



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2024

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 14 November 2024

# Legislative Assembly

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

## PAPERS TABLED

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

### WADJEMUP WIRIN BIDI — APOLOGY

*Statement by Premier*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Premier)** [9.01 am]: On Saturday, I joined the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, the member for Fremantle, the member for Kimberley and over 2 000 community members at the Wadjemup Wirin Bidi commemorative ceremony on Rottnest Island, or Wadjemup. For many Western Australians, Rottnest is an idyllic holiday destination. However, for many others, the state's Aboriginal people, the island also has a significant and dark history as an Aboriginal prison. From 1838 to 1931, Wadjemup was used as a place of incarceration, segregation and forced labour for over 4 000 Aboriginal men and boys who were forcibly taken from regions across Western Australia. Wadjemup Wirin Bidi, which means "spirit trail", was a cultural ceremony for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people to gather together to facilitate healing and commemorate those affected by the past incarceration of Aboriginal men and boys on Wadjemup. Historic records indicate that at least 373 of these men and boys were buried in an area now referred to as the Wadjemup Aboriginal burial ground. This incarceration and the subsequent deaths in custody caused significant intergenerational trauma to Aboriginal communities across the state. And for this, as Premier of Western Australia, I say sorry.

We say sorry for the persecution. We say sorry for the incarceration. We say sorry for the deaths of the elders, the men and the boys—either travelling to or from the island, or in the island prison—and the impact on their families and communities.

We say sorry.

We will continue working in collaboration with the Whadjuk Noongar people and wider Aboriginal communities of Western Australia to acknowledge Wadjemup's past and ensure that this dark history is treated with respect and reflection. I want to acknowledge and thank members of the Wadjemup Project Steering Group for their work over the past four years, which will continue into the future, ensuring that Aboriginal people decide how their ancestors will be honoured.

### UNDER TREASURER MICHAEL BARNES

*Statement by Treasurer*

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Treasurer)** [9.03 am]: Today I announce that current Under Treasurer Michael Barnes will take on the role of leading Western Australia's response to the upcoming Productivity Commission review of the GST reforms. Mr Barnes will commence the new role when his term as Under Treasurer ends in April 2025, after 11 years in the role and 27 years at the Department of Treasury. In his role as Under Treasurer, he has played a defining role alongside the state government in turning around Western Australia's finances, with six years of consecutive net operating surpluses and net debt now more than \$15 billion lower than projected in 2017. Mr Barnes also played a key role in Western Australia securing a fairer share of the GST in 2018 and restoring the state's AAA credit rating from both major credit rating agencies—the only state to currently achieve this. In recognition of his outstanding service to state government finances, Mr Barnes was awarded the Public Service Medal in 2020 and was the Institute of Public Administration Western Australia's Leader of the Year in State or Federal Government in 2022.

Beginning in May, Mr Barnes will lead Western Australia's response to the Productivity Commission review of the 2018 GST reforms. The position was funded as part of the 2023–24 state budget to ensure that WA has the strongest case to defend our fair share of the GST. Given his significant experience, leadership, policy acumen and history fighting for Western Australia's fair share of the GST, Mr Barnes is ideally placed to lead Western Australia's response to the Productivity Commission review. The Public Sector Commission will begin the recruitment process for the next Under Treasurer following the state election. Michael Barnes has dedicated most of his professional life to the service of Western Australia and I thank him for his many years leading the Department of Treasury. Retaining his knowledge and expertise within the public service is a big win for Western Australia, and on behalf of the government, I wish him all the best in his new role.

### HOCKEY AUSTRALIA HIGH PERFORMANCE CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [9.05 am]: I am delighted to provide the house with a significant update on the Australian hockey centre project. As many members are aware, in 2022

Western Australia won the bid to keep Hockey Australia's high performance program in WA. That bid, made in partnership with Hockey WA, recognised the rich history of hockey in Western Australia and Perth's ongoing ability to meet the growing needs of the sport. It promised the transformation of the current facility located at Curtin University into a world-class, purpose-built centre that will support all levels of the sport from grassroots to world cup. Therefore, it is with great pleasure I announce that on 24 October, a development deed was signed between the state government and Curtin University, bringing the land tenure negotiations to a conclusion. This important milestone will allow the delivery and construction phase of the project to progress. The design of the state-of-the-art Hockey Australia High Performance Centre of Excellence has been led by Hunt Architects. The centre will boast four international hockey pitches and an indoor hockey centre, and the major stadium will include seating for up to 10 000 spectators. Located at Curtin's Bentley campus, the centre will be in close proximity to transport hubs, work hubs and accommodation. The Cook Labor government's investment in the centre will be a game changer for hockey in Western Australia and Australia. It will deliver a hockey centre that exceeds current facilities in other jurisdictions and, as the base for Hockey Australia's High Performance Centre of Excellence, will maximise development pathways for up-and-coming Western Australian and Australian champions, as well as those from neighbouring Asian countries.

