sure that the use of those resources will be valuable for future generations. This does not happen by accident; this is the result of focus, attention and hard work by the Minister for Fisheries and his predecessor. It speaks volumes to the calibre and capability of the McGowan government that these are the sorts of pieces of legislation that we bring to this chamber for debate and discussion.

I am very glad that the member for Bassendean is in the chamber because he has held a number of portfolios that relate to an excellent book by Tim Flannery called *Sunlight and Seaweed: An Argument for How to Feed, Power and Clean Up the World*. It deals with innovation, climate change and reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. I recommend it to members who have not read it. The copy that I have is from the Parliamentary Library. I am about the return it shortly, so it will be there for anyone who wants to borrow it; feel free to grab it. One of the things it talks about is the commercial and industrial-scale farming of kelp as a source of high-quality protein, whether it be for livestock feed or other reasons. We have thousands of miles of ocean and kelp growing naturally in that ecosystem, which attracts carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and converts it into a high-quality protein that can be farmed on a commercial or industrial scale, all of which delivers incredible benefits for the environment and industry. Tapping into these new industries as they arise, mindful of the challenges that society faces from climate change, seems to me to provide an excellent opportunity for us to diversify our economy and take advantage of the strategic benefits that we have. As I said at the start, we have over 10 000 kilometres of coastline. We are uniquely placed to take advantage of these sorts of things.

One of the other industries that we are still wrestling with but is an ancient endeavour is tidal power. People will be aware that back in Roman times, tide mills—as a Millman I am particularly interested in this; thanks, member for Cottesloe—would take advantage of the shifting tides. As the tide flowed through, the one-way sluice gates would wait for the tide to drop and then the water would be at a higher level. Using the force of gravity, the water would flow back out through the gates and drive a water mill, a wheel, which would generate power to mill grain or whatever was necessary. This is an ancient technology. I do not think we have yet reached the point at which it can be applied on a wide-ranging commercial and industrial scale.

[Member's time extended.]

Mr S.A. MILLMAN: However, when we consider the extremely wide range of tides in Western Australia, if this is a technology that we can take advantage of, we will be well placed to exploit that as a resource because we are looking for innovative ways to generate electricity. These are the things that will allow us to maintain the lifestyle to which we have grown accustomed.

One of the other arguments Mr Flannery makes in his book relates to the good use of solar power, particularly when located close to saltwater sources. The salt water is converted to fresh water and the salts necessary to drive large-scale production. The example he uses is a hydroponics source in South Australia. With abundant sunlight and an abundant coastline, as we have in Western Australia, that is another terrific idea that I would love us to explore further when discussing how to properly manage our aquatic resources.

Another point I want to make before I conclude my contribution to this debate concerns the emphasis the McGowan government has put on environmental conservation. Although the majority of my contribution to this debate has relied on the ocean as a resource for generating jobs and economic development—this brings me back to the point the member for Carine made at the start—it is a wonderful place for us to go with families, friends and loved ones. It is a fantastic asset to enjoy, maintain and preserve for future generations. That has been an incredible focus of the McGowan government since 2017. In 2019 the McGowan government announced that it would expand the conservation estate by over five million hectares and that there would be a massive expansion in marine and aquatic reserves and also national parks onshore. The Minister for Environment is here now. Just last month she made an announcement about community consultation on the Houtman Abrolhos Islands as part of the preservation of that wonderful community asset for future generations. I want to reiterate that point and emphasise that now is the time to get involved in that community consultation. One of the great attributes of the members of the McGowan government is that we love listening to what the community has to say and to the contribution the community makes. These are evocative locations within Western Australia to which many people have a connection and have experienced and enjoyed. The way we strike the right balance for preserving these community assets for future generations is incredibly important and how we strike that balance is by listening to the community through the community consultation process that the Minister for Environment is now driving. It is about those four things that I said at the start. It is about modernising the statutes by bringing forward this sort of legislation, cutting red tape, and promoting sustainability—all of those things combine in this legislation. By doing that we are sending an unambiguous message to the community that we want to ensure they are with us as we continue the journey of making the most out of the wonderful environment we enjoy.

Finally, it is about making sure that we strike the right balance. When we look at this legislation and the way it balances all of those cooperative and competing interests, and the work the Minister for Environment is doing with the Houtman Abrolhos Islands, we can see that time and again this government is not driven by fringe ideology or

a philosophical bias; it is driven by attentiveness to the concerns of the overwhelming majority of Western Australians and is making sure that when it comes to introducing legislation and policies so we can take advantage of the wonderful environment that we are the custodians of, we do it in a way that strikes the right balance. If members look at all the legislation we have introduced, the way we have done it and the plans we have for the future, they will see that striking the right balance is a key feature of our endeavour.

I congratulate both the former Minister for Fisheries and the current minister for bringing this bill before the chamber. Others have more eloquently described the effect of its statutory provisions, so I do not need to add anything to that. However, hopefully, my contribution has illuminated the philosophy that underpins it, from my perspective. I commend the bill to the house.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party) [10.55 am]: As a follow-up to the member for Mount Lawley's contribution, my Liberal Party colleague and former federal parliamentarian and federal minister, Hon Wilson Tuckey, is a keen proponent of tidal power. If the member wants to engage in some vigorous correspondence, I will pass on his details to the member! He is certainly a very keen supporter of it.

Mr D.J. Kelly: Tell him he should write to the paper about it.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I think he does, minister.

Mr D.J. Kelly: On many topics.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Yes. As was indicated by our lead speaker on this debate, I, too, support the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. As I understand this bill as it is presented now, the only change from the same bill presented in this place last year is the inclusion of a review provision in clause 16 to require the insertion of new section 266A in the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016, which is around having a prescribed period for review. That was an agreed amendment last time this bill was presented to Parliament.

For the record, and for when people look at this legislation, it is worthwhile recognising the genesis of this bill. This legislation finalises some good work that was started under the previous Liberal government to improve the management of important fisheries and aquaculture in Western Australia. The original act was a response to a nationally agreed approach to the sustainable resource-based management of fisheries. However, shortcomings in the bill prevented implementation of the provisions of the act due to a number of factors, including the way the fishing zones were set up, different catch limits and periods of catch in different zones. Those factors especially affected the pearl and rock lobster industries. This amended bill will rectify those shortcomings so that the act can be fully implemented. I understand that the previous minister engaged in thorough consultation with the fishing industry and that the industry is supportive of the changes in this bill.

The fishing and aquaculture industry is a very important part of our local economy, particularly in regional communities. When I was researching for the original bill, I was surprised that 85 per cent of commercial fishing activity in the state was conducted in remote coastal areas. That has a significant impact on those regional communities. It is important that this area is managed well. I was looking at some statistics collected by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council in December 2019. In 2017–18 fishing and aquaculture contributed almost one billion dollars. The estimate was \$989 million. That is an enormous contribution, especially as it is focused in the regions. COVID-19 and the subsequent travel and trade restrictions around the world have, obviously, significantly reduced the value of the sector in the short-term; however, we can expect that trade to return to historic levels in the next 12 to 24 months.

The sector is also a major employer, which is important. We see the big dollars coming out of the mining industry, but if we look at the number of employees per dollar, it is perhaps not so much. But in this industry, for that income, there were 6 300 full-time equivalent employees prior to COVID-19 and, as I say, we would expect that to recover. The industry is a substantial contributor to the economic and employment wellbeing of the state. The sector income is dominated by the western rock lobster catch, which is obviously topical right now. As members would know, that fishery is under enormous stress because of the problems associated with the COVID-19 crisis and China's decision to impose trade restrictions on certain Australian commodities. When I visited rock lobster fishers a couple of years ago, they told me that something like 98 per cent of their produce went to China. I am not an economist and I do not pretend to be one, but I did suggest to them that I thought they were putting all their eggs in one basket and that that was a considerable risk. Of course, that certainly turned out to be the case when China embarked on trade restrictions. In 2017–18, the rock lobster fishery reported the gross value of its products as being \$392 million. Typically, for that sort of industry, the impact on the overall community would be a multiplier of up to four or five times. It is very valuable by itself.

Since the initial cataclysmic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unofficial Chinese ban on Australian rock lobster imports last November, there has been an improvement in sales. Lower prices have certainly driven greater domestic consumption. I noticed that my supermarket aisles have freezers full of quite reasonably priced crayfish as domestic consumption has grown. Over the last few months, we have seen the dramatic emergence of a so-called grey market, whereby the product is finding its way into China via third countries, which has driven improvement. It has diminished some of the profit from that industry, but at least we are seeing significant growth, particularly in the rock lobster trade.

As a historic aside, the Western Australian rock lobster fishery has had its fair share of controversy with legislation. Some members in this chamber and in other parts may remember that in 2009, Hon Norman Moore, who was then the Minister for Fisheries, banned commercial crayfishing in the Big Bank fishery in Kalbarri not far out from the start of the season, which caused considerable controversy. I was reflecting on this with another member in the members' bar when we were having a cup of tea. In fact, it was a very willing time. The minister had reached the point of frustration with the industry because it could not reach consensus on how to properly manage the rock lobster fishery. He had grave concerns about the sustainability of that industry. He did not implement the ban because he was trying to be cruel or exercise his power arbitrarily; he did it because he believed that the fishery was on the verge of collapse. In fact, there are overseas examples of that happening in the rock lobster industry from substantial overfishing.

Early in my term, when I was getting about the state as new members do, I visited Geraldton to talk to the fishers about their industry. I met one character, Mr Bert Boschetti. I know that the previous two fisheries ministers know him. I am not sure whether the new Minister for Fisheries has had correspondence from Bert.

Mr D.T. Punch: It's a pleasure that awaits.

Dr D.J. HONEY: It is a pleasure. He is a really interesting guy. He is very genuine and passionate, but he is a vigorous correspondent, which is the term that I used during the debate on the previous bill. He has been a passionate advocate for many decades and he was certainly passionate back then. Leading into the 2009 ban, Mr Boschetti, who is a significant cray fisher, alerted Minister Moore to the fact that technology improvements and longer range crayfishing boats meant that the catch was being maintained. Of course, the catch for each year was based on the catch of the previous year, so if the catch was maintained, they would maintain the catch at that level. Even though the catch had been maintained, Bert, a keen mathematician in his spare time, showed the minister that the size of the annual catch was not the best way of looking at it. On the wall in his office, Bert proudly hangs the graph that he produced for the minister. The graph plots the distance travelled by the boats each year to get their catch, with a straight line heading to the stars. The fishers were maintaining their catch by travelling further and further out every year. In fact, what they were doing was fishing out the near-shore fisheries and going to greater depths. Because of technological improvements in GPS and the size of boats, the fishers could go further out. It was very clear that that fishery was under enormous threat. Bert was especially proud that he could educate the minister more than some departmental advisers had educated him. I will give Bert some praise; he is genuinely passionate about his industry. He is the archetypal commercial fisher. He is hardworking and very passionate—we see a lot of this in regional industries—intelligent and deeply concerned about the sustainability of the industry. That is a hallmark of the industry now, and the same could be said for agricultural producers. If we talk to fishers in particular, the people who are most concerned about the long-term sustainability of the industry are the fishers themselves. There has been a transition, because at once stage it was just, "Catch what you can and don't worry about anyone else." Since then, we have progressively seen greater refinement of the management practices. The two former fisheries ministers and the current minister would know that there is an enormous amount of science around all stages of the rock lobster's life cycle and making sure that it is sustained. It is a well-managed industry.

I remember talking to Norman Moore about this matter at the time. The member with whom I was talking about this matter earlier today explained that the fishing industry was a bit like the Wild West—it was everyone for themselves. The most aggressive and hardworking people got the biggest catch and there was enormous competition. Many of the fishers also had guns, and I understand that Minister Moore was concerned for his personal safety during that time. In any case, he persevered. I recognise Hon Norman Moore for the work that he did, which heralded a new way of looking at the sustainability of our fishing industry. That good work has been carried on by other ministers. It is easy to do the nice things, such as open new things and spend more money on things, but what he did took an enormous amount of personal and political courage. He copped a large amount of political damage for doing that, but he did it because he knew that it was the right thing for the state. He initiated the study into improvement of the act and that manifested in the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016, which is now being amended to make it more workable. The Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 replaced the Fish Resources Management 1994. The aim of the 2016 act was to provide for more flexible and efficient management of fisheries. I am sure that everyone in this place supports the core objectives of that act, which have been outlined before. They include the ecological sustainability of the state's aquatic resources and ecosystems for the benefit of present and future generations and ensuring that the state's aquatic resources are managed, developed and used, factoring in economic, social and other benefits that they may provide. The important part of the new act was that it also legally recognised fishing access rights for each sector, which had not existed before. It was an important change and it was well received by the industry. The Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021 has three intended consequences; that is, to expand the definition of an "aquatic resource" to provide greater flexibility when determining which existing fisheries are covered by a declaration of a managed aquatic resource; to provide for different classes of resource shares under aquatic resource management strategies and aquatic resource use plans, by zone or gear type; and to streamline processes around grant variation and the transfer of aquatic licences. It was pointed out in that summary that that would particularly assist the pearling industry in its seeding rights and the like, and that is certainly an important improvement in this bill.

As I mentioned at the outset, we support the outcomes and as a consequence we support the bill. I went through a couple of issues when the previous bill was debated, but it would be nice to confirm them again with the minister. The first issue is with the meaning of “aquatic resource”. I did have a suggestion from industry that when we are looking at plans that cover an area, there could be a plan for multiple species in an area, rather than an individual species. Section 4 of the Aquatic Resources Management Act refers to the plan. In section 16, “Content of ARMS”, reference is made to broodstock for aquaculture, and that broodstock has to come out of the total allowable catch for the commercial fishery. The issue raised by the industry is that there may be no commercial fishery for some stocks, and that is for collectable fish. There is a niche market for particular fish that are raised for people who have collections of fish. We want to be confident that the legislation covers that particular use of fisheries.

The other reference was to section 16(1)(g), which addresses harvest strategies. There was concern with the limit of five years for a harvest strategy. I think this was mostly in terms of capital investment by the industry. The view was that if there was a principle or philosophy behind that, perhaps a 10-year horizon for a particular part of it may make sense. That was simply because of the investment that businesses are having to make in the industry and having some longer term certainty around it.

I have not said this before, but I am not seeking to move amendments to the bill. If some of this is covered in the legislation, that is good, but if not, perhaps it could be flagged for future changes when the act is reviewed in five years.

Another issue is with section 148, which provides for the chief executive officer to notify persons of certain decisions. That is one of those provisions that will hopefully speed things up, because we will not have to go through an official advertising process and the like. That seems like a sensible change. The industry’s question was: what is a person? It was keen that an industry association also be included as a relevant person. My understanding from the last debate is that a person would be more broadly defined to include an association like the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council, but it would be good if the minister could confirm that. Obviously, quite often industry associations are the most efficient way of getting decisions made.

[Member’s time extended.]

Dr D.J. HONEY: I thank the minister for bringing the bill before the house and for completing the job started by Hon Norman Moore all the way back in 2010 when he initiated the review that led to the introduction of the bill that was passed by the previous government in 2016. I also recognise the role that the previous two fisheries ministers have played in that. I commend the bill to the house.

MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach) [11.13 am]: I rise to speak to the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. This bill will have quite an impact on my humble electorate in the northern corridor. For those who do not know the electorate of Burns Beach, the western side of the electorate is the coastline, marked off by the high-water mark. My constituents use that side of the electorate 24/7, whether it is seniors walking on the beach at six o’clock in the morning, those who go swimming at that time of the morning down by the surf club at Quinns Rocks or those who own boats at Marina Mindarie. Some very beautiful machines dock at that part of the coast.

The McGowan government has a significant history in protecting the environment that is very much close to my heart. I have quite vocal coastal care groups in the electorate. Members may be aware that on the weekend, I was reconstituting and revegetating some of the dunes to the south of the surf club at Quinns. I have constituents who are very vocal about the preservation of the environment, particularly the coastal environment in the electorate, and, to me, that is fantastic.

I see that the artificial reef that was part of our commitment at the last election has been put in place, and I believe from speaking to a couple of people from the Quinns Rock Fishing Club that they are already catching demersal fish off that artificial reef. I hope that in time that will take some of the pressures off the natural reefs that abound alongside the electorate. It is very interesting that the fourth site that was considered for an artificial reef was about 10 kilometres due west of Burns Beach. If I were to draw a line out from Hillarys Boat Harbour and Marina Mindarie, the reef would be almost smack in the middle of those two points and directly west. I thought the place that was chosen for it was quite interesting; it was quite a bare patch of ocean floor. A bit of thought has gone into that. They have not just produced the actual concrete blocks; they have thought about where it was going to be. They considered where it was going to be, the fish catches in the area and the impacts on the reef areas around it. It is my understanding that it will enhance the amount of fish caught out there.