We all know that tourism is a key economic driver for Western Australia. Having the Australian hockey centre located here will provide the perfect opportunity to showcase Perth as Australia's spiritual home of hockey and provide a drawcard for tourists. Construction will support more than 200 jobs and is estimated to contribute \$34 million in gross state product. I am grateful to our key partners, Hockey WA and Hockey Australia. I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous work of the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, VenuesWest, the Department of Finance and Curtin University to arrive at an outcome that will deliver a wide range of benefits to Curtin and all Western Australians.

### **SPORTWEST — WA SPORT AWARDS**

*Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation*

**MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation)** [9.08 am]: Nominations for the WA Sport Awards 2024 are open. The awards will be hosted by SportWest at Optus Stadium on Thursday, 6 February 2025. Since 1956, these awards have been an opportunity to recognise excellence in sport and celebrate the many outstanding achievements of our sportspeople, organisations and teams across all levels. The most prestigious sporting award that a WA athlete can win is the WA Sports Star Award. Many of Western Australia's outstanding sportspeople have won this award since it was first presented to Morna Pearce in 1956, including Jai Hindley, cycling; Madison de Rozario, athletics; Nat Fyfe, AFL; Adam Gilchrist, cricket; Luke Longley, basketball; Shelley Taylor-Smith, swimming; and Ric Charlesworth, hockey.

I had the privilege of attending the last WA Sport Awards, at which we saw the Matildas superstar, our own Samantha Kerr, crowned the 2023 WA Sports Star of the Year. In addition, Iona Anderson took out the Junior Sports Star award for her outstanding achievements in swimming. Members will recall that Iona went on to represent Australia at the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, and she finished her first Olympic campaign with silver and bronze medals.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2024 WA Sport Awards, and there are prestigious categories, including WA Sports Star; Junior Sports Star; Team of the Year; Coach of the Year; Official of the Year; Service to Sport, which is known as the May Campbell Medal; Community Sport Volunteer of the Year; Community Club of the Year, which is the John Gilmour Medal; Healthway Healthy Club Award; Community Sporting Event of the Year; the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries Sports Administrator of the Year; Sport Initiative of the Year; and Organisation of the Year.

The Cook government, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, supports SportWest as the peak industry body for sport in Western Australia. As we all know, sport plays a significant role in the Western Australian community. It contributes over \$10.3 billion annually in gross benefits. People involved in sport in their community learn many personal and community values through their own sporting endeavours, whilst gaining inspiration from their sporting heroes.

I urge the WA community to get behind this important event and submit nominations through the SportWest website by Sunday, 1 December.

### **TRAINING AND SKILLS — MINI WOOLIES**

*Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Training and Workforce Development)** [9.11 am]: I rise to inform the house that on 6 November, Minister for Disability Services Don Punch and I opened the first Mini Woolies at a WA TAFE. The Mini Woolies initiative is designed to give students with disability the opportunity to develop hands-on skills in numeracy, literacy and communication in a simulated retail environment. Located at the Bentley TAFE campus, the training facility is complete with shopping baskets, products, checkouts and fake money, but let me assure the house that the smiles are 100 per cent real.

By setting up shop on campus, it provides students with a safe and comfortable environment to develop their foundational skills and build confidence. Mini Woolies will train students in retail electives, which form part of the certificate I in gaining access to training and employment—GATE—course. The course helps to build students' confidence so they can pursue further vocational training pathways, such as certificate II and certificate III qualifications, or take up employment opportunities.

It is great to see that enrolments by students with disability in WA's vocational training system have increased by over 13 per cent this year to the end of September, and students with disability represent almost 10 per cent of all publicly funded enrolments. We know that training changes lives, and that is why this government is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to vocational training, regardless of the barriers they may face.

I want to acknowledge Woolworths Group and Fujitsu Australia and New Zealand for partnering with South Metropolitan TAFE to provide this innovative training program at TAFE.

### **TRAINING AND SKILLS — KEP WATER OPERATIONS LABORATORY**

*Statement by Minister for Training and Workforce Development*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Training and Workforce Development)** [9.13 am]: I rise to inform the house about how the Cook government's record investment in TAFE is supporting North Metropolitan TAFE to boost the flow of essential water industry skills.

Students at the new kep water operations laboratory at the North Metropolitan TAFE in East Perth are now training on state-of-the-art equipment and technology, following a \$1.1 million investment in new laboratory facilities. I was especially pleased to see that, after engaging with a local Aboriginal knowledge holder, the water operations laboratory will be named "kep", which means "water" in Noongar.

We know that quality training requires advanced and up-to-date equipment. That directly translates to the future careers of students so they can be job-ready when they graduate. This is why our government has invested almost \$250 million to upgrade TAFE infrastructure and established the \$25 million TAFE modern equipment fund.

This new lab will provide students with essential skills to monitor, operate and control water processes in advanced water plants. Students will be able to gain qualifications, including the certificate III in water industry operations, that lead to job opportunities such as a water treatment plant operator and water quality officer. The course is also available to existing workers wanting to upskill or complete a formal certificate.

The water operations industry plays a crucial role in our state by ensuring a reliable supply of the clean water that is essential for communities, manufacturing, resources, agriculture, energy production and health care. As we face the impacts of climate change, training focused on water monitoring and treatment has never been more crucial.

Our government understands the importance of investing in training for jobs in this field so we can build resilient water systems now and into the future.

### **BUNBURY WATERFRONT**

*Statement by Minister for Regional Development*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Regional Development)** [9.15 am]: I am pleased to provide an update to the house about the 460-metre-long breakwater that is starting to take shape as the core infrastructure for Bunbury's waterfront transformation.

Premier Roger Cook and I had the pleasure of seeing the first rocks placed in the water last month, as construction started on the new \$69.2 million breakwater, which is north of Casuarina Boat Harbour. Once complete next year, it will create the sheltered waters we need to activate the precinct as a hub for the marine industry. It will create local jobs and help to diversify the south west economy through marine fabrication, engine and hull maintenance, painting, canvas and upholstery, and marine electronics, to name a few. This impressive structure has been made possible by a significant investment from the Cook Labor government, with a total of \$78.1 million supporting this part of the project.

I am pleased to say that two Western Australian companies, WA Limestone Contracting and Italia Stone Group, won the contract to build the breakwater. With construction well underway, more than 360 000 tonnes of rock will be transported to the site from WA quarries at Roelands, Byford and Jarrahdale. Some brilliant local content outcomes and jobs are being created for Bunbury businesses too. A contract was awarded in October to local Aboriginal contracting business Wilgee Civil to provide fencing to protect the dunes at BP Beach.

Another exciting piece of community infrastructure to feature as part of the project will be a new \$4 million universal-access fishing platform. Work on the platform will start in 2025. Once complete, it will improve safety and access for fishing, as well as play an important role in supporting tourism and recreation in the area. The platform will form part of a wider precinct that includes accessible change rooms and toilets, shade structures and landscaping.

The Transforming Bunbury's Waterfront project is a Cook Labor government election commitment that builds on the work of previous Labor governments, which began, of course, with the Bunbury 2000 initiative. Already, we have completed transformations along the Koombana Bay foreshore, the Jetty Road causeway and Jetty Baths park. Now, I look forward to seeing the completion of the new Bunbury breakwater and accessible fishing platform.

We are working together to build an even better future for Bunbury, the community and visitors for years to come.

### WA SENIORS WEEK

*Statement by Minister for Seniors and Ageing*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Seniors and Ageing)** [9.17 am]: I am pleased to inform the house that this week, from 10 to 17 November, is WA Seniors Week. WA Seniors Week is a fantastic opportunity to recognise and thank seniors for their contribution to our state, promote sensitive and positive ageing, and connect seniors to their communities. There are tremendous opportunities this week for older people to connect with their local community, volunteer, build friendships, gain new skills and keep active.

A total of 76 community groups and local governments across the state have shared \$80 000 of the Cook government's Seniors Week community grants program funding. Events this year include the Active Ageing Expo in Mindarie, the Seniors Week Olympics in Denham and the On Country with Our Elders event in Halls Creek. Other highlights of this week include the WA Seniors Awards, which I had the pleasure of attending on Tuesday at Kings Park. I offer congratulations to everyone who was nominated for WA Seniors Awards this year. Individual winners Suresh Rajan, Aunty Irene Davey and Christine Zambonetti were recognised for their long-term advocacy work. The contributions they have made have improved the lives of not just older people, but also people across generations of Western Australians.