Two fishing charters work out of Marina Mindarie. They are two fantastic little businesses. Each business employs at least three people on the boat—the skipper and two deckhands—and I believe they normally have a fourth person who organises the charters and the bookings, so there are two good little businesses in that space. They are forever commenting on the success of their charters and the punters who use these charters are always talking about the successful catches while having a coffee at the marina. That can take place only because of a good management plan for those fisheries.

The McGowan government has definitely set some standards for looking after the aquatic environment for other governments after ours—hopefully a long time after ours—to follow.

The removal of one-off use plastic containers has had an immediate impact in my electorate. For those who do not know, I have been a surf lifesaver for a long time. Lifesavers have a passion for the protection of our waters and the environment. There would not be a clubbie out there who would not be passionate about taking away glass from the beach. In the short time that Western Australia has had the container deposit scheme, the amount of glass that we used to see on the beach has disappeared. At my club, Quinns Mindarie Surf Life Saving Club, we basically rake the sand on the beach every Sunday so that the nippers will have soft, clean sand to run on. In the past, we found the biggest problem was glass amongst the sand. If members have never seen what a shard of glass can do to a child's foot, ask a lifesaver. Glass is the biggest no-no on our beaches. This government introduced the 10¢ container deposit scheme. That has had a huge impact on the removal of glass from our beaches. It has been a phenomenal success.

Another thing that has happened since we introduced that scheme is a reduction in the amount of plastics and plastic bottles found floating in the water. The majority of it has gone. I commend our government for its success in that space. Keeping the beach clean so that we could all use it was a chore for us in the past, but now that every empty bottle is worth 10¢, they are gone; we do not see them. As I said, glass in the aquatic environment is something that I abhor. Although I would not want to introduce a law in that space, it is the biggest no-no to regular users of the beach. No matter which beach, glass should never be taken onto the beach.

If I were to look further, that scheme has also helped remove plastics and microplastics from the water column. That can only be good. I notice that there is a significant amount of research and commentary, no matter where we look, whether it be the local papers through *The West* or at a national level, about the reduction of microplastics in the water column. The little bit that we are doing here with our container deposit scheme is very good. The removal of one-use plastics will enhance the reduction in the amount of microplastics in the water column, which will lead to a healthier environment. That has to be positive for us. As I said, I swim in the water as often as I can.

Our government has the Ocean Reef boat marina under construction. Although that is just south of my electorate, that will have a big impact on the electorate of Burns Beach. It will mean more jobs and more activity in the northern corridor, which will be very positive. We went through the process of opening up a small enclave that was in the marine park, but I think we have done that in such a responsible way that when the project is finished, it will be an absolute icon for Australia and probably also South-East Asia. That has been brilliant.

Just to the northern edge of the new marina is a small abalone bed. The commentary that I heard from local professional abalone divers was very interesting. I listened to all sides of the argument. I think the way we have managed that has been exemplary. Members may not be aware that a couple of years back—I am trying to put this in language that people will understand—a water temperature hotspot came down the coast, which decimated the roei abalone fishery from up around Kalbarri right down to the metropolitan area. It was basically a bubble of really hot oceanic water that drifted down the coast. It destroyed some of the fisheries.

I was the police officer in charge up at Kalbarri and in my downtime I used to take the kids down to Lucky Bay. I would get our abalone licences—one for me, one for my wife and one for my daughter. Three families would go fishing for abs at Lucky Bay. We would have our little abalone measuring tool, and off we would go onto the reef—my wife and I, daughter and son, as a family group, and we would pick abs. We would pick them up and show the kids and say either “No, that one is too big” or “No, that one is too small”. We would all get our bag limits. It was such a great time. We would then go back to a friend's house and spend the next three or four hours preparing our abalone. We would put them on the barbecue. One of the tragedies in this space is never let kids develop a taste for abalone! I can tell members that as fast as we would cook them on the barbecue, the kids would knock them off! The best way to prepare them was to take them out of the shell, bash them with a mallet, roll them in butter, eggs and breadcrumbs, with a bit of garlic, and cook them until the breadcrumbs were golden. As I said, never teach kids to enjoy abalone, because you will never get to eat them! We would then sit back and enjoy the afternoon and remember those great times with the kids. Even now when I talk to my daughter and my son, they remember the times we would go abalone fishing at Lucky Bay, just south of Kalbarri.

When that hotspot came down the coast, that fishery was destroyed. A couple of roei abalone divers were working out of Kalbarri, and their income was almost destroyed. I think even now they are battling to get their bag limits of roei abalone. That really saddens me. That hotspot came down into the metropolitan area. There were spots in the metropolitan area where the roei was completely wiped out. For some reason, an abalone bed to the north of the marina was not affected by the hotspot. With our management plans in that space, we have been able to remove those abalone beds and start new populations where that hotspot has destroyed the roei fishery in the metropolitan area. I am hoping we will see a positive—I am sure we will—because I am certain that the quality of our scientists who have backed this relocation of the abalone beds in the metropolitan area will ensure that that fishery will continue in the long term.

As I said, I am a surf lifesaver. Quinns is the first surf club that I have volunteered at over the years. It is also the first surf club to have done an abalone patrol. I did my first one a couple of years back. In the second one we did, we rescued a poor diver who had taken a belly full of water during his hour dash for this mad crustacean. It is really interesting to see how passionate our community is about abalone and that sort of stuff. Our abalone season in the metropolitan area or the greater areas outside that area of an hour for four Sundays is a definite positive move. We see the dedication of the whole community when it comes together in that aquatic environment. There are those

passionate amateur abalone fishermen who come down for their hour and the lifesavers. As they all walk past, they are so grateful that someone is keeping an eye on them to make sure that they enjoy their hour fishing in the morning. As we wait for the fishers, the clock starts at seven and away they go. They madly rush into the water. The lifesavers and people on rescue boards are out there, with young kids and their rescue tubes amongst them. I do not know what it is, but someone always takes a belly full of water. The lifesavers reach down and drag them out, asking whether they are all right. They bring them back to the beach. I will never forget the last person I helped. This bloke had a belly full of water; he nearly drowned. A young lifesaver stood up in that space and dragged him to the shore. He shook himself off, took a belly full of fresh water, ran across to the next reef and out he went again, such was his love for that fish.

I will finish on that and just say that I think this is a good piece of legislation. It shows how committed the McGowan government is to proper aquatic resource management. I know that we attempted to get this legislation through the last Parliament. With minimal amendments, we should get it through this Parliament.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [11.31 am] — in reply: This amendment bill has been a long time coming. I thank all members for their contribution to the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. The fact that so many members in this place have spoken about the amendment bill highlights the passion, depth of feeling and connection that people in Western Australia have to the ocean, to fishing and to the broader aquatic resource. It goes to the heart of their relationship with something that is very special along our 12 000 miles of Western Australian coastline. I thank all members. The variety of commentary that we have received on the amendment bill highlights the diversity of views, values and what is important when we think about aquatic resources. I also thank the opposition for expressing its early support for the passage of the amendment bill. I hope that that will be reflected in deliberations in the other place when the bill goes there.

As members opposite have mentioned, the bill amends an act that was initially proposed and passed in 2016. It reflects a continuing history of fisheries—the industry, the recreational sector and fishing ministers, sequentially going back in time, as the member for Cockburn mentioned, to Hon Jon Ford, but also the pivotal work of Hon Norman Moore and subsequent fisheries ministers. I acknowledge all that. As I said, I hope that the support of this house is reflected in the upper house and that it reflects the significance of this amendment bill in allowing the Aquatic Resources Management Act 2016 to be fully enacted.

As the member for Cottesloe said, the role of a fisheries minister is quite interesting. It is interesting from the point of view of having to balance all the different views and competing interests and the nature of the aquatic resource and the environmental considerations that underpin how we relate to that resource today and how future generations relate to it.

I also want to acknowledge the role of the peak bodies, the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and Recfishwest. They have been part of this journey since the bill was first thought about, prior to 2016. They have undertaken considerable discussions with their own stakeholders and members and worked through the meaning of what is a complex and transformational bill in putting forward the notion of sustainability and the health of the ecology of the aquatic environment as a primary objective, and I thank them for that. Fishing itself is fundamental to the community of Western Australia. The fact that both recreational and commercial fishers have a sustainable fishery that will provide certainty for the future is incredible.

I want to note that the work to date throughout the last 15 to 20 years has meant that nearly 95 per cent of our fish stocks have been determined as sustainable or recovering in the latest national status of Australian fish stocks report. That is a very important outcome. Marine Stewardship Council certification applies to Shark Bay prawns; Exmouth Gulf prawns; western rock lobster; abalone; deep-sea crustaceans; Peel–Harvey sea mullet; Peel–Harvey blue swimmer crabs; pearl oysters, as the member for Burns Beach mentioned; sea cucumber and octopus. That report assessed 370 stocks carrying 148 species across Australia as a whole. That is a very good record for Western Australian fisheries management. By fisheries management, I mean the whole context of the sector: the role of the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the role of the peak bodies and the role of stakeholders within the sector as a whole. Sustainable management of fish stocks will always be a primary focus of the fisheries management programs in WA. It reflects that motivation to finally bring this amendment bill to the house.

I want to go back to some of the comments that I made in the initial second reading speech that highlight the importance of this legislation. The first was that it is about the ecologically sustainable development of Western Australia's living aquatic biological resources and ecosystems. It is not just about fish with fins; it is about the total aquatic resource —

Ms A. Sanderson: The system.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: As the Minister for Environment just said, it is also about the system that exists, the ecological system that is in the marine environment. It is a very important piece of legislation because it puts that principle first. Collectively in this house, we have supported that principle to go through how we manage this environment for future generations. That is a very important principle.

We also know that there are multiple interests in fisheries. A key feature of the act itself is the inclusion of a structured approach to the provision of secure fishing access rights for all sectors within the context of ecological

sustainability. That is something that has come home to me in my contact with fishers across Western Australia. I have received correspondence from and met with fishers. That notion of having certainty for the future that can guide their business-related decisions is crucial. Perhaps even more importantly, many of the fishers come from a fishing family background; it is part of their whole lifestyle. We cannot underestimate both the social and economic implications of how we provide certainty into the future.

The framework sets out how the resource will be managed, the level of exploitation that can be allowed, the level of the resource that must be maintained for sustainability purposes and the setting of total allowable catches and access rights to the resource—this notion of what the sustainable resource is and, within that, how much can be provided for customary fishing and for research purposes, how much is there for recreational purposes and how much is there for commercial fishing purposes—and allocates a notion of shares within the commercial fishery. It provides for the continuity of existing management arrangements. That is an important part of maintaining resource access rights within the commercial fishing industries until each sector is migrated successfully into the new legislative framework.

The implementation of this bill, once it has passed through the parliamentary process and has been enacted, will be a huge piece of work, and I am very confident about it. The department has been planning for it and will follow through on a very smooth implementation to minimise disruption to the fisheries sector.

As part of preparing for the initial ARMA—it was very well founded, and I totally applaud the work of the Minister for Fisheries at that time—it was found that there was not the flexibility in the initial legislation to allow different types of resource shares to be provided for in the strategy and planning documents for a managed aquatic resource. As a result, it was impossible to address many of the issues that the member for Cottesloe raised with regard to multi-zone, multi-species or multi-gear fisheries. This amending legislation is really about bringing flexibility into the original legislation without losing its objective or purpose.

The Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021 provides for three additional key amendments: firstly, defining the meaning of “aquatic resource” to allow the resource to be further defined by the gear, type or method used to take the resource; secondly, removing the requirement for the CEO to publish a notice of decision to grant, vary or transfer an aquaculture licence, which is a very important measure with regard to efficiency and the removal of red tape; and, thirdly, introducing a requirement on the minister to review the operation and effectiveness of the legislation after five years. I think that is a matter that the member for Cottesloe spoke about in the previous Parliament, so I am very pleased that it is included here. Given the complexity of the legislation and the implementation task, it is a very good amendment to have. I am also very pleased that the previous minister was able to make that plain.

The ARMA legislation will be able to trigger a new conversation with industry and recreational fishers about the future, particularly within the industry. Again, as the member for Cottesloe mentioned, there have been a number of impacts on the rock lobster industry, with changes in market conditions and some of the geopolitical changes with regard to the export industry. It is so important for the industry to build a new vision around sustainability and to look at the opportunities that might come out of innovative practice and managing the social licence and the relationship with the broader community—because it is a resource that is very close to people’s hearts—and managing that impact into the future. It is also important to look at the diversification of new markets and value-adding opportunities. I sincerely hope that the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and the Western Rock Lobster Council can embrace that and maximise the opportunities for a very precious resource. It is a resource that has been well managed to date, but we need to continue to make sure that it is well managed into the future and that we get the best outcomes from it.

I listened to the member for Churchlands’ contribution, in which she talked about the opportunity to look at innovative new products from the aquatic resource and the potential for research to identify more and more value-based opportunities that could support livelihoods and support the industry, maintain sustainability, and make a continuing contribution to our lives.

In covering off on those issues, one of the critical messages from all members is the notion of a commitment to ecological sustainability and the fundamental importance of maintaining the aquatic resource environment and managing it for future generations. That is a singular message that this Parliament, in passing this bill, can put out there firmly for all sectors to understand, and for the broader Western Australian community to understand. It is a pivotal point in the thinking of this house.

I will turn to the contributions from various members. I thought they were very well thought out and detailed contributions that really brought different dimensions to the whole debate. The fact that so many of those contributions were from new members again highlights that this Parliament will benefit from a wide variety of very well-articulated and well-researched views. If we go forward collectively as a house on that basis, we can anticipate an outstanding series of outcomes for the forty-first Parliament.

The member for Cockburn provided something that many other members commented on—a detailed overview of the value of the fishing sector to Western Australia, particularly the importance of the wild catch industry, but also noting the emerging aquaculture industry and the great potential contribution aquaculture will make into the future.

Yesterday I spoke to a group of researchers from Tasmania who reminded me, in respect of some of the debates around aquaculture, that the total sea area currently covered by aquaculture in Tasmania is one square kilometre. When we think of the footprint of aquaculture on our broader ocean resource, it could, if well managed, provide an excellent opportunity into the future. The critical issues will be how we manage multiple-user interests at specific sites. Again, that goes to the heart of something I think the department does very, very well—negotiating stakeholder arrangements.

The member quoted the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation as having valued the industry in October 2009 at just under \$1 billion; I think the member for Cottesloe made the same observation. There are an estimated 6 281 direct and indirect full-time jobs in the direct fishing, processing and consumption sectors. We have some very, very fine fish restaurants at one of the tail-ends of the value chain. What they do with Shark Bay scallops, Rankin cod and some of the other species that end up on dinner plates is absolutely outstanding.

COVID-19 had a big impact, particularly on the rock lobster industry. That industry was again impacted by changes in the world's geopolitical trading nature, so it sustained a double whammy. I am very pleased that the government has been able to provide specific support to the rock lobster industry to help it manage what has been a pretty impactful change, and provide time for the industry to regroup. It is very unfortunate that there is a grey market into China, but I think it has every confidence that the Western Rock Lobster Council and the talent that exists within the industry are very capable of finding new opportunities for value-adding and new market opportunities.

Some of the safeguards include the opportunity for back-of-boat sales, and I acknowledge the work of my predecessor in that regard; the waiving of fees and charges; two extensions of seasons of up to 18-month periods; and an overall \$6 million package to support the recreational fishing sector. Many members spoke about that sector in their contributions with regard to the commitment of that funding for expansion of the artificial reefs program and the grow-out and expansion of finfish opportunities.

I was recently very pleased to join the member for Cockburn in his electorate to see 5 000 yellowtail kingfish start a new life. I am sure that as they emerged from the tank, swimming desperately upstream against the pipe that was pumping them into Cockburn Sound, they thought they were being borne into another universe! They had spent all their lives swimming round and round in a circular tank, and suddenly there was a whole new world to explore. I am sure that more than a few of them, as they came out of the pipe swimming backwards, shouted out, "The answer is 42!"

The member for Moore echoed a bipartisan approach—I thank him for that—and indicated the opposition's support for the legislation. The member also raised questions about the environmental assessment issues at Cockburn Sound in respect of future developments. I undertook to respond to that, and I will do so. This government recognises the importance of the value of that fishery and the aquatic resource in Cockburn Sound. The government is certainly aware of the potential environmental impacts of port development in Cockburn Sound, and that it requires further investigation. An allocation of \$21.4 million has been made to fund the Westport environment and social program, which will provide a detailed analysis of the potential environmental and social impacts. Key fishery resources to be examined include pink snapper, blue swimmer crabs and baitfish. There is \$4.3 million dedicated to this piece of research to be undertaken by the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. I have to say that I have enormous confidence in the research and scientific capability of research divisions within that department. The Western Australian Marine Science Institution and partner agencies are currently developing a science plan, and we expect work will start in July 2021. Outcomes from this research will inform the environmental impact process.

Member for Moore, as fisheries minister it is certainly my intention to understand the concerns of recreational and commercial fishers who operate in Cockburn Sound, and I look forward to monitoring the ongoing work of the WA Marine Science Institution and DPIRD over the forthcoming term. Factors such as coastal development, population growth and environmental change will continue to pose challenges for all our aquatic resources and how we manage them, so we should always be prepared to provide good science and good evidence and really base decision-making on that, as we always have done in the past. As in so many aspects of the work of the government, we have invested in science, research and building our knowledge up to make informed decisions, rather than making them subjectively without necessarily having validation. I wanted to respond to the questions that the member for Moore raised and note that the work is underway, and I am very pleased that it is occurring.

The member for Hillarys spoke to the ecological sustainability of fisheries management, as well as the importance of conserving aquatic systems, ensuring sustainable productivity and the development of an aquatic resource-based industry. She spoke about the importance of that to her electorate and the enjoyment of the ocean environment by her constituents. Many contributors to the debate on this amendment bill have spoken in similar terms. I thank her, as I do all the new members, for her contribution. She really highlighted the importance of Marmion Marine Park and acknowledged the protection of this area by a Labor government in 1987, so this notion of marine stewardship is not new.

The member highlighted the importance of healthy reef systems and acknowledged the work of the Marmion Angling and Aquatic Club. I think that mirrors the experience of many other members in how they have used that opportunity

to take advantage and build experiences for people, and in this case it is a diving and snorkelling trail. I think that is very important. She also spoke about the flow-on benefits to cafes and restaurants in the Hillarys area. In a very succinct but insightful way, she highlighted the importance of the aquatic resource to her community.

We then had a very entertaining contribution from the member for Wanneroo. She threw the line out and reeled us in with a whole series of what can only be termed dad jokes! I think she referred to the Minister for Fisheries as “fintastic”! I thought that was very entertaining. She also highlighted the importance of fisheries to my electorate. We have different kinds of fisheries. We have not only the traditional commercial fishers, but also the incredible Dolphin Discovery Centre, which is a tourism attraction with a marine research component to it. It has really been doing a lot of work on local fish species and understanding the reef systems in the Bunbury area. It was a really entertaining contribution and I thank the member for Wanneroo for that. She certainly did not flounder! I was a bit concerned she was going to flounder, but she did not flounder! She mentioned that the member for Landsdale would be very impressed with her puns. They are duly noted in *Hansard*. I also thank her for her contributions on a more serious note, again, about the importance of the aquatic resource to her community and the implications it has if we get things wrong. I thought that was very, very important.

I have one eye on the time, but so many contributions were made that I would like to acknowledge as many of them as I can. The member for Geraldton—which, again, is a very, very important fishing area—made an excellent contribution and highlighted the importance of fishing as the lifeblood, in a sense, of the Geraldton community. It is a community that is built around the fishing industry and major changes or impacts on the fishing industry often lead to a sense of not only the economic impacts, but also what it means for the community as a whole. That was a great contribution and I thank the member for that.

Then there was the member for Scarborough, who is a keen surfer. He spoke about the social impact and benefit of healthy aquatic resource systems—the fact that we can go down to a beautiful beach at Scarborough and enjoy a pristine environment. We know that whatever we do within the marine environment, there is an impact somewhere else. The member for Scarborough’s contribution highlighted that his observations of the health of the beach and ocean front in his electorate really mirror all the comprehensive work going into sustaining our near-shore and offshore environment along the Western Australian coastline. I thank the member very much. I think it was his first contribution to a second reading debate. It was a very, very good contribution, and I look forward to hearing more contributions from him in future.

We have had a few breaks in this second reading debate, but I mentioned earlier that the member for Churchlands acknowledged the work of the Marine Stewardship Council. She made some interesting observations about the potential innovative uses of the aquatic resource, and I will certainly draw the attention of the department to that, because another part of my portfolios is innovation, and innovation applies to every aspect of the portfolio responsibilities I have.

The member for Joondalup similarly made a very strong contribution about the role that this bill will play in not only securing future fishing access rights, but also maintaining and contributing to an environment that I know is shared by multiple users in the member’s electorate. There is not only the recreational and commercial fishing point of view, but also other uses of the marine environment, such that wherever we make a change to one aspect, there can be flow-on changes in another. That highlights the complexity of the work in this area. I thank the member very much for her contribution.

The member for Mandurah made a very good speech in which there was a sense of the history of Mandurah and its relationship with the blue swimmer crab and the important relationship it has to the social fabric of the Mandurah community. Again, it highlights that in this bill we are talking about not only the implications for an economic system, but also the very fabric of the community.

We had some more contributions today. The member for Mount Lawley gave a very interesting analysis of the pearl meat industry and the highly prized nature of a very limited resource, at six tonnes annually. He highlighted the importance of the ecology of the system, and I will certainly look at Tim Flannery’s book *Sunlight and Seaweed*, which goes to some of the points that the member for Churchlands raised.

I thank the member for Cottesloe very much for his contribution and his contribution on this bill in the last Parliament. He raised a number of questions and I hope I can reaffirm some of them now. He referred to the aquatic resource and species. In the act, there is a reference to an aquatic resource. Amended section 4 of ARMA will define the meaning of “aquatic resource” and section 4(1) will state —

In this Act, a reference to an aquatic resource is a reference to —

- (a) a population of one or more identifiable groups of aquatic organisms; or
- (b) one or more identifiable groups of aquatic organisms in a bioregion, area, habitat or ecosystem.

I think that addresses the concern about multiple species.

Broodstock are not explicitly recognised as a commercial catch, but under section 3 of ARMA, “commercial fishing” is defined to mean “fishing for a commercial purpose” and includes taking aquatic organisms for broodstock or other aquaculture purposes, so that is addressed.

I think the final concern was about the definition of “person”. “Person” is not specifically defined in ARMA because interpretation of this term is used throughout the legislation. “Person” is defined in the Interpretation Act 1984 as —

person or any word or expression descriptive of a person includes a public body, company, or association or body of persons, corporate or unincorporate;

An industry association is a person, but the body would need to be the holder of an aquaculture or aquatic licence likely to be significantly affected by the decision in order to qualify as an affected person. The person has to be directly impacted by the decisions to participate. I again thank the member for Cottesloe for his contribution. I note and acknowledge his reference to the history of this bill.

With that, I would like to thank all members for their contributions on the second reading debate. I think it has been a very fruitful debate that has highlighted the importance that all members hold —

Mr C.J. Tallentire: I don’t think you commented on my contribution!

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I did not, member for Thornlie. I had better not leave out his contribution. I have undertaken some research into it.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Can I remind you of what my contribution was, because it may not be in your notes? It was about the need for non-extracting, non-polluting users of the marine environment to be engaged in that whole DSD process.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: I think the member also made reference to lines, debris and tackle.

Mr C.J. Tallentire: Indeed—the pollution that comes from recreational fishers in particular, and sometimes commercial fishers.

Mr D.T. PUNCH: When I was in Albany I popped in and saw Jim, the tackle man. Jim, apparently, is a very famous tackle man throughout the industry and his shop is a wonderland for those who engage in tackle-based fishing. We had a long chat about biodegradable lines and tackle. There have been various attempts at the industry level to look into and produce biodegradable tackle. Jim reminded me that biodegradable tackle is important, but that it cannot let the fish get away; it will not be used if the line snaps and the fish go. The biodegradable tackle was based on materials that degrade over a 12-month period, although some products degraded over a faster period. The problem is the take-up and an understanding by the sector of what that material might be.

I do not have a specific answer to the member’s issues, but I have taken them on board and I want to look at that from the point of view of the references that I made to innovation, because I think that is part of the social licence. The member highlighted that that is a critical aspect of the future. I think Recfishwest and the industry bodies recognise that as an important issue. Although there are no immediate solutions to it, I think it clearly has a line of sight and I certainly want to follow through on those opportunities. I highly recommend a visit to Jim, the tackle man, in Albany because he has a wealth of knowledge and information. I thank the member for his contribution.

On that note, I conclude my contribution on the second reading debate and thank all members.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [12.03 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.03 pm]: To recap and finalise the opposition’s position, I reiterate that we support the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021. It is identical to the bill that went through this house in 2020. We supported it then and we support it now. I thank the Minister for Fisheries for his consideration of the issues we raised and for coming back with answers during his reply to the second reading debate to the issues brought to the fore by the member for Cottesloe and me. I thank other members for their contributions to the discussion. I enjoyed some of the insights that members brought to the fore about the fishing industry and to the value of fishing to their communities and to their lives in Western Australia. In conclusion, I pay tribute to the organisations that manage our fisheries and the hardworking Western Australians who are involved in the commercial fishing industries. I acknowledge also the value of recreational fishing to the Western Australian economy. Thanks very much.

MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries) [12.05 pm] — in reply: I would like to thank the opposition members for their consideration of this amending bill and for their support. I again thank all members and I specifically thank the staff of the former Department of Fisheries and now Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development. They have worked incredibly hard and diligently on bringing the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021 before the house and I knowledge that in this place.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021*Second Reading*

Resumed from 12 May.

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.05 pm]: I rise on behalf of the opposition to make a contribution to the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021. I note that just as with the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021, we have a very similar piece of legislation coming through the house, this time with a different minister. Similarly, there was a different minister in the debate on the aquatic bill. I cannot put a lot more on the record than has already been put into *Hansard* the last time we debated this legislation. I reiterate that we are not opposed to it. We have questions that we will ask and no doubt questions will be raised in the other place, because the previous bill did not go through the upper house the last time around. There will be some interrogation of some of the issues that we see coming to the fore through this bill.

For the benefit of members who might be listening and who were not aware of it, this bill extends the ability that already exists for terrestrial reserves to be jointly vested with Aboriginal bodies corporate to also encompass some marine reserves. This is fairly topical in many of the electorates that we represent, where there are either planned or existing marine parks and existing groups of persons who use those areas. The interaction between the protection of the users and the joint vesting that will be given to Aboriginal persons is a matter of some interest to those people. The planning around the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago marine park, for instance, took place when this legislation was not enacted but actually took into account many of the sentiments that are reflected in this bill. Whether the Recherche Archipelago will be a marine park in the future is also the subject of discussion. Therefore, this legislation will be important to those persons. People are trying to understand what the term “culture and heritage of Aboriginal people” means and what impact it will have on special uses, existing uses or proposed new uses of some of those marine parks. We canvassed a lot of those issues in some depth in the last Parliament and that is on record in *Hansard*. I know that other members will want to talk about that. However, when we discussed this matter it was clear to me that there was not a set definition to understand the implications of those new purposes, if you like, for the marine reserves. Marine parks have until now been set around the conservation of the natural environment and the protection of the flora and fauna in the reserve and the preservation of historical and scientific interests, but will now extend to include the protection and conservation of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people. Practically, this may well mean that special purpose zones are developed to encompass and enable that culture and protection, but perhaps there may also be overarching values presented to a broad breadth of marine parks to reflect that particular purpose—the protection and conservation of the value of the marine parks and the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people.

There is also interest about how those competing interests will be played out if many Aboriginal organisations in a particular area have little bits of interest in different parts of the marine park. Traditionally, most native title claims are based on land, and perhaps on some intertidal areas; until now, they have not extended into the marine environment. How will we determine which particular organisation will be able to be that joint vesting partner?

One concern raised with us when we consulted on these issues with the fishing industry and other groups, such as tour operators, was the potential impact on their industries. Both the recreational and professional fishing industries have spin-offs to local communities, including economic development. Tour operations and other types of uses might also occur in the parks. I suppose that if we are talking about professional fishing, we are probably talking about both wild catch and farms.

As we understand it, there are plans for the further vesting of other areas in marine parks. This will continue to be of interest to many coastal communities in Western Australia and many interest groups that are involved in those areas. We are interested in whether all existing uses will continue or whether those that are found to be incompatible will be grandfathered or excluded in certain areas; and, if so, what the effect of that exclusion will be. I understand that there are some ways that compensation can be given to commercial fishers—no doubt the minister will elaborate on those—for instance, if they lose part of their ground or livelihood because of a park. We would be interested to know what compensation or other arrangements might be in place for industries and users, as well as third parties such as tourist accommodation providers, tackle shops and other businesses that might be affected by a change that is enacted by this new legislation and the changes to the Conservation and Land Management Act.

As I said previously, the former Liberal–National government introduced amendments in 2015 to allow similar sorts of joint vesting in the terrestrial environment. We understand how that works. It is a little harder to understand exactly how to apply the tests of heritage significance to the marine environment that are done in terrestrial areas, where there is probably an area that is known to be a sacred site or a birthing site or a songline on land that is easily defined. It will be interesting to work through some of the new ideas that might come forward as to how that can be reflected in the marine environment. Will the protection and conservation of the value of marine parks and the culture and heritage of Aboriginal people extend to archaeological sites under water—for instance, where Aboriginal people may have existed thousands of years ago when the continental shelf was exposed? That is a very interesting topic. Many, many sites have been identified recently along those sorts of lines. Whether or not we are talking here about the historic culture or a developing culture, Aboriginal people today live a different life from the Aboriginal

people who first came into contact with Europeans. As their culture and lives have evolved, how does that then play out with the idea of the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons? Is it set at 1829 or some other time? As we have seen, Aboriginal people's lives change and new groups come into areas. There has been a lot of disruption to what was their long-held culture prior to European settlement.

As I said, the Nationals WA will not oppose the bill. However, because of those matters requiring clarification, we stop short of saying that we wholeheartedly support it at the moment. There are questions we would like to work through with the minister in both this house and the other place. I am not the lead spokesperson on this matter for the opposition, although I am in this chamber. The shadow Minister for Environment, Hon Tjorn Sibma, is in the other place and he will no doubt have many questions to ask as well. That chamber did not get through the same level of interrogation of the bill as we had in this place. I will conclude my contribution and allow other interested members to put forward their views on this matter.

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.17 pm]: I am happy to make a contribution to debate on this important bill today. Although the Aquatic Resources Management Amendment Bill 2021 might not grab the spotlight in the mainstream as some other bills we debate, it is an important and powerful bill, and I am very happy to make a contribution. This bill will be an important addition to the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Act 2015, which enabled the joint vesting of certain terrestrial reserves, be they national parks, nature reserves or conservation parks, between the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate. A proposed amendment in this bill will extend this joint vesting arrangement and enable marine reserves—that is, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas—to be jointly vested in the same way as national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks. This amendment will fulfil a 2017 election commitment of the McGowan Labor government and will continue the strong bipartisan support to improve the engagement of Aboriginal people in the management of conservation reserves.

Joint vesting is a shared responsibility between the Conservation and Parks Commission and traditional owners over water, land, and land and water. It finally legalises and formally recognises traditional owners' interests in country on a reserve title. In practical terms, these vesting provisions give Aboriginal traditional owners an equal role to that of the Conservation and Parks Commission in preparing the initial plan and every other proposed management plan. It provides Aboriginal traditional owners with an equal role in being consulted on the granting of licences and leases on jointly vested land and water. As the member for Moore said, importantly, the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 proposes to amend the reserve purpose of a marine park. Currently, the reservation purposes that exist are the proper conservation of the natural environment, the protection of flora and fauna, and the preservation of any features of archaeological, historical and scientific interest. This bill includes a very important fourth purpose; that is, the protection and conservation of the value of the marine park to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons as part of the reservation purpose, and that is so very, very important. It was good to hear from the member for Moore that the opposition plans to support this bill. It is important for new members to know that this bill passed this place with support in the last Parliament and we hope to get the same support this time around. In that regard, when I look back at the *Hansard* from the fortieth Parliament when we debated this bill, it was refreshing and encouraging that we were able to work together on an important bill such as this without politicising it.

The COVID-19 pandemic has allowed us to reset lots of things in our lives, including the way we work. More and more people are allowed to work from home and they have realised that working from home is a positive for them in their working and home lives. We are also using technology in different and more positive ways. The COVID-19 pandemic has meant that many more of us are looking to home, particularly WA, for our holiday plans. When I was talking to residents in my electorate, I found it quite extraordinary the number of people who, for the very first time, were contemplating or planning a trip with their family around Western Australia in a campervan rather than going to Bali. There is no doubt that more Western Australians are travelling around Western Australia than ever before. That is good for the economy and the local economies of regional areas, and it is very much getting us connected with our country. When we go on holiday, more and more we want to see Western Australia through the eyes of Aboriginal people. It is an interesting statistic, members, that about 82 per cent of visitors around WA want an Aboriginal cultural experience when they wander out yonder, yet only 26 per cent of people get one. It is a really important statistic. The bill will allow Aboriginal people to jointly manage our important marine and nature reserves around the state, and perhaps that will provide an opportunity for us to become more connected with Aboriginal people in Western Australia.