Switched on Seniors and the City of Bayswater were also acknowledged, demonstrating just how important it is for organisations and local governments to enable seniors to live their best lives.

The Premier and I attended Have a Go Day at Burswood Park yesterday, and I congratulate the Seniors Recreation Council of WA, its president, Graham Bennett, its executive officer, Dawn Yates, and past president Phil Paddon on once again putting on a great event. This is one of Perth's largest free annual events for over 55s. This year while I was there, I was pleased to launch our new *Seniors information resource 2024–2025*. The resource booklet is an action from the state seniors strategy and was developed in response to feedback from older people across WA about the need for user-friendly, consolidated information on all the services, concessions and programs available to them.

Collectively, the initiatives and events promote an age-positive approach to life in which age is seen as a strength and not a barrier to participating in and enjoying life. I encourage all Western Australians to get involved this week in celebrating the priceless contributions of older people.

### REPRODUCTIVE COERCION — SEXUAL HEALTH QUARTERS

*Statement by Minister for Community Services*

**MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Community Services)** [9.20 am]: I recently attended a seminar hosted by Sexual Health Quarters celebrating the success of Safe to Tell, a groundbreaking program screening clients in clinical and counselling settings for intimate partner violence and reproductive coercion and abuse. This government has a very proud record of recognising the freedom and autonomy of people to make decisions around their reproductive rights. We have passed laws to provide safe access zones around termination clinics and laws to decriminalise abortion.

Reproductive coercion is a form of intimate partner violence whereby someone's reproductive health is controlled by their partner and can include contraceptives being sabotaged so they do not work; threats or use of physical violence if a contraceptive is requested; emotional blackmail around sex, pregnancy and termination; and partners insisting they attend all relevant appointments with the intent to control and monitor their partner. In 2018, Sexual Health Quarters developed a program consisting of a screening tool and training modules for staff aligned with our Path to Safety strategy, particularly the strategy's focus area on building specialist and mainstream workforce capacity to identify and respond to family and domestic violence. The goal of the project is to empower healthcare workers to recognise people experiencing reproductive coercion, respond compassionately and refer them to appropriate support services.

Sexual Health Quarters, which has been delivering services for over 50 years, is just one example of the many community health organisations that are invaluable in our response to family and domestic violence. They are often the first point of contact for victim-survivors seeking help. The organisations not only offer safe, trauma-informed and culturally appropriate services, but also play a critical role in preventing violence through education and early intervention. I want to congratulate Sexual Health Quarters and thank CEO Debra Barnes and her team for their hard work on this innovative program. It highlights how we can work collaboratively across sectors to identify and address family and domestic violence.

This initiative complements the Cook Labor government's work to address coercive control, including our \$5 million public education campaign "Coercion Hurts" to raise awareness about coercive control. We have passed changes to the definition of family and domestic violence in the Restraining Orders Act 1997 to better recognise the patterned nature of coercive control and we are undertaking a review of the common risk assessment and risk management framework to ensure that it includes coercive control.

Again, I would very much like to congratulate Sexual Health Quarters on its successful project and commitment to addressing family and domestic violence.

### **WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL**

#### *Grievance*

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [9.23 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Health and I thank the minister for taking my grievance. My grievance today highlights the concerning rhetoric from the Minister for Health claiming that transporting critically ill neonates between Murdoch and Perth Children's Hospital will not lead to any adverse outcomes. The Cook Labor government's decision to relocate the new women's and babies' hospital to Murdoch is a decision that could endanger the lives of vulnerable newborns. This is not just my interpretation; it is the expert advice from Western Australian clinicians. It is the expert advice of the Child and Adolescent Health Service.

It has been over 18 months since the decision was made to move the new women's and babies' hospital to Murdoch, and the choir of malcontent has grown, not diminished. It is not hard to see why. On 21 May, the minister referenced a Western Australian paper and a conference presentation to reassure us that long-distance transport of neonates does not increase the risk of mortality or major morbidity. Now, I do not know whether the minister intended to be misleading or simply was not informed; I will not cast aspersions —

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms L. METTAM:** But nowhere did the authors —

**Ms C.M. Rowe** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Belmont!

**Ms L. METTAM:** Nowhere did the authors of that research suggest that it is safe to transport critically ill newborns from Murdoch to Perth Children's Hospital.

**Ms C.M. Rowe** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Belmont!

#### *Point of Order*

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** This is a grievance that should be heard in silence.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I shall uphold that point of order. Grievances are meant to be heard without interruption. The minister will get the chance to respond and only the minister needs to respond. Carry on, member for Vasse.

#### *Grievance Resumed*

**Ms L. METTAM:** The babies referred to in the paper were a different patient group entirely from the group that concerns staff at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, Perth Children's Hospital and various health bodies across Western Australia. The study involved infants who had already been stabilised following immediate non-surgical cardiac interventions. They were babies who had undergone lifesaving procedures, making transport appropriate. That situation is wildly different from a sick newborn baby who has had no surgical intervention being transported, yet the minister equates the two situations as being the same. The minister even cited the safe transfer of patients from Perth to Melbourne with near-zero mortality rates but conveniently left out the fact that many of those patients had already had an interventional procedure by a cardiologist at Perth Children's Hospital to stabilise them and allow for safe transport.

The real concern raised by health professionals is the risk to newborns requiring urgent, time-critical transfers to Perth Children's Hospital. Citing research that does not align with this context is like using a map of Rome to navigate Paris—the details simply do not match up. Whether deliberate or not, citing that source misrepresents the information provided and I urge the minister to take this opportunity to correct the parliamentary record.

I know there are many concerns from clinicians regarding the metadata analysis the minister has cited several times in Parliament. They are not concerns I have concocted; again, they are concerns of our state's best and brightest clinicians in this specialist area. The paper has not been published or peer reviewed and it is from an anonymous source, which brings into question the validity of the intent behind how the information was produced. The solution is simple. The minister should release the full details and authorship of the report so that it can be properly scrutinised. The minister needs to take the opportunity to cast away any doubts.

The Child and Adolescent Health Service report into the location of the new women's and babies' hospital clearly states that vulnerable newborns will be at risk if this hospital is not tri-located. The report states, according to my notes —

“Expert international opinion and our own is that a noncollocated service (such as proposed in WA) will have an increased risk of mortality and disability compared to a collocated service.”

That is from a Western Australian report with research undertaken by Western Australian clinicians using data relevant to Western Australian patients and Western Australian hospitals or health services. The minister is disregarding the advice of Western Australia's top clinicians in favour of one report that has been misinterpreted and another that lacks proper peer review or critical scrutiny.

The minister has also misled regional patients by suggesting that the hospital's proximity to Jandakot Airport will benefit sick neonates. In reality, the majority of Royal Flying Doctor Service transfers via the newborn emergency transport service will still end up at Perth Children's Hospital, as many patients require specialised care available only there. It is a red herring designed to provide relief to mothers living regionally that somehow they will be better off at the Murdoch site, but clinicians disagree. As highlighted in the CAHS report, the argument that women with high-risk pregnancies traveling from regional areas to Perth would be better serviced at Murdoch lacks merit. Most high-risk pregnancies result in planned relocations as part of antenatal care rather than emergency transfers through RFDS. It is picked up in antenatal screenings, which play a pivotal role in the early detection of potential health issues and complications, and then planned for ahead of time. There is still time for the government to change course and deliver a world-class tri-located hospital that will provide the best possible care for Western Australian mothers and their babies. I hope the minister makes the right choice. I thank the minister again for taking the grievance.

**MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health)** [9.29 am]: The community knows that the Cook Labor government is making generational investments in the state's public infrastructure. The community knows that King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women is more than 100 years old and has served the state for many generations. It also knows that we cannot wait another 20 years for another women's hospital. We have to get on with it and we have to do it now. We know that there are unmitigable risks with building the hospital on the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre site. The government has been incredibly transparent about those risks by tabling and making the business case public, which is an extraordinary step for governments to take—they are generally commercial-in-confidence documents used to develop tender processes.

The Leader of the Liberal Party has had more than a year to outline to the community how she is going to mitigate risks. She has had more than a year to outline where on the QEII site she is going to put the hospital and which services at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital she will scale down. She has had more than a year to tell the community how she is going to continue to allow access to the emergency departments at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital and Perth Children's Hospital. Anyone with a sick toddler with a temperature trying to drive into Perth Children's Hospital will say they have to wait in a queue to get into the car park because of decisions the member's government made.

The Leader of the Liberal Party has had more than a year to tell the community how she intends to deliver this project and she has failed to do so. I do not resile from any of the documents I have tabled in this Parliament to outline that there are clearly different views in this state about the risks outlined. There is a group of clinicians who hold that view, and I respect that view. There is another group of clinicians who do not work at Perth Children's Hospital, but who work at almost every other site, who do not hold that view. That is why we have to listen to everybody's views.