I will talk a little bit about the McGowan Labor government's Aboriginal ranger program, which was first launched in 2017 and is worth some \$20 million. This highly successful program has been led by the Aboriginal community and Aboriginal organisations with support from the Parks and Wildlife Service at the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. Across the state, this program is helping Aboriginal organisations manage country and protect the environment in partnership with the public and private sectors. Funding is available for jobs and for Aboriginal rangers' training and community development. Interestingly, this program has been so successful that more than 28 Aboriginal organisations have shared funding for more than 35 ranger programs. In real terms, that means that more than 300 people have been employed—importantly, 53 per cent of those are women—and

more than 290 training opportunities have been created. It has also leveraged nearly \$11 million from partnerships with private sector organisations. It is very important that members make a link with that and the statistic that I mentioned before. Western Australians want a cultural and historical Aboriginal experience and the ranger program clearly is providing more opportunities for Western Australians to engage in that.

Since the program commenced in 2017–18, it has continued to train and employ Aboriginal people. I will explain the depth and breadth of the kind of roles, skills and opportunities it is providing for Aboriginal people. Activities have included biodiversity monitoring and research, traditional knowledge transfer, fire management, cultural site management, feral animal and weed management, cultural awareness and immersion experiences for visitors, guided welcome to country tours and/or talks for visitors, and the management of visitors or tourists and tourism assets education programs and mentoring. The evaluation of the program so far has clearly shown that it is providing significant social, cultural and economic benefits for Aboriginal communities, which is contributing to improved community wellbeing and resilience, and building important leadership skills. At the election, the government committed another \$50 million to expand this important Aboriginal ranger program.

I was lucky enough to live in Fitzroy Crossing for three years in the 1990s when I teaching. It was truly three of the best years of my life. I want to share a couple of stories about the wonderful things that I experienced up there in gaining an understanding of Aboriginal people's connection with country, but, before I do, I want to highlight a story that shows the continuing, I guess, disadvantage in housing, education and health outcomes for Aboriginal people and how we sometimes do not understand the complicated nature of the pressures and issues that Aboriginal people face. For the three years that I was in Fitzroy Crossing, I formed strong bonds with my Aboriginal students. During those three years, privately I was always frustrated—I never said anything to my students—when I saw Aboriginal women, the elders, go to the local roadhouse to purchase food for the kids at night, whether it was a tin of baked beans or other things. It would frustrate me no end because the prices they were paying at the roadhouse were outrageously different from the prices they would have paid if they had done their shopping at the supermarket during the day. I think there was some judgement related to that because I thought, “Why aren't people thinking and making better use of their money?” In my second year, I had a conversation with my students about that, “Why aren't your aunts and grandmothers doing their shopping during the day?” The kids looked at me as though I was one of the dumbest people in the world. They said, “But, miss, they wait until the men are drunk. They hide their money so that they can buy food during the evening.” I guess the reason I raise that is that we do not really appreciate the complexities of poverty, the social issues and the significant problems up there. We judge outwardly from our eyes without taking on board the reality of life for those people, the locals, and how they are best trying to manage what are dire circumstances in some families. That also extends to us not really appreciating how connected Aboriginal people are to their country and how unwavering that connection is to their local environment, and that is what sustains them and gets them through.

My three years in Fitzroy Crossing were incredibly precious. I got to go out hunting with local Aboriginal people and I got to go out fishing, and I got shown up for not being as good a fisherwoman as the local Aboriginal women! The highlight for me was sitting on the bank of the Fitzroy River catching cherabin, which are freshwater prawns, in a more traditional way. The women would sit on the banks of the river cross-legged, and I would attempt that, and they would put a little bit of food between their toes and then wait for the cherabin to come and get it, and then they would grab it and throw it over their heads until they had enough for a feed, and that would be the end of the fishing session. Those kinds of experiences that I had have really shaped me into appreciating the very spiritual connection that they have with country. In a moment, if I get the opportunity, I will talk a little bit about some of the experiences I had at One Arm Point and James Price Point when I visited some Aboriginal communities there.

Aboriginal people have taught me a lot. There was another occasion when we brought a group of Aboriginal students to Perth for a two-week camp. It was the very first time that those kids had ever been to Perth. We planned this most incredible itinerary of bells and whistles activities for them—Adventure World, a Tina Turner concert and a Wildcats basketball game. The kids told me that the highlights for them were feeding the swans by the lake, and observing their surroundings while we were on the bus in peak-hour traffic and then commenting, “Why is there only one whitefella in each car?” What I learnt from Aboriginal people has truly shaped me, and the more opportunities we can have for Western Australians to also have cultural experiences with Aboriginal people in their local communities, the more it will go towards dealing with a lot of the issues that we still have in our society. The Aboriginal ranger program and the Plan for Our Parks goes a long way towards addressing those things.

I came back from the Kimberley as, as the member for Cottesloe would call me, a bit of an environmental warrior. But I am also a pragmatist and a realist. I am proud to be part of the McGowan Labor government that is making the environment one of its key priorities. We have our first ever Minister for Hydrogen Industry and our first ever Minister for Climate Action. We are doing incredible things in the environment portfolio.

I want to take a few moments to talk about the Plan for Our Parks. This, of course, is the McGowan government's plan to create an additional five million hectares of new national and marine parks and reserves across WA, which will increase the conservation estate by 20 per cent. Of course, this includes the creation of the Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park and the proposed Fitzroy River national park, which is very close to my heart.

I apologise to the member for Kimberley, as I will not be able to pronounce correctly some of the names of these Indigenous groups, but I will read them into *Hansard* because *Hansard* will get them right. The Indigenous land use agreement with the Nganhurra Thanardi Garrbu Aboriginal Corporation for the Ningaloo coast reserves was the first Indigenous land use agreement registered under the Plan for Our Parks and is the culmination of many years of work to conserve and protect the Ningaloo coast. In addition, ILUAs have been agreed with the Bardi Jawi, Dambim —

Ms D.G. D'Anna: Dambimangari.

Ms S.E. WINTON: Thank you, member for Kimberley. ILUAs have been agreed with the Bardi Jawi, Dambimangari and Mayala native title holders for marine parks at the Buccaneer Archipelago and for the Bunuba and Gooniyandi portions—I know how to say those; they are Fitzroy mob—for the proposed Fitzroy River national park. These are significant milestones and mean that the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks and the Fitzroy River national park are one step closer to being created. Of course, the proposed Buccaneer Archipelago marine parks will be the first marine parks to be co-designed with traditional owners.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms S.E. WINTON: Of course, this Plan for Our Parks fits perfectly with the ranger program. They coexist, in my eyes. We are providing more opportunities for traditional owners to jointly manage country and the economic, social and cultural benefits that that brings for Aboriginal people.

I want to quickly mention an announcement that the Minister for Environment made last week about our plastic bans. It is absolutely fantastic that we are fast-tracking the single-use plastic ban, which will build on the lightweight-plastic ban of 2018 and, of course, the highly successful Containers for Change deposit scheme, which has seen—it is quite an extraordinary number—358 million beverage containers recycled and more than \$1.46 million donated to charities and community groups since it was launched in October 2020. Importantly, the plan for plastic provides a road map towards a more sustainable plastic-free WA by implementing regulations to ban items in a two-stage approach. I will not go into the details of which plastic materials are going to be banned at which time. The minister has perfectly outlined that in the media and we are promoting that really well through Facebook.

The bit that I want to highlight is the point in doing this. I see a nice segue to this important bill when we are talking about marine parks and Aboriginal people being not just joint custodians, but joint managers of marine parks. In 2018–19, a total of 3.4 million tonnes of plastic was used in Australia, generating about three million tonnes of plastic waste. It is estimated that eight million tonnes of plastic enters the oceans globally each year. Recent coastal debris collections identified that more than 75 per cent of rubbish collected at WA beaches was plastic. The announcement made by the minister about banning plastics is important all round, but it has particular impacts for our marine environment.

The member for Moore alluded a little bit to the cultural and heritage significance and asked how we can identify that. I have learnt through my very privileged experiences while living in the Kimberley that the connection for Aboriginal people to the sea and the marine environment is unquestioned. In preparing for my speech, I wanted to try to describe that and I struggled a little bit, but I was really happy to find in my research the very important proposed Bardi Jawi marine park as part of the Plan for Our Parks. It is here that we can see the real, strong, uninterrupted and important connection that Aboriginal people have with not only the land, but also the sea. This joint management plan is an outstanding example of how we can have future marine parks that have Aboriginal people as joint organisers.

In summary, I want to read from the plan so that we might better understand the historical and cultural significance of the sea to the Bardi Jawi people. It states —

Bardi and Jawi people's identity and existence is intimately connected to the sea. For Bardi and Jawi people, their Country is more than a simple geographic location, it includes all living things, incorporating people, plants, animals, seasons, stories, and spirits. It is both a place of belonging and a way of believing. In Bardi and Jawi belief, powerful and creative ancestral beings roamed the sea, creating islands, reefs, sandbanks and marine species which are recalled in songs and stories ... Along with *Galaloong*, there are other ancestral Dreaming beings associated with Bardi and Jawi culture. One of them, *Loolooloo*, associated with saltwater, manifests as a shark that helps guide people if they are in trouble whilst travelling or hunting on Sea Country ...

...

The relationship between Bardi and Jawi people and Country is one of reciprocity and respect—Country sustains and provides for the people, and the people sustain and manage Country through culture and ceremony. Despite the many challenges and changes that Bardi and Jawi people have faced, they have maintained their strong connection to Country and their story is one of resilience, adaptation and survival.

Members, the Dampier Peninsula is my favourite place in the world, particularly James Price Point. I am delighted that through this bill we are finally acknowledging and, very importantly, putting a fourth purpose into the management of marine parks, and that of course revolves around the recognition of the cultural heritage of Aboriginal people to the sea and marine life in Australia.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [12.41 pm]: I am very pleased to rise today to support the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021. I am not so pleased, of course, to be following the member for Wanneroo, who is such an experienced storyteller in this place, a veteran and now parliamentary secretary, but I will certainly do my best to speak to a significant bill that makes very important changes to the Conservation and Land Management Act 1984, otherwise known as the CALM act. Those changes, as the member for Wanneroo pointed to, particularly concern the joint vesting of marine parks with traditional owners and their representative bodies.

The starting point is to consider how this bill is consistent with the state government's Plan for Our Parks, which is a very significant program that has been rolled out by the McGowan Labor government. The CALM act was amended in 2015 to enable joint vesting of terrestrial reserves—national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks—between the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate. To that extent, I acknowledge the bipartisanship that has existed on this issue, as it was the former coalition government that first made those amendments to the CALM act. We are carrying on that work in the context of the state government's commitment to the Plan for Our Parks. I want to congratulate the new Minister for Environment for bringing this bill back to this place in this Parliament and reintroducing it as a priority. That is partly because it delivers on an election commitment of the Labor Party, but it has its foundations in the platform of the WA Labor Party as well. It is worth noting that in 2017, the WA Labor platform identified this deficiency under the previous amendments to the CALM act in that joint vesting was available for terrestrial reserves but not for marine parks and reserves. The WA Labor platform in 2017 said —

WA Labor recognises the importance of Sea Country to Aboriginal people and will amend the CALM Act to allow for the Joint Vesting of marine parks with Traditional Owners. New marine parks will be joint managed with Traditional Owners.

We are delivering on that policy and election commitment. Today, I will speak to the background of that policy and election commitment in respect of the Plan for Our Parks, its significance to my local community in Cockburn and engagement with traditional owners.

In February 2019, the then Minister for Environment, Hon Stephen Dawson, announced the Plan for Our Parks with the Premier. The purpose of that plan is to protect an additional five million hectares of national marine parks and reserves within five years from when it was announced, from 2019 to 2024. The point of that plan is to increase the conservation estate by 20 per cent. It is the largest single increase in the conservation estate of Western Australia ever announced. That plan is also a whole-of-government initiative; it makes it clear that this is something that requires multiagency oversight by not just the departments and portfolios for which the Minister for Environment is responsible, but also those of the Ministers for Aboriginal Affairs, Mines and Petroleum, and Fisheries. In his contribution, the member for Moore pointed to the way in which the amendments to the CALM act could have impacts on activities such as recreational and commercial fishing, as well as other activities. I will take the opportunity later to make some comments on those points, because it is true that these amendments take a whole-of-government approach and have purposes that interact with other activities, such as mining or fisheries. There is an overlap and an impact, and the legislative framework—I know that the minister is cognisant of this—is drafted in a way to allow for those concerns to be taken into consideration, but I will deal with that later.

A criticism made by the Liberal Party when the Plan for Our Parks was announced in 2019 was to the effect that the announcement was simply recycling other commitments that had previously been made. I want to address that, because I think that criticism misunderstands that the Plan for Our Parks is not merely the sum of its parts or a collection of announcements. There are three important ways in which announcing the Plan for Our Parks took some past commitments or intentions and packaged them up into what is really a very important plan.

The first of those is that the Plan for Our Parks made clear the government's intention. It was the creation of a comprehensive plan for our conservation estate as a whole. In that sense, one of the issues that we have always had to deal with in preserving our conservation estate has been fragmentation of that estate. Having a comprehensive plan rather than an ad hoc approach to creating national parks or reserves means that further fragmentation of our natural environment can, to the greatest extent possible, be avoided.

The second important way that the package changed the agenda of the government in this area is that it made it the expansion of our conservation estate a priority of this Labor government. Some proposals for parks and reserves have languished for many years. For example, Houtman Abrolhos Islands National Park has been discussed for many years by governments of different stripes, and certainly was talked about by the previous coalition government, but was never delivered. That was the first national park established under the Plan for Our Parks. That speaks to the way in which the bringing together of the plan has reprioritised the expansion and protection of Western Australia's conservation estate.

The final sense in which the Plan for Our Parks is not merely the sum of its parts is the way in which the plan was drawn up to link the preservation of our conservation estate with self-determination for traditional owners. Much of Western Australia's conservation estate is significant to traditional owners. It often falls within either existing or perhaps disputed native title areas. It is important that those traditional owners have real input and control over country. This bill continues the work of joint vesting of the conservation estate by extending that joint vesting process to marine parks, recognising, as I said earlier, that both land and sea country is significant to those traditional owners.

I would now like to turn to how the Plan for our Parks is significant to my local community in Cockburn. Part of that plan was the creation of Beeliar Regional Park. Those wetlands are obviously a major asset to my community in the southern suburbs, including for exercise. I take my dog for a walk around Manning Park. I was out there a few weeks ago with the member for Fremantle and the “first dog” of Fremantle, Doug.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 1727.]

BLAZE AID

Statement by Member for Moore

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [12.51 pm]: BlazeAid is an extraordinary volunteer group that rebuilds farm fences after natural disasters such as fires, floods, droughts and cyclones. At the moment in Western Australia, there are BlazeAid camps in Wooroloo and in the Moore electorate at Yuna, Binu and Perenjori. Nationwide, camps are scattered across New South Wales and Queensland, with volunteers repairing and replacing fences. The material value of rebuilding farmers’ fences is very clear, but there is also a tremendous boost to farmers’ morale when these volunteers share the load by working alongside farmers whose livelihoods have been disrupted.

Judy and Ed Bland are the coordinators for BlazeAid in WA. So far this year, they have spent a month fencing following the ferocious Wooroloo fire and five weeks fencing at York following a bushfire there, before setting up the Yuna BlazeAid camp on 28 April. Aside from the main Yuna camp, sub-camps have been established at Binu—I was pleased to catch up with the Binu crew last Friday—and in Mingenew and Perenjori. The team of volunteers has cleared debris from more than 130 kilometres of fence lines and rebuilt more than 15 kilometres of fences. Some 106 midwest farmers have registered for BlazeAid help. To date, work has finished at 30 farms and continues at another 44. Volunteers are desperately needed. Volunteers who joined the crews on their way north to escape the winter do not seem to be able to leave.

I extend heartfelt thanks to the BlazeAid crews operating in the midwest for, most importantly, lifting the spirits of farmers who have seen their properties devastated by tropical cyclone Seroja.

STIRLING MACEDONIA FC — RESPECT OUR ELDERS ROUND

Statement by Member for Balcatta

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Parliamentary Secretary) [12.53 pm]: Today I want to speak about a great community initiative led by Stirling Macedonia FC. Earlier this year, I attended the first Respect Our Elders round with the Attorney General at Stirling Macedonia FC in Balcatta. I feel it is especially important to recognise this event now as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day has just passed. I welcome the announcement by the Minister for Seniors and Ageing of funding for the establishment of Elder Rights WA.

Stirling Macedonia held the Respect Our Elders round to acknowledge and praise the important contributions of our elders to building our clubs and also the wider community. Three very well deserving elders were recognised on the night for their dedication to Stirling Macedonia FC and the Macedonian community of WA. The first was Tanas Nicalaou, who is 97 and has never missed a home game. The second was Mitre Filev, who is 95. I especially wanted to mention Balcatta local Vasil “Vic” Radis, who was the first president of Stirling Macedonia. I am also proud to say that Vic is a life member of the WA Labor Party and a member of the Balcatta branch. At a combined age of 284 years, all three are still regulars at Macedonia Park to watch the mighty Lions. I would like to thank the club president, Luke Pavlos, past president Don Evans, Keegan Ashley and the Stirling Macedonia committee for organising this terrific community event. I also want to encourage all clubs across all codes to adopt regular events like this one as a great way to honour our elders, who should be recognised for their hard work over decades and decades to build up our communities and our sporting clubs and groups. Congratulations again to the Stirling Lions on this wonderful initiative.

CAPE WALK FOR LIFE

Statement by Member for Vasse

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party) [12.54 pm]: Last month I had the privilege of joining 160 community members from the Busselton region and surrounds for a walk in support of Cape Walk for Life. I would like to thank Jon Eddy and David Barton, co-founders of the Man Walk Busselton, who organised this poignant walk to put the spotlight on mental health and to support the Blue Tree Project and Lifeline Australia. Dan Kozyrski, founder of Southern Fire Wellness, provided a moving acknowledgement of the Wadandi custodians. The City of Busselton and Rio Tinto were also supporters of this moving and significant event.

Many gathered together on a wet Sunday in support of a community that is hurting after a number of youth suicides in the region in recent times. This obviously has a dramatic impact on a local community; it sends ripples through the community. The number of people coming together on part of the Cape to Cape coastline was a powerful statement of the extent to which people are impacted, and the need for the healing process.

The community is privileged to have Jon Eddy, a passionate mental health advocate. Jon tragically lost his son Alex in 2019. At the time he was told that over that 12-month period, 30 other youths across the south west had also taken their lives. Jon now dedicates his time to suicide prevention and postvention, with an emphasis on help for youth and men, and the wonderful, supportive work that Jon carries out is a heartfelt legacy to Alex.

AWARD WINNERS — KIMBERLEY

Statement by Member for Kimberley

MS D.G. D'ANNA (Kimberley) [12.56 pm]: I rise today to note the excellent achievements of people from the Kimberley.

We have seen some amazing young people in the Kimberley being acknowledged for their contributions as leaders and WA finalists in the 7NEWS Young Achiever Awards. They include JoFran Hunter from Kununurra, Joseph Bin Omar from Broome and Trevor Menmuir from Derby. Trevor won the RiverBank Estate Restaurant Health and Wellbeing Award for his outstanding work with youth in the Derby community, going above and beyond his role to bring services together to engage youth in sports and to deliver healthy food programs for kids and families.

Just this week we saw three people from the Kimberley recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday 2021 Honours List. Kununurra's Ian Trust has been made an Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished service to the Indigenous community; Broome's Peter Yu was made a Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community; and dental nurse and Kimberley Dental co-founder Jan Owen was named a Member of the Order of Australia for 12 years' work on improving dental health across the Kimberley.

Last sitting week I got to celebrate the achievements of the 2020 AgriFutures WA Rural Women's Award winners and finalists, of which both the winner and runner-up are from the Kimberley. Lawyer, entrepreneur and social innovator, Cara Peek, won the 2020 award and startup founder Lauren Bell was runner-up.

We have also seen two Kimberley nominees for the 2021 Australian Farmer of the Year Awards: good luck to Jim Engelke from Kununurra and James Brown from Cygnet Bay.

Congratulations to all these inspirational Kimberley people, and I look forward to following your journeys.

DANCING IN THE DIRT GALA BALL — JERRAMUNGUP

Statement by Member for Roe

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe) [12.57 pm]: I would like to acknowledge the community of Jerramungup, which held a very special event recently. Jerramungup is a tightknit community, but morale has been low after a few tough years. The black tie event, the Dancing in the Dirt Gala Ball, was organised to raise spirits, bring people together and celebrate the strength of the community through tough times. In March, more than 300 people came from all over the district in buses from Bremer Bay, Borden, Pingrup, Jacup, Gairdner, Boxwood Hill and Ongerup. The event was made possible with support from the Shire of Jerramungup, the Building Our Future grant program, the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal's Strengthening Rural Communities program, and the Fitzgerald Biosphere Group.

I would like to make special mention of those who made this event a success: the Dancing in the Dirt organising committee of Kyran Brooks, Tina Parsons, Rachel Bibby and Jolene Daniel; local MCs Nathan Brown and Peter Daniel; comedian Cameron McClaren; the Borden Primary School P&C; the Turner and Bailey families; the St John Ambulance crew; Kemp and Bev Brooks; Dan and Sarah from the Museum Cafe; Lucky Bay Brewing; major sponsor Foreman Rural, Jerramungup; and the band Moves Like Swagger.

Congratulations, Jerramungup, on sticking together and celebrating all things that make our regional communities so special.

MELVILLE COMMUNITY MEN'S SHED

Statement by Member for Bateman

MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman) [12.59 pm]: I rise to acknowledge the contribution of Men's Sheds to our community. Men's Sheds are familiar in many cities and towns around Australia and continue to grow in popularity and, of course, many Men's Sheds are welcoming and inclusive of women and young people, and reflect the full diversity of the communities they serve. This week is Men's Health Week, and the theme is "Connecting for Men's Health", aimed at sparking discussion and developing ideas and events that connect and work together across genders, cultures and communities. Men's Sheds are a great example of exactly this.

Intentional self-harm is the eighth highest leading cause of death for men in Australia, with men making up 75 per cent of all deaths by suicide. As a mum to five boys, I care deeply about supporting improved health and wellbeing outcomes for boys and men. That is why I am proud to support the Melville Community Men's Shed, which has been working for 12 years to establish a Men's Shed in the south-eastern area of the City of Melville. I have established a petition which has, in a very short time, attracted significant support from our community. I would like to acknowledge the steering committee of the Melville Community Men's Shed for their years of effort: Paul Robbshaw, Gavin Waugh, Bruce Wright, Robert Willis and Phil Voss.

I congratulate the City of Melville for its recognition of the importance of this community infrastructure and for prioritising the identification and progression of a suitable site. I look forward to supporting both the Melville Community Men's Shed and the City of Melville in the hope that we will very soon have a Men's Shed in the electorate of Bateman.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS

241. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to today's new advice that 50 to 59-year-olds should now receive the Pfizer vaccine rather than the AstraZeneca vaccine. Will the Premier table the health advice considered in making his decision to extend eligibility of the Pfizer vaccine to the 30 to 39-year-old cohort?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I will just explain what has occurred. Obviously, this government wants to get Western Australians vaccinated. We are very keen to roll out the vaccine and get more Western Australians vaccinated. We made the decision three or so weeks ago to ensure that we rolled out the Pfizer vaccine more broadly and just get people vaccinated. Other governments around Australia have done the same. In fact, the Northern Territory has extended it to 16-year-olds and above. South Australia has extended the availability of the Pfizer vaccine to everyone living in regional communities over the age of 16. Different states have done different things in order to get more people vaccinated; that is the key point here. We received advice from the Department of Health that we should extend the vaccine rollout to those people aged 30 to 50 years. In accordance with national guidelines, they should be able to access the Pfizer vaccine. That is what has occurred. It seems to me from the criticism that I am hearing from the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA that they do not want people vaccinated. They are actually saying, "Don't vaccinate people", whereas our view is that we should be vaccinating people. What we did, by way of the announcement we made a few weeks ago, was to kickstart vaccinations. The biggest story in Australia—I do not know whether members have noticed—over the course of the last four months or so has been the slow rollout of vaccines. America now has 60 per cent or thereabouts of its population vaccinated. Britain and countries in Europe are the same. They are getting people vaccinated, whereas in Australia we have had a slow rollout. If we want to get back to international travel at some point in the future and a greater sense of normality in Australia, we have to get people vaccinated. Our view is that we want to get Western Australians vaccinated. What is clear is that the Liberals and Nationals do not.

CORONAVIRUS — VACCINATIONS

242. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Given that the Premier's promise of gold-standard transparency is now in tatters, will the Premier please table the advice that he said this decision was based on?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I meet with the Department of Health virtually every day. It provides us with advice. It has provided us with advice that 30 to 49-year-olds should get vaccinated. Clearly, the Liberal and National Parties do not think that those people should be vaccinated. That is clearly the tone of the member's question. Today, we have announced a change to the program to allow 50 to 59-year-olds to get the Pfizer vaccine, and we are putting in place the systems to allow that to happen. But we did not know that the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation, the body that makes these decisions nationally, was going to change its advice. We did not know that; no-one knew that. What we did know was that we had to get people vaccinated. We took a decision to get people vaccinated. Tens of thousands, probably hundreds of thousands, more Western Australians have been vaccinated as a consequence. Now we will roll that out so that 50 to 59-year-olds can take advantage of the Pfizer vaccine, unless they have already had the first dose of AstraZeneca. The advice is that those people should get the second dose of AstraZeneca. The Minister for Health and I are in that category and we will both be getting the second dose of AstraZeneca. We will be following that advice.

What I find happens is that the state opposition—the Liberals and Nationals—catastrophise everything. Everything is a catastrophe. I can tell them what was a catastrophe for them. I have an idea of what was a catastrophe for them, and it really was a catastrophe! I will tell members one thing: we are going to continue to vaccinate Western Australians. We will ensure we roll it out as quickly as possible. We will continue to take the case up with the commonwealth to get more vaccines into Australia, in particular Pfizer, and we are going to roll it out as quickly as we can.

Visitors — Walliston Primary School

The SPEAKER: Just before I give the member for Mirrabooka the call, I would like to acknowledge that we have another group of leaders here in the Speaker's gallery today as guests of the member for Kalamunda. It is the year 6 leadership group from Walliston Primary School, principal Craig Mainard and past principal Bernie O'Hara. Welcome to the Western Australian Parliament.

PLAN FOR JOBS

243. Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Premier:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's plan for jobs and its unprecedented investment in supporting Western Australia's economic recovery. Can the Premier outline to the house how this investment is creating more jobs for Western Australians and helping to drive down unemployment, and can the Premier update the house on how this investment is supporting more Western Australians to get the skills and training they need to enter the workforce?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I thank the member for Mirrabooka for the question and for having me in her electorate this morning. Today's job figures are a vindication of the work of this state Labor government. Our unemployment rate today dropped to 4.7 per cent, down from 4.9 per cent the month before. It is the lowest unemployment rate in eight years. It is the lowest unemployment rate of all the states of Australia. It is lower than the national unemployment rate, by 0.4 of one per cent. When we came to office four years ago, the unemployment rate was 6.5 per cent. It is now 4.7 per cent. Over that period, we have created 87 700 jobs all over Western Australia—in the city and in the regions. The number of unemployed people has fallen by 3 900 over the course of the last month and is the lowest number of unemployed people over the last six and a half years.

One of the key points that has contributed to that outcome has been our investment in TAFE and training, the lifeblood of activity for many industries in Western Australia. There has never been a better time to go to TAFE and study. We slashed TAFE fees for a large number of courses—180 from memory—by up to 72 per cent over our time in office. That has resulted in a 27 per cent increase in enrolments this year versus last year. We have put in place the Lower Fees, Local Skills program. There has been a huge increase in enrolments in courses such as electrical courses to become an electrician, early childhood courses and the diploma of nursing. A whole range of courses have had a massive increase in enrolments basically because the government took action to get people back into TAFE. Of course, over the course of the previous Liberal–National government TAFE fees had risen by up to 500 per cent, and for some courses it was more than that! TAFE was priced out of reach of many families, in particular working-class families around Western Australia. We have had to work hard to fix that.

Young Western Australians like the ones I met this morning in Balga are able to get into these courses; the courses are affordable and they can undertake their studies. They can get a great job that will secure their future for the rest of their lives. This builds on all our activity, and everything we have done has resulted in this extraordinarily low unemployment rate today—the lowest in Australia—the best jobs growth in Australia and the most successful economy in Australia, under this state Labor government.

SAFEWA APP — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

244. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney General's comments yesterday that the Department of Health notified the state government straightaway when WA police issued orders for information collected by the SafeWA app in December and again in March.

- (1) Who in the government did the Department of Health notify?
- (2) Why did the Premier claim yesterday that he had been notified four months later in April?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

- (1)–(2) Yes, I said that yesterday. I said that they had notified us straightaway. I checked with the chief of staff, and it was actually the first half of April. I checked the briefing note, and it was the first half of April. I think the briefing note was dated 31 March and came through in the first half of April.

SAFEWA APP — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

245. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Attorney General:

I have a supplementary question. Yesterday the Attorney General said "December". Is that not slightly careless, as the top lawyer in Western Australia, in terms of the provision of information to the public? Are you sure that the government was not made aware before April when the Premier notified us yesterday?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

No; I am sure that I said that the request for the information was in December. The request for the information, from my recollection, was about 23 or 24 December 2020. The briefing note that I have seen coming through, which my chief of staff ultimately was given, was dated 31 March. It did not come to our attention until the first half of April.

POLICE — DRONES

246. Dr J. KRISHNAN to the Minister for Police:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to keeping Western Australians safe through its significant investment in frontline policing. Will the minister update the house on how the government is ensuring that WA's frontline police officers have the resources and equipment they need to respond to incidents and keep the community safe, including the rollout of the new WA Police Force drones?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for his question and for his fulsome support of the Western Australia Police Force. Madam Speaker, I acknowledge yet again that we in this state are beneficiaries of your hard work in the role of police minister, when we experienced the biggest-ever investment in police technology, as well as in police resourcing. We are starting to see some of the more recent rollouts, but they were all won during the Speaker's tenure.

In the last term of Parliament, we delivered OneForce mobile phones, body-worn cameras, the expansion of the automatic numberplate recognition camera scheme and phone apps for officers to boost awareness and safety. And, of course, we are in the process of rolling out 950 additional police officers above and beyond the normal attrition rate—the biggest growth in history—a 15 per cent leap in the number of police officers serving this state.

Most recently, we have seen the results of a \$1.3 million investment in police RPAS. I love the police. I come from the military, which has made acronyms an art form, but the police challenge it for that title! I now have a whole new dictionary of acronyms to learn. The police call drones remotely piloted aircraft systems. As a result of this \$1.3 million investment, every region in the state is now serviced by drones, with 41 aircraft, or drones, which are available in every single district in the region. Every regional police district has at least two, I believe, and there are more in the metropolitan area, with some centrally located at the police air wing. Importantly, we have 100 pilots of these aircraft and they are all over the state. We now have every single police district covered by aviation assets in the form of these RPASs—the drones—giving incredible assistance in all forms of police operations, including searches and intelligence gathering.

Interestingly, they are finding new roles for them all the time and benefits that we may not have anticipated. One that I found very interesting was the police response to serious and fatal crashes, which covers the road safety portfolio as well. As a consequence of having these aircraft, police are now able to map crash scenes, reducing the time that arterial roads are closed. The time for conducting that task post—a fatal or serious crash has gone down, on average, from two and a half hours to just 20 minutes. That is an incredible benefit. It has been replicated across a range of activities and initiatives in the police force, but it is another benefit of the massive investment by the McGowan government that police have received.

G2G PASS — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

247. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Police:

My question is to the Minister for Police.

Mr P. Papalia: Excellent!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: I am glad the minister is excited!

I refer to WA police accessing personal data captured by the SafeWA app and today's revelations that G2G PASS data has been used in the same way. Was the minister or his office made aware of WA police accessing this data for reasons other than contact tracing and border management; and, if so, when?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I thank the member for her question. The G2G PASS is operated by the Western Australia Police Force. Community members wanting to travel to Western Australia request a G2G PASS and as part of the pass application process, they voluntarily provide their details to police. The G2G PASS application page specifies that disclosure to authorities is allowed and does not limit it to authorities with COVID-19-related responsibilities or functions. The G2G PASS application page states that WA police has to, by law, keep information even after the completion of quarantine or isolation and even after deletion of the G2G PASS app from an individual's phone. Individuals are required to consent to this. This information is stated publicly on the wa.gov.au G2G PASS frequently asked questions page, in the G2G PASS privacy policy and in the G2G PASS terms of service.

I understand there are questions in the other place about whether we have access to the Tasmanian version of the G2G PASS. We have never got any information. I have never been advised of any access to the database because it is a police-run database and an operational matter. Of course, police access their own database and they do it without talking to me about accessing it. They do not require advice or approval from me because it is an operational matter and it is their database, which they manage.

G2G PASS — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

248. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Police:

I have a supplementary question. The minister mentioned earlier that it was a voluntary process. My recollection is that during the period the internal borders were up, that was not voluntary. People had to provide information so they could get across borders, particularly from a regional perspective, so they were required to do that. Can the minister clarify that?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms M.J. DAVIES: It is a serious question. I do not need intake from everyone else; I am asking the minister a genuine question.

Several members interjected.

Ms M.J. DAVIES: That is right; I am asking the minister!

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

I understand what the Leader of the Opposition is saying.

Mr D.J. Kelly interjected.

The SPEAKER: Minister for Water, please do not interject.

Mr P. PAPALIA: It is voluntary in that people had the choice: they either completed the G2G PASS to come to WA or they did not come. So there was a choice. I did it myself. It is still applicable right now; it is not just because the borders were closed. If people want to come to WA right now from any other jurisdiction, they have to apply for a G2G PASS. I went to the Land Forces expo in Brisbane, and before I came back I had to apply for a G2G PASS. All those terms and conditions are clear to any individual who is applying.

Did the Leader of the Opposition want to ask me something through an interjection?

Ms M.J. Davies: I understand the state borders, but we had internal borders at one point in time when data was collected. That is my question. That was not voluntary; you had to have a G2G PASS.

Mr P. PAPALIA: I am sorry. I concede in that regard; I did not contemplate that. It has been some time and I was talking about the state and international borders. I would not be able to say for sure what the nature of that relationship is, although the G2G PASS obligations and notifications required of people would be unchanged. The obligations are publicly available, and everyone who makes an application is able to read the conditions under which they are applying and they are required to comply with those obligations. It is not a secret that the G2G PASS is accessible by the police, because the police run it. Unlike the SafeWA app, people apply to the police for a G2G PASS. I know it might be fun for people who might be trying to create angst or some sort of concern out in the community to conflate the two. I am not saying that the Leader of the Opposition is doing that, but there are some commentators who would do that. The reality is that the SafeWA database is completely different. We did state that it was for a purpose. The G2G PASS has been operated by the police all along. Everyone knows that when they apply for a pass they are applying to the police, and that they have to do it if they want to come into WA.

TOURISM — BLEDISLOE CUP MATCH

249. **Mr D.R. MICHAEL to the Minister for Tourism:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting Western Australia's tourism industry as it recovers from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic by attracting major events to the state such as the Bledisloe Cup. Can the minister update the house on the response to the announcement that Perth will host the Bledisloe Cup and how this event will support businesses and jobs in WA's tourism and hospitality industry?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:

I am pleased to update the house. It is great being the Minister for Tourism, because, as members know, I have a great sporting history!

Dr A.D. Buti: Were you a hooker?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: My father was a boxer. I took up boxing once, but I was knocked out 28 times in the first round, so I gave up!

I thank the member for Balcatta for the question. He is well known for his sporting prowess, and I know that he is looking forward to the Ashes test match early next year.

It is great news about the Bledisloe Cup. We announced that ticket sales would go on sale last week and within 24 hours, tens of thousands of tickets were snapped up. In just over a week, general admission tickets were exhausted. The limited tickets still available are mostly restricted to single seat allocations, so there are still a few tickets left.

This again demonstrates that Western Australia is well placed to host exciting events such as this at Perth Stadium and at other venues around the state. The last time that the Bledisloe Cup was held in Western Australia, in 2019, a record crowd of over 61 000 people attended the match. As we know, Australia and New Zealand are very fierce competitors in the Bledisloe Cup contest. Back in 2019, Australia—the Wallabies—were successful, a little unexpectedly. What a match it was! That match was held in front of 61 000-plus people, and a significant number of people from interstate and from across the Tasman watched it. We are expecting again—the ticket sales show this already—a significant number of people to come from interstate and across the Tasman. It will be an exciting event. Mark 21 August down! People will not be able to go there if they have not bought a ticket because tickets have already nearly been sold out. The Bledisloe Cup series is an amazing contest between Australia and New Zealand. Of course, it will be the only game played on Australian soil, which means, once again, we can showcase

Western Australia to a big international and national audience. For those people who will be coming to attend the game, we will continue to celebrate and showcase the state. We will encourage them to stay longer, of course, and explore other parts of Western Australia, including our regional areas.

Member for Balcatta, this is a great outcome. It highlights again that Western Australia is well placed to showcase such events. We are working very hard on a range of other events as we go forward in this term of government. Some of those have been announced, but there will be more to come. Western Australia is not only one of the safest places in the world at this point in time, but also able to attract high-quality, high-calibre events such as the Bledisloe Cup. That is something all Western Australians, both sporting and not necessarily of a sporting nature, should be very proud of.

G2G PASS — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

250. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Attorney General:

Given the revelations today that private data collected through the G2G PASS system is being used by the Western Australia Police Force for reasons other than border management, can the Attorney General advise whether the Protection of Information (Entry Registration Information Relating to COVID-19 and Other Infectious Diseases) Bill 2021 that was passed this week will also protect personal data that is obtained through the G2G PASS; and, if not, will he make amendments to the bill or bring in amendments to other relevant legislation?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

No, it does not; and, no.

The SPEAKER: Attorney General, if you could seek the call in future, that would be great.

G2G PASS — ACCESS — POLICE INVESTIGATION

251. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Attorney General:

I have a supplementary question. Does the Attorney General not consider that it is necessary to reassure the Western Australian public that information that is being collected for a purpose is used for only that purpose?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

Information is supplied by the public to the police concerning their movements and the police will only use it to track those people's movements.

KEYSTART — ABORIGINAL HOME OWNERSHIP

252. Ms J.J. SHAW to the Minister for Housing:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant support for those looking for their first home.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: I am sorry. We have moved on to the next question. Can I ask the member for Swan Hills to start again, please.

Ms J.J. SHAW: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was perhaps a little more awake than the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's significant support for those looking for their first home, including its massive investment in affordable housing across Western Australia. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's significant investment in the Keystart scheme is assisting more Aboriginal Western Australians in owning their own home?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for her question and, in particular, her passionate advocacy given the fires that affected her electorate and the impact on housing in that area.

I am deeply proud to be part of the McGowan government that has an underlying strong commitment to enable Western Australians to own their own first home. We have invested heavily to enable more affordable homes in Western Australia. Of course, we introduced the building bonus grant, which has been a huge success with more than 24 000 building approvals in the past 12 months. But we also made changes to the Keystart program. We increased the borrowing limit by \$243 million. As part of those changes, we also lifted the income threshold for both singles and couples. The results speak for themselves. Overall, for Keystart, there has been a 144 per cent increase in the number of loans, and we are on track to more than 3 750 loans in this financial year. Of those loans, \$200 million worth are in regional Western Australia, and 81 per cent of those loans are to new first home buyers. Of course, we are acutely aware that Aboriginal Australians have historically faced disadvantage in owning their first home. As I said in the debate yesterday, we understand that providing a first home has many incredible benefits in terms of the health, mental health, social connection and wellbeing of the general community. We are making a very strong effort in assisting Aboriginal people in Western Australia to purchase their first home. We have a dedicated Aboriginal home ownership scheme with a team of people who are working with current and potential borrowers to help them get that first loan. As part of that, we provide some incentives to people, including, for example,

a \$3 000 grant towards potentially buying public housing property to make their first home. I am pleased to say that over our term of government, we have seen strong results. Keystart has approved loans. Under the Aboriginal home ownership scheme, 192 households have been approved at a value of \$53.6 million. That is 192 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander households that are getting their first foot through the door. They are achieving that dream, that aspiration, and the numerous benefits that come with the security of being in their own home.

SMALL BUSINESS — PAYROLL TAX

253. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Treasurer:

I refer to the state government's predicted budget surplus of close to \$5 billion off the back of record iron ore prices and GST returns. Given this predicted \$5 billion budget surplus, when will the government deliver long-awaited payroll tax relief for the thousands of small businesses across WA that are crying out for greater support?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

I can only say to the member for Roe that he should come to more of my press conferences! The member for Roe comes and spies on my press conferences, just so members know. It is very poor form. If members opposite want to have their press people and members come and spy at our press conferences, we have a lot more people whom we can send to theirs. I suppose the advantage for members opposite is that someone would actually come to one of their press conferences!

In relation to the member's question, we have already cut payroll tax. It may have passed the member for Roe by, but we cut payroll tax. We lifted the threshold. Did he not notice that? We lifted the threshold last year. It was called for by industry and this government did it. When members opposite were in office for eight and a half years, what did they do? Nothing! They put up taxes! Remember the three rounds of land tax increases that the last government put in place? Remember that the last government cancelled stamp duty cuts and payroll tax cuts when it arrived in office? At the same time, it took debt from \$3 billion and had it heading to \$44 billion—that is what members opposite managed to do! That expense growth was—I kid you not—6.3 per cent per year. The state's finances were going absolutely out of control over the course of that government.

So what did we do? We came in and we brought the situation back under control. We secured the GST deal—after 20 years, just so the member for Cottesloe knows. He was not here and he would not know! The Leader of the Liberal Party is one of the most poorly informed members I have ever seen in this house.

Just so members know, the GST deal was signed in 1999 between Richard Court and John Howard. For 20 years, it disadvantaged Western Australia. Colin Barnett and the former government railed about it, and what happened? Nothing! This government was elected. We worked with Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Morrison and Mathias Cormann and we got it fixed. That is what happened! We brought spend under control. Members opposite had spend growth —

Ms M.J. Davies: This is a delightful history lesson.

Mr M. McGOWAN: No. He asked me about all those matters; I wrote it down. The Leader of the Opposition was not listening to her own member's question.

Ms M.J. Davies: The question was about whether you will provide further relief for payroll tax.

Mr M. McGOWAN: Not even your leader listens to you, member for Roe! But I know the member for Roe listens to me, because he turns up and stands amidst the journalists at my press conferences, which is very bad form!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: The Premier has the call!

Mr M. McGOWAN: He mentioned in his question all these issues: surplus—those sorts of things—and GST. I am giving members opposite a bit of a lesson on it, because they clearly do not know.

The former government had 6.3 per cent expense growth. Our expense growth in the lead-up to COVID was around two per cent. What did that mean? We actually got the finances back on track. And because we kept the iron ore industry open over COVID, contrary to the wishes, I might add, of some Liberal politicians in the east, we managed to ensure that the state's economy was strong. The price of iron ore has gone up—that is true—because other countries and other states have not managed their mining industries as well as Western Australia has. The price of iron ore has gone up and we have been a beneficiary of that. We have been a beneficiary of the GST deal. But you make your own luck, and that is what this government has done; we have made our own luck. We kept the iron ore industry going over a difficult period; we ensured the economy is very strong, which has ensured that GST receipts have gone up; we put in place the HomeBuilder program, which has ensured that stamp duty returns have gone up significantly; and, we managed our spend to ensure that our state got back on a good trajectory and a good pathway. We will not stop doing that. Managing the finances and managing the economy well is what state Labor does. The Liberals and Nationals in office were a disaster, and if they are ever re-elected, they will be a disaster again.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: We will just wait for quiet, please!

SMALL BUSINESS — PAYROLL TAX

254. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Treasurer:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Treasurer please confirm that the small business community can expect no further relief from this state government's massive surplus?

Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

What I can tell the small business community of Western Australia is that we have the strongest economy in the country. According to Standard and Poor's, we have one of the strongest and best-managed set of finances in the world—in fact, the best, according to Standard and Poor's. According to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia the other day, because of this state government, consumer confidence in Western Australia is the highest in Australia. Our retail and hospitality figures are the strongest in history. Our export industries are the strongest ever. We are the only state that did not go into recession because of the management of this state government. We have interstate population growth—that is, the number of people moving from the east to Western Australia is growing. When members opposite were in office, it was going down. We actually have people moving here. What did we do? We said to the mining industry, "Move your FIFOs over here." What did the Liberals and Nationals say? They said, "That's a bad idea." Would members opposite rather those incomes stay in the east? We have done all these things to get the state back on track. We have secured more commonwealth money for our projects than ever before. And we cut payroll tax. Members opposite might recall that we gave a rebate on payroll tax over COVID—they probably do not; I doubt they would recall that! But we did provide a rebate on payroll tax to businesses with payrolls, from recollection, of up to around \$4 million. We did all those things. We reimbursed licence fees. We did all those things over this period.

All that seems to have passed the member for Roe by. Instead, he comes and spies on my press conferences. I might add, Madam Speaker, they go live on Facebook, just so members opposite know! They can actually watch the press conferences. There is this thing called Facebook, member for Roe. He can go and watch them. He does not have to show up and stand in the crowd with a pair of sunglasses on pretending he is a journalist with some other National Party staffer. It is bad form. He should not do it, but if he is going to continue to do it, I have a lot of people that I can send to his press conferences.

CLIMATE CHANGE — WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

255. Ms E.J. KELSBIE to the Minister for Water:

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to responding to the impact that climate change is having on drinking water supplies across regional Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's investment in securing drinking water supplies in regional communities such as Merredin?
- (2) Can the minister outline how this investment, including the investment in a new water storage tank in Merredin, is creating local jobs and supporting local businesses?

Mr D.J. KELLY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question and for her fierce advocacy for regional WA. Members, the impact of climate change on water supplies across Western Australia is well known, particularly with declining rainfall in the south west. What is not often known is that in the north it is not so much declining rainfall but the regularity of rainfall becoming less reliable.

As a government, we understand that climate change is real and we are committed to supporting regional WA. Since 2017, \$589 million has been spent by this government on water infrastructure in regional WA, very significant, across the Water Corporation, Aqwest and Busselton Water. In our last budget, we announced that over the next four years, \$968 million will be spent by this government on water infrastructure in regional WA. That will not only secure water supplies but also create jobs. The member mentioned in particular a project that we are constructing now—a new water tank in Merredin costing \$24 million. When completed, it will be the largest concrete water storage tank in regional WA—42 million litres. That might not excite people, but I am reliably informed that we could fit 24 of these tanks inside Optus Stadium. That would fill it up to the top. That is an interesting fun fact for you. It has enough concrete in it to attract the attention of the Minister for Transport. We know her interest in concrete! Members, it is a bloody big tank. It will hold 42 million litres of water. It will create 80 jobs, 15 of them in the local area. It will secure the water supply for the people of not only Merredin but also many of the towns nearby.

Members, on this side of the chamber, we are spending a lot of money in regional WA. All these projects to date are funded by the state government. We have received no support for these projects from the federal government. Since 2007, the federal government has spent about \$15 billion on water infrastructure. Only two per cent of it has come to Western Australia. Members opposite in the corner could do well to advocate to the federal Liberal–National government that a fair share of water infrastructure money should come to Western Australia. We consulted with regional WA. We have put in an application to the National Water Grid

Authority for a \$7.3 million project to renovate or expand 70 agricultural dams across regional WA to provide non-potable water for farmers when their own farm supplies run dry. That is a \$7.3 million project for 70 dams to be upgraded. We have put in 50 per cent of that funding. We asked the feds to put in the rest through the National Water Grid Authority. In the last federal budget, that application was declined. The feds have kicked that application down the road to the next round of funding. While we as a state government are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on regional water infrastructure, the federal Liberal–National government is still ignoring Western Australia. We are getting on and doing the job. We would urge members in the corner to speak to their federal counterparts and get some federal funding for regional water projects in WA.

PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK

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

I note that under the previous Liberal–National government, 6 000 new social houses were constructed between 2010 and 2016. Can the minister confirm exactly how many new social houses his government has committed to over the next year and over this term?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I thank the member for his question. As I stated in the debate yesterday, our government is investing nearly \$1 billion in a range of programs and projects in both public and social housing, in the refurbishment of existing stock and in homelessness initiatives. In fact, that refurbishment program is the largest of its kind for Western Australia. We have set a new 10-year strategy, which sets a six per cent increase for public housing stock. But as I said in the debate yesterday, we face significant challenges. We have inherited ageing stock, which requires significant investment to lengthen its time frame. But we also know—I was very frank yesterday in the debate—that we are moving to an integrated model of public housing across a number of suburbs. We are no longer doing the old structure, the old format, of high-density social housing. That has required some difficult decisions to be made, like the Brownlie Towers decision, but I stand by those decisions as they are right for the future planning and development to get public housing across the many suburbs in Western Australia.

PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK

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

I have a supplementary question. I hear plenty of pejorative and negative comments from the minister's side of the house about the previous government's achievements, but will his government go even close to matching the performance of the previous Liberal government, building 6 000 houses over that period?

Mr J.N. CAREY replied:

I note, if we remember, that during the global financial crisis response, much of the previous housing investment that the member's state government takes claim to were actually Kevin Rudd-funded initiatives.

Several members interjected.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I love it—I always love it—when Liberals take claim for Labor initiatives!

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members! We are listening to the Minister for Housing, please.

Mr J.N. CAREY: I notice that it is a very common trend by Liberals. If we remember the southern railway line, they were actively against it, but then suddenly, when we delivered it, it was theirs. Liberal members have this incredible propensity to attack something, to be absolutely negative about it, and then, mysteriously, when it starts to be a success, when they start to understand that, like public transport investment, it actually delivers for the local community, suddenly they change their tune. I look forward to the day when the Ellenbrook line is completed and I am sure the Liberals will completely change their tune. But I stand that we are making a significant investment—nearly \$1 billion—in a range of public housing, social housing and homelessness initiatives and that we have a strong and genuine commitment to public housing, but we are also committed to doing it right and ensuring that we integrate it across a number of suburbs and not just concentrate it, which was the old approach.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

CONSERVATION AND LAND MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [2.48 pm]: Before I continue my remarks, I noticed the former member for Cockburn, Hon Fran Logan, wander into the gallery. I am not sure whether he is still up there—he has left again—but I place on the record again my gratitude for the work that he did for the people of Cockburn for many, many years.

Before the interruption for 90-second statements, I was discussing how this bill has been brought to the house in the context of the government's Plan for Our Parks, and particularly how that plan is important to my local community

in Cockburn. I mentioned, of course, that I had been out at Manning Park just a few weeks ago with the member for Fremantle and the “first dog” of Fremantle, Doug, because the wetlands are a place that we exercise. They are also a place where people in my community play.

Obviously, people will be aware of Adventure World, but they might not be aware of Bibra Lake Regional Playground, which is a great facility in the wetlands area.

The wildlife and biodiversity in the area make our wetlands a major asset to my community. It is no doubt well known to members in this place that the Beeliar wetlands are a habitat for the endangered Carnaby’s black-cockatoo. The Beeliar wetlands also have significant Indigenous cultural and heritage values. They are places that were used for camping, ceremonial purposes and as sources of food. The importance of the Beeliar wetlands for my community in Cockburn has been underlined by the City of Cockburn’s commitment to redeveloping the wetlands precinct at Bibra Lake. I very much look forward to visiting that facility later this year.

The Beeliar wetlands have been evaluated and categorised as a conservation category wetland. This means that they support a high level of ecological tributes and functions. Thanks to the Labor government, Beeliar Regional Park is recognised as an A-class reserve. The creation of that park obviously forms part of the government’s Plan for Our Parks, but it also goes without saying that it is a response to the Liberals’ disastrous plan for Roe 8 through that region. I would like to take members to a 2013 report from the Environmental Protection Authority that describes the significant environmental impacts to the area that Roe 8 would have had if it was not stopped by this Labor government. These significant environmental impacts include clearing 97.8 hectares of native vegetation, which would have included 5.4 hectares of Beeliar Regional Park and seven hectares of Bush Forever site 224. We would have also lost 78 hectares of foraging habitat and 2.5 hectares of potential nesting habitat for Carnaby’s black-cockatoos. It would have resulted in the clearing of 6.8 hectares of wetlands and it would have resulted in fragmentation of the wetlands and fauna habitat.

That last point is worth reflecting on, because the issue of fragmentation of our environment is often overlooked in these debates. It was very obviously overlooked by the former Liberal Premier when he glibly described Roe 8 as just a road that passes between North Lake and Bibra Lake. That description is glib because it fails to appreciate how wetlands and other ecosystems work. Wetlands do not simply stop at the edge of the lake. They do not just suddenly stop at the watermark. They are complex hydrological systems. They support genetic diversity across connected areas. They must have that connection for that genetic diversity so that wildlife from different areas from different genetic lineages are able to cross-breed —

The SPEAKER: Sorry, excuse me. Attorney General, if you are going to walk between the person on their feet and the Speaker, you need to seek permission.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The same can be said of our bushland, our forest and our woodlands as well; the fragmentation of those ecosystems causes significant harm over and above the immediate harm to the area that might be cleared for a road. It causes problems in the surrounding areas, which become fragmented.

On the topic of Beeliar wetlands, I also wanted to share that it includes a particular lake, Thomsons Lake, which is a hidden gem in my electorate. It is hidden away near Russell Road on the boundary of my electorate. The reserve is 213 hectares and includes significant wetlands and bushland. It is so significant that it is in fact one of the last and best examples of a brackish seasonal lake, which was once typical of the Swan coastal plain, so much so that it is listed on the Directory of Important Wetlands in Australia, which is a national registry. It is a major migration stopover and drought refuge for waterbirds and it is, again, so significant that it is listed as a wetland of international importance under the Ramsar Convention. It is worth reflecting on the fact that since 1829, we have cleared more than 80 per cent of the original wetlands on the Swan coastal plain, and there has been similar levels of clearing of wetlands in other ecosystems around the state. This bill is another step in the right direction to stop and reverse that trend by protecting our bushland and wetlands.

[Member’s time extended.]

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I will move now to some features of the bill. I move first to clause 6 of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill, which will amend section 8AA of the Conservation and Land Management Act. This is what will allow for the joint vesting of “waters, land, or lands and waters” with a specified Aboriginal body corporate and the commission. Proposed section 8AA(2A) makes it clear that the minister will be able to make a determination in relation to joint vesting only with the consent of the Aboriginal body corporate. I want to raise that concept of consent because it goes to the heart of Aboriginal people’s wish for self-determination on their country, and it is reflected at multiple levels in this bill. Joint vesting gives a role of equality to our local Aboriginal people on their country. It gives them a role equal to the Conservation and Parks Commission in preparing the initial and any future proposed management plan. It gives them an equal role in being consulted on the granting of licences and leases on the jointly vested land or waters. It also gives an equal role on being consulted and providing advice to the Minister for Environment on proposals to cancel or amend the purposes or boundaries of particular reserves, not including A-class reserves. The consequence is that the equal role for Aboriginal bodies corporate in preparing management plans, granting licences and consulting on changes to boundaries gives a real say to Aboriginal people when managing their country.

I would like to draw members' attention to a report that was released by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions in July last year. This report reviewed joint management arrangements as it applied to terrestrial parks. That report really highlights that these joint vesting arrangements are critical to giving Aboriginal people a say in their land in a number of ways. The report discusses how the joint vesting enables Aboriginal bodies corporate to draw up cultural management plans that have a real influence on the statutory management plan. It also allows the department to better appreciate and protect those intangible qualities and values of country for Aboriginal people. Previously, it was very easy for the Conservation and Parks Commission to understand physical sites such as burial sites, but it is perhaps less easy for the commission to be cognisant of intangible values such as the spiritual or ceremonial value that a particular part of country might have for Aboriginal people. I thought it was worth reflecting on a quote from the report titled *A review of the Conservation Legislation Amendment Act 2011: How are Western Australia's joint management arrangements working?* This is a quote from a Yawuru representative who participated in the review —

"We think one of the critical things that Yawuru and MG —

That is Miriuwung–Gajerrong —

have had is their cultural management plans that have informed the management plans for the jointly managed estate. The format of the Yawuru plans is completely different to others and it puts the Yawuru values right up-front and centre. Having the cultural management plan was fundamental to assisting the department."

We see there the reflection of putting Yawuru values right up front and centre. That is what this bill will do. It will continue the work of joint vesting of terrestrial parks so that the values of Aboriginal traditional owners can be reflected in future marine parks and reserves. That additional consultation, that additional say, has flow-on effects for connection with country for Aboriginal people and flow-on effects in employment, which is obviously complemented and assisted by this Labor government's commitment to Aboriginal ranger programs. In the same report that I have just drawn members' attention to there is a great section that reflects on how working on country under these joint vested arrangements is very beneficial for traditional owners. I quote from a Murujuga Land and Sea Unit ranger, who says —

"Working on country most days I feel, is significant. It feels great, you're out there, you're amongst it. It's something that the old people wanted so we can learn from them. And I feel privileged to be a part of that."

It is the privilege of everyone in this chamber that we get to bring forward bills such as this that contribute to empowering our First Nations people and righting some of the wrongs of the past.

I will move from clause 6 to clause 9, which amends section 13B(1) to include "protection and conservation of the value of the marine park to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons" as a purpose that is consistent with the reservation of a marine park. The effect of that provision will be that the purpose of the protection and conservation of the value to culture and heritage must be considered by the minister in any declaration of incompatibility of an activity within a marine park. As I mentioned at the outset, I understood the member for Moore to be reflecting on some concerns about the effect that this amendment might have, for example, on existing commercial or recreational activities impacted by a management plan that is brought forward in the future. If those existing commercial or recreational activities are found to conflict with the protection of Aboriginal culture and heritage, will that have some sort of effect on those existing activities?

There are two points worth noting in this respect. I referred earlier to the Plan for Our Parks that this government has been pursuing and how it is a whole-of-government plan and requires a multi-agency approach. That is reflected in how the types of issues that the member for Moore raised will be dealt with. Obviously, part of establishing a marine park is the management plan. The first step in that process is the creation of the indicative management plan. It will always be essential that that indicative management plan identifies potentially incompatible purposes under those conservation values that the minister takes into account when drawing up the management plan. It is at that point that affected parties will be notified of that impact when the plan is released for public comment. Therefore, there will be an opportunity for any affected parties to make public comment on the plan.

Furthermore, the second point worth making is that, ultimately, approval of a marine park management plan sits with the Minister for Environment. It also requires the concurrence of the Minister for Fisheries and the Minister for Mines and Petroleum. Obviously, those are the ministers charged with the facilitation and promotion of various industries and activities. Those ministers can be approached by affected parties and relevant stakeholders if they need input to the process of drawing up the management plan. The point is that the change will not be suddenly dropped upon people. There will be plenty of opportunities for consultation, feedback and representations to be made to the ministers whose role it is to facilitate and advocate for those potentially affected activities. I draw the member for Moore's attention also to existing section 13D of the Conservation and Land Management Act, which already recognises the validity of existing authorisations made under the Fish Resources Management Act 1994 for commercial operations or licences, and licences or permits under the Pearling Act. Those protections already built into the legislation will not be affected by the passage of this bill.

In conclusion, this bill reflects a number of things that make me very proud to speak on it today. The first is that it reflects the Labor Party's strong history on environmental protection. It has always been the party that has had to walk the tightrope between ensuring that people have access to good, secure, well-paying jobs and ensuring that we protect our natural environment for future generations. This bill might not be the sort of flashy bill that attracts the attention of the media, but, at its core, it is a Labor bill about protecting our environment. It goes hand-in-hand with that very significant increase to our conservation estate that the government is pursuing. The bill is also consistent with Labor's strong history of recognising Aboriginal people's right to country, their relationship with country and their wish for self-determination on country.

I am very pleased that this bill is consistent with the work the government has been doing in my local area for Beelihar wetlands. I am very pleased that it is a bill that will give voice to Aboriginal people and extend that voice from terrestrial parks to marine parks. I congratulate the Minister for Environment on bringing this bill forward to the house this early in the Parliament and also her predecessor Hon Stephen Dawson for the work he did. I am very proud to commend this bill to the house.

MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary) [3.08 pm]: Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk), I compliment and commend you on wearing a very appropriate scarf for the debate on this bill today.

I start by also congratulating the minister on bringing the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 to the house. This is yet another example of the McGowan government delivering on an election commitment and is something that members on the Labor benches hold very dear to their hearts, being about the environment as well as the rights of Aboriginal people in Western Australia and around the country.

Obviously, this bill deals with the joint vesting of marine parks. It is something we have done previously with terrestrial reserves, nature reserves and our conservation parks. I think it is really important to highlight that. There is an increasing awareness of and interest in traditional land management practices. In fact, I have a great story. When I was doorknocking before the election, I had someone with me who worked in this area doorknocking with me. She had not doorknocked by herself before; she had always gone with someone else to doorknock. On this occasion we said, "No, it's time you went to a door by yourself and had a conversation." She went to the first door, and the rest of us finished the rest of the street. We were standing at the end of the street wondering where she was and what had happened to her. It turned out that she was still at the first door, because the very first thing the lady who answered the door said was, "I really think the government should be doing more to listen to traditional owners about how they manage fire risks on land." This woman had worked in that area, so she spent the next 20 minutes discussing exactly how the McGowan government was engaging with traditional owners on the management of fire practices on the land. It was a fantastic afternoon for her; she was very capable of doorknocking by herself after that, because it had given her a boost of confidence.

It is really important to acknowledge that we have done a lot of work in this space over the last four years. As my colleague the member for Cockburn said, it is not a sexy bill; it is not something that is going to grab attention. However, it represents some really good work that we have done over the last four years, as is the Aboriginal ranger program, particularly around the sharing of knowledge and caring for country, which as we all know is a fundamental part of Aboriginal culture. We know that job opportunities can be very scarce in remote communities, so being employed as a ranger gives people opportunities for both gainful employment and living out the values of culture and connection to land.

It is great that the McGowan government has identified the fact that there is no one solution to a lot of these problems. One of the great things we did in response to the COVID-19 pandemic was to reduce, freeze or cut TAFE fees. I did a quick search earlier to have a look at what fees we have cut or reduced for TAFE conservation management courses. The certificate II in conservation and land management is now half-price; the diploma of horticulture, half-price; certificate III in horticulture, half-price; certificate IV in horticulture, half-price; certificate III in Indigenous land management, half-price; and certificate III in landscape construction, half-price. Then there are the green jobs. The seed collection skill set course is actually free. I bring this up because when we look at the list of TAFE courses that are free or half-price, it is just a list, but the reality of this was really brought home to me when the member for Joondalup and I took the Premier up to North Metro TAFE before the election. We were specifically looking at these horticultural and conservation courses and we met a young Aboriginal man. I am not sure whether the member for Joondalup remembers this, but he was very excited to meet the Premier and the Minister for Education and Training and to tell them just how important it had been to him that we had slashed the fees for the course he was doing. His dream job was to be a ranger on land, but there was no way he could have afforded to undertake that training before we cut the fees.

It is important for us to acknowledge that there are a lot of little pieces of legislation and lots of policy settings that we can look at to provide a holistic solution to some of the issues we are seeing or some of the policies that we want to progress in Western Australia. Although this is slightly disconnected, these TAFE courses that help people get into the ranger program are actually really important. It is important that we understand the impact of cutting those fees for people who want to become rangers in the future.

The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 deals with marine parks. As a mum with a young family who absolutely love the beach, it should be no surprise to members that the Ningaloo Marine Park is a great

attraction for my family. In fact, we have visited the Ningaloo coast a number of times—not just Coral Bay but also Winderabandi and Gnaraloo Bay. Until you go to Ningaloo, you never quite understand what people are talking about. The pristine nature of the Ningaloo coast, the amazing outlooks and the experiences you can have there, such as being at one with nature and seeing what it has to offer, even with very young children, are really important. It is also really important that we understand that joint vesting will enhance those types of experiences for families and all tourists.

The pandemic has really encouraged a focus on holidaying at home. I know the former Minister for Tourism was very strong on his Wander out Yonder in WA campaign. My circle of family and friends and I certainly took that on board and have experienced some wonderful places around Western Australia. This bill will also provide an opportunity to increase that tourism. The creation of joint vesting for the protection of the environment provides an opportunity for a lot of Aboriginal groups and organisations to use the unique nature of Western Australia to create an economic impact for them and to showcase the oldest culture in the world.

We are so privileged in Western Australia. We do not necessarily always appreciate what we have in our own backyard, but over the last 12 months we have been forced to look in our backyard and appreciate what we have. There is certainly a fantastic appetite for access to more cultural experiences for not only tourists but also Western Australians, including those within my group of friends. That is something I feel very passionate about, as does my local community.

I did a grievance back in 2019 to the then Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Hon Ben Wyatt, because I had been contacted by a parent in my community who had raised concerns about the lack of places to experience local Aboriginal history and culture. She and her family had visited Kalbarri and were really excited about going to the information centre to see what experiences were available. They were really disappointed when they got there because there was nothing for their kids to experience some Aboriginal culture and history. There was no information at the tourist centre or online to assist them. In his response to my grievance, Minister Wyatt highlighted that this is an area that is sorely lacking here in Western Australia. A 2017–18 Tourism WA visitor research survey noted that 82 per cent of visitors to WA wanted to participate in Aboriginal tourism experiences, but only 26 per cent felt that they had secured such an experience. Clearly, we are falling short in offering these experiences to tourists and locals. This bill will be a great foundation upon which Aboriginal groups can get involved in the management and promotion of our destinations. If we can promote care about something, people will be more inclined to look after it. That is a really important part of this bill that might be slightly overlooked.

Although I have no marine parks in my landlocked electorate of Kingsley, we have the Yellagonga Regional Park, which I share with the members for Landsdale, Joondalup and Wanneroo. We are very excited about the \$8.5 million election commitment to Yellagonga Regional Park. It will be used to conserve and enhance this area to ensure that all people get to enjoy it. One of my favourite parts of the commitment that I made was to put money towards what we are calling at the moment a cultural and heritage walk. We understand that there is an appetite out there for this, but the question was: how could we deliver the experiences for people? The members and I collectively decided that one of the ways we could do this was to suggest a cultural and heritage walk. We had chats with the local governments, which were also on board with this idea to provide some information about the sites around Yellagonga Regional Park that included both the European culture and heritage, and also, more importantly, the local culture and heritage of our Aboriginal people.

With your indulgence, Madam Acting Speaker, that leads me to mention the names of a few people in my electorate who have been very important to Yellagonga Regional Park. Firstly, I would like to highlight Heather Chester, who now has a Medal of the Order of Australia. Heather is an integral part of the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park. She has been secretary for a number of years and is a passionate advocate for the environment and Yellagonga Regional Park. It was actually you, Madam Acting Speaker (Ms M.M. Quirk), who suggested that we might want to nominate people for an Order of Australia medal. This is a great thing to do, new members. It takes a substantial time to work through the process, but I was really pleased when I found out this week that Heather had been accepted and was receiving a Medal of the Order of Australia for her work in conservation and environment in Yellagonga Regional Park.

The next person I would like to speak about is a man who worked very closely with Heather. Kevin McLeod worked tirelessly over 15 years for the betterment of Yellagonga Regional Park. Kevin was born in East Fremantle in 1944 and attended Christian Brothers College in Fremantle. As a youngster, he became an altar boy and was a diligent churchgoer for the rest of his life. As a young person, he tried many diverse careers, including studying medicine. He moved to New South Wales and set up a successful aquarium shop that exported fish food, and invested in poultry farms. Whilst living in Sydney, he met the love of his life, Hiroko, whom he married in 1972. They then welcomed a son and a daughter into the world. Eventually, he returned to Western Australia and purchased a poultry farm along Wanneroo Road in an area that we now know as Madeley, in your electorate, Madam Acting Speaker. Many long-time residents can still recall the egg shop outside his home. He lived opposite Yellagonga Regional Park and, after selling his farm over 17 years ago, he spent a lot of time cycling around the regional park. He had found his calling. He noticed a block within the park that seemed to be in pristine condition, but was deteriorating due to human intervention. He sought advice from the Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park to save and protect this small block of bushland.

Firstly, he fought the department to have this area fenced, which was against its guidelines, but he won and now that little area, after all his hard work, is looking fantastic. As someone who always wanted to help the park, Kevin ultimately took on the role of chairman of the Friends of Yellagonga group. Kevin was a mentor to many, an environmental warrior, a quiet achiever and a protector of wildlife. He was always coming up with innovative ideas on how to improve our regional park and protect its wildlife. He was a deep thinker who liked to just get things done, even if he occasionally took an unorthodox pathway to achieve them. Some of his progressive ideas were a little radical, but he would not be deterred from pursuing them with the department. Many of his ideas were initially declined. They included microchipping the turtles that he caught and released during his annual turtle studies; fencing a large area to protect resident wildlife populations from being decimated by feral foxes; allowing the public to visit and observe the park; creating a tuart forest by burning off under the tuarts to allow seedbank propagation to occur naturally; and creating a feeding station in the Craigie bushland so that visitors could see the nocturnal quenda come out to feed.

Kevin's achievements are long and many, but I will list just a few of them. He lobbied tirelessly for the betterment of Yellagonga Regional Park to anyone who would listen, and persistently to the member for Joondalup and me. He personally undertook turtle studies. He installed bat and owl boxes and cockatubes. He encouraged students to include the Yellagonga Regional Park in their studies or dissertations and he welcomed international students and helped them with their research, seed collection and propagation to grow plants within the Friends of Yellagonga's nursery. He liaised with the Department of Justice to provide its workers with time in the park and personal supervision.

[Member's time extended.]

Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI: Kevin also liaised with Volunteering WA to provide corporate volunteers from places such as Shell Australia and Woodside with work in Yellagonga Regional Park. He attended and presented at seminars and conferences that would give him further understanding of environmental matters. He attended meetings of organisations such as the Conservation Council of Western Australia and the Urban Bushland Council WA. He was also a chair of the City of Wanneroo's environmental advisory committee and a long-term member of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions' community advisory committee. He also started up the Friends of Craigie Bushland group and was instrumental in releasing the quenda into that area. One of his projects was to design, build and install the floating islands in Lake Goollelal as a trial to improve the water quality and ultimately mitigate the increasing midge population. I am very proud to say that during the 2017 election, we provided funding that allowed that work to occur. If members walk around Lake Goollelal in Kingsley—I strongly urge members to do that if they are in the Kingsley electorate—they will see a sign there that acknowledges this project. Kevin's contribution in making the Friends of Yellagonga a strong, progressive group is today a lasting testament to his ongoing efforts.

Kevin was one of a kind—that is certainly true—and he will be sorely missed. Our heartfelt sympathies go out to not only his lovely and very patient wife, Hiroko, and his family, who have lost a loving husband and dad, but also to the flora and fauna of Yellagonga Regional Park, which has lost a wonderful advocate. I would also like to acknowledge that the Friends of Yellagonga often tried to nominate Kevin for a variety of awards. He would decline the nominations saying that it was not about him, but that it was a joint effort by many. Kevin really embodied what it means to be an environmental warrior in a modern world. He was never deterred when he got knocked back. He was always determined to do the best for Yellagonga Regional Park. As I said, he will be sorely missed by not only his friends and family, but also the wider group of the Friends of Yellagonga, and by the member for Joondalup and me. I would like to thank Kevin and put on the record that we appreciated all his work. Even if we did not see eye to eye at times, we appreciate that his heart was in the right place and he was doing it for the right reasons.

I would like to make some concluding remarks about the importance of the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021 and how it is another step in our journey to maturity around what we do with our land in Western Australia and how we integrate that with traditional owners, and how we respect and value their contributions over the last 55 000 years and into the future. This bill is a continuation of some great work in this area and I commend the Minister for Environment for bringing it to the house. I would also like to commend the former minister, Hon Stephen Dawson, who did a lot of work on this bill prior to this Parliament. I am sure he is still very much involved under his new portfolio of Aboriginal Affairs. I commend the bill to the house.

MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton) [3.29 pm]: I also rise to add my contribution to debate on the Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021. From listening to the members who have spoken before me, some themes have clearly become apparent. First and foremost, this bill presents opportunity, certainty and equality for Aboriginal people. The member for Kingsley, who spoke before me, made me think clearly about and acknowledge the many environmental community champions in my electorate of Bicton and across the electorates of all our members. This bill is very much about that sense of connection and caring, and when we connect and know a place, those two things come together so much more clearly.

The Conservation and Land Management Act 1984 was amended in 2015 to enable the joint vesting of certain terrestrial reserves, national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks with the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate. The proposed amendment will extend this joint vesting arrangement and enable marine

reserves, marine parks, marine nature reserves and marine management areas to be jointly vested in the same way as national parks, nature reserves and conservation parks. As noted previously by other members, it will certainly extend that important work that the government has begun.

Two-thirds of the electorate of Bicton is bordered by Derbarl Yerrigan, the Swan River. My constituents are intimately connected to and by our local waterways, and whether it is through recreation, sport, birdwatching, art and culture or simply by quietly being riverside, we are blessed to live so close to our river. Bictonites greatly value and enjoy the many different ways in which we are able to connect with this special place, and my own personal interaction with, and commitment to, protect the waterways and foreshores of the electorate of Bicton allows me to more fully appreciate the importance of this bill. Additionally, the area is within the Swan Estuary Marine Park, which encompasses three biologically important areas within the Swan River region. Alfred Cove, which is 200 hectares adjacent to the suburbs of Attadale and Applecross, is in the heart of my electorate. Alfred Cove is also internationally recognised as a significant migratory bird flight route and biodiversity hotspot.

This amendment will fulfil a 2017 election commitment of the McGowan government and will continue the strong bipartisan support for improving the engagement of Aboriginal people in the management of conservation reserves. The joint vesting legally recognises a shared responsibility between the Conservation and Parks Commission and traditional owners over waters, land, or land and waters. Vesting formally recognises traditional owners' interests in country on the reserve title.

On the subject of joint vesting, and to add a local context, I would like to briefly talk about my recent participation in the first stage of the City of Melville's *Attadale Alfred Cove foreshore master plan*. The master plan will extend from Tompkins Park in the east, along the river way and foreshore to Troy Park, heading west. It will encompass two sporting reserves and some very highly significant natural spaces, as well as an arts and cultural precinct at Atwell House. It is a collaborative initiative to bring together the views, values and hopes of the many participants who share and care for this place.

Caring for country, and water, has been embraced by all as the top priority. Although it is very early days, the concept of a joint vesting between the local Whadjuk group, the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the local government has been raised and discussed. The pre-work undertaken by the Whadjuk working group in consultation with the City of Melville and the master plan project group, Element, has provided and will continue to provide vital guidance and a framework for the continuing master plan process.

I take this moment to congratulate the City of Melville for undertaking this absolutely vital pre-work ahead of the more formal and larger master plan process. During this workshop, caring for country and water was described in three simple but very powerful words—care, share and protect—which perfectly capture the nature of the many stakeholder groups and individuals who have come together to participate in the Alfred Cove master plan process, as well as in general care for the area. These groups include SEAG, which is the Swan Estuary Action Group; Eco Sisters, which is a feature of the foreshore in Attadale; the Troy Park Sporting Association, which is made up of netballers, footballers and cricketers; the Friends of Attadale Foreshore; Sea Shepherd, with its marine debris campaign—I have participated in many foreshore clean-ups and one is coming up very soon in the area; and many local individuals.

We also have the Nature Conservancy and the Melville Bird Sanctuary and Discovery Centre, two groups I have been fortunate enough to be able to support through pre-election commitments towards funding for the TNC. It does exceptional work in re-establishing shellfish reefs, which have many benefits, including greater clarity of water, providing fish habitat and those fish then providing food for our local birdlife, in particular our ospreys. We have local elders, such as the phenomenal Marie Taylor, who narrates a walking app. If any member happens to be in the Point Walter area, I highly recommend this app. It is called Geotourist, and Marie relates the Jenna Bididi Yorga trail, which commences at Quarantine Park above Blackwall Reach and extends to the Point Walter sandspit in Bicton.

Further to the joint vesting as it relates specifically to this bill, we know that when a reserve is jointly vested between the Conservation and Parks Commission and an Aboriginal body corporate, both parties' interest in the reserve is recognised and both parties have a shared responsibility for the future of the reserve. This provides recognition on the reserve title of Aboriginal traditional owners alongside the Conservation and Parks Commission. As set out in this amendment bill, an Aboriginal body corporate, as the joint vesting party, will become the joint responsible body for the reserve. The proposed joint vesting provisions will provide an Aboriginal body corporate with a role equal to the Conservation and Parks Commission in preparing the initial and every other proposed management plan, and reviewing each expiring management plan for the jointly vested land, land and water or waters. It will provide an equal role in being consulted on the granting of licences and leases on the jointly vested land, land and water or waters, and an equal role in being consulted on, and providing advice to, the Minister for Environment on proposals to cancel or amend the purpose of, or change the boundary of, certain types of CALM act reserves that are not class A reserves. Joint vesting will be able to be applied to existing and new marine reserves. Similar to terrestrial reserves, when considering the joint vesting of marine reserves, the state will take a flexible approach. The focus of joint vesting will be with Aboriginal people on lands and waters where native title has been determined in their

favour. This flexible approach allows the state to negotiate a range of land tenure outcomes through Indigenous land use agreements, addressing issues that are important to Aboriginal people and the state government. It is important to note that the final decision to jointly vest a CALM act reserve—marine or terrestrial—rests with the government of the day.

I refer to the purpose of marine parks and the creation of marine park reserves. In 2012, the CALM act was amended to enable joint management of CALM act reserves—marine and terrestrial—between the state and an Aboriginal body corporate. Joint management is enabled through the preparation and approval of a CALM act management plan. It is worth noting, as we heard earlier, that the provisions in section 56(2) provide for management plans. It is clear that the 2012 amendments intended that marine reserves would be jointly managed to protect and conserve “the value of the land to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons”. It is noted that a marine reserve includes land and water. The Aboriginal ranger program ensures that Aboriginal culture and heritage is embedded in the care of country and water. The state government developed the Aboriginal ranger program to create jobs and training and to promote community development opportunities for Aboriginal people across a range of tenures in regional and remote Western Australia.

Recently I caught up with a good friend of mine, Kate Hollick, who works in this space. As a side note, our daughters play netball together. She was recently on country with rangers in the ranger program and could not stop raving about the impact that that program is having. The McGowan government recognises the social, cultural and environmental benefits of Aboriginal ranger programs and the excellent work that has already been undertaken by established Aboriginal ranger groups throughout the state. Such programs are an integral step towards improved community wellbeing and reduces poverty by providing economic opportunities and building leadership in remote and regional communities. This program is led by Aboriginal communities and organisations, and is supported by the parks and wildlife service of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and works in partnership with public and private sectors to help Aboriginal organisations to manage country and protect the environment across WA. Funding is made available for jobs for Aboriginal ranger training and community development. Since its commencement in 2017–18, the ranger program has trained and employed Aboriginal people as rangers to undertake land and sea management activities, including biodiversity monitoring and research; traditional knowledge transfer; fire management; cultural site management; feral animal and weed management; cultural awareness and immersion experience for visitors; guided welcome to country tours and/or talks for visitors; management of visitors or tourists; and tourism asset education programs and mentoring. It is exciting to think of the expanded role that this program will play into the future.

We have heard from other members who have spoken before me about the many purposes of the bill, including the management of marine parks, which is currently provided for in the CALM act. I would like to talk about a fourth purpose—that is, the protection and conservation of the value of marine parks in the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons becoming part of the reservation purpose. It is important to note that a very important part and integral aspect of this amendment is certainty. Additionally, special purpose areas, referred to as special purpose zones, in management plans will be made for the protection and conservation of Aboriginal culture and heritage values. SPAs in marine parks are those areas in which activities are restricted depending on whether they are incompatible with a conservation purpose. Sharing of places and the activities that come with that is undeniably challenging. I am very well aware of this in a local context through my participation in the Attadale and Alfred Cove foreshore master plan. What is important for all, of course, is that there is a sense of certainty. The amendment will provide certainty to enable the incompatibility test to be applied to determine whether the activity is incompatible with a conservation purpose that includes Aboriginal culture and heritage. As such, it will provide certainty to enable the making of SPAs in which commercial and recreational activities that are incompatible with the protection and conservation of the value of the marine parks to the culture and heritage of Aboriginal persons’ purpose are excluded. This will occur when a section 62 notice to create the marine park and associated zoning is gazetted.

The proposed amendment will continue the strong bipartisan support of improving the engagement of Aboriginal people in the management of conservation reserves. We have already heard, but it is worth noting again, about the McGowan government’s announcement for the joint vesting of Ningaloo Marine Park between traditional owners and the state government, which was announced on 4 August 2020. That will now go ahead following the historic signing of an Indigenous land use agreement for the proposed Ningaloo coastal reserves. That agreement provides for the joint management and joint vesting of the existing Ningaloo Marine Park and Cape Range National Park, as well as the creation of about 78 000 hectares of a new conservation area extending over approximately 215 kilometres of the Ningaloo coast. The formal creation of the Ningaloo coastal reserves occurred in late 2020. Joint vesting of Ningaloo Marine Park will be progressed soon.

I will finish on the McGowan government’s Plan for Our Parks, which will leave a lasting legacy for future generations by significantly increasing Western Australia’s conservation estate. The Plan for Our Parks will secure a further five million hectares of new national parks, marine parks and other conservational reserves over the next five years and expand the conservation estate by over 20 per cent. This plan will deliver new and expanded parks from the Kimberley in the north, across the rangelands, and through population centres in Perth and Bunbury to our south west forests and along our southern coastline.

The plan includes existing priorities and identifies new visionary opportunities to work with traditional owners to create, jointly manage, and invest and expand our parks. The Plan for Our Parks will also boost tourism in Western Australia by providing opportunities for the development of nature-based cultural tourism and recreation attractions. This will further enhance Western Australia's reputation as a leading nature and cultural-based tourist destination and create jobs. The Plan for Our Parks builds on the government's election commitments and strategic priorities, and includes longstanding reserve proposals designed to contribute to a comprehensive, adequate and representative reserve system for Western Australia. The Conservation and Land Management Amendment Bill 2021, importantly, builds on the significant environmental and cultural work already undertaken by the McGowan government in its first and now its second term of government.

I join previous members in congratulating the Minister for Environment for bringing this bill to the house so early in this term of government. I also acknowledge the work of the former environment minister in the last term of government. I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Ms E.L. Hamilton**.

House adjourned at 3.46 pm