She needs to outline what she is going to cancel to develop this hospital at Murdoch. What is she going to cancel? She is going to cancel 2 000 parking bays at Fiona Stanley Hospital. She is going to cancel a world-class facility in the southern suburbs for the women who live in the southern suburbs. Is she going to face the people of Bateman and tell them about how difficult it will be for them to access the local hospital and the parking issues in their areas? She is going to cancel an expanded neonatology department at Perth Children's Hospital and she is going to cancel the redevelopment of Osborne Park Hospital. She is going to cancel the family birthing centre and the new mothers' and babies' unit. She will cancel the doubling of maternity services for the constituents whom the members for Kingsley, Balcatta, Mount Lawley, Scarborough and all the other inner north seats and I serve. She will cancel those services.

The Leader of the Liberal Party has had more than a year to outline her plan and she has abjectly failed to do that. The community supports this plan. It understands the challenges at the QEII site. Women in the community support this plan. They want access to a broader range of birthing services closer to where they live. The member for Vasse has claimed that experts do not support this decision. I agree that there are a number of clinicians who do not support this decision, but let us look at the evidence that I have outlined to the community. She has seen the business case and the Infrastructure Western Australia report. She has had a personal briefing by the director general and she has heard from the director general in estimates hearings. She has seen evidence from other neonatologists who do not agree with the claims she makes in this place. The evidence clearly disputes those claims. She could not be more wrong.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The report she claims is a Child and Adolescent Health Service report is not a CAHS report and she knows that it is not. It was never endorsed by the organisation and she needs to stop claiming it as such.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

*Point of Order*

**Ms S.E. WINTON:** The minister heard the grievance in silence. I ask that the same respect be paid to her.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will uphold that point of order. Leader of the Liberal Party, you need to cease your interjections. Minister.

*Grievance Resumed*

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker. I want to address another issue raised in the member's grievance about regional women and babies and transfers. It is an indisputable fact that the location at Murdoch will be much better for regional patients. It will be a much faster transfer from the airport. I have a letter from the Royal Flying Doctor Service outlining its support for our relocation to Murdoch. I will table that letter for the member's information.

[See paper 3386.]

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The letter is from the chief executive officer of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, Judith Barker. She writes —

I write in support of your decision to locate the new Women and Babies Hospital in the Fiona Stanley Hospital (FSH) precinct.

The close proximity of the FSH precinct to the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) base at Jandakot Airport will ensure timely care for many of our most urgent patients from regional Western Australia. In 2023, this included 216 newborn babies ... and 469 women with complications of pregnancy who required RFDS transfer to Perth.

All but one of the opposition members are regional members. The Leader of the Liberal Party is a regional member. I note the Nationals WA have not come out in support of her position. We have not heard the position of the other party of the coalition.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Liberal Party, please!

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** We have an endorsement from the Royal Flying Doctor Service for the location of that hospital—a clear endorsement. The RFDS is more than comfortable; in fact, it endorses the move for regional women. The member represents regional women. What is she going to say—to make a claim that the Newborn Emergency Transport Service cannot transport these babies —

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister, please hold on. Leader of the Liberal Party, I have asked you to stop interjecting. Government members stopped when I asked them to; you need to do the same. Carry on, minister.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** To suggest that NETS cannot transport babies is an insult to NETS. It is an insult to those clinicians and it is an insult to the work of NETS. It is a world-class service and it does an incredible job. I have provided the member with all the evidence as to why this is the right decision. Today I have provided her with even more—an endorsement from a key health delivery service for regional Western Australia. It is clear that the member is under pressure this week and she is playing hits from the old playbook.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader of the Liberal Party, I call you for the first and second time.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** She is playing hits from the old playbook. She has mere months, if not weeks, to outline how she would deliver this hospital at the QEII site for the women of Western Australia. We have been transparent, open and clear with our plans. The community supports our plans and we are committed to them.

**RECREATIONAL FISHING — SUSTAINABILITY**

*Grievance*

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary)** [9.37 am]: My grievance is to the Minister for Fisheries. The minister has visited my electorate on several occasions and met with stakeholders like the Cockburn Power Boats Club and Recfishwest. I thank the minister for supporting recreational fishing in my community and I thank him for taking my grievance today. I raise this grievance with the minister because boating and fishing are important recreational activities in my electorate. The coastline and waters around Coogee Beach, Woodman Point and Cockburn Sound are renowned for their environmental value and recreational opportunities. Indeed, I was on my feet earlier this week putting it in contradistinction to the member for Rockingham's claims that Woodman Point is the "Kings Park of the South" or "Kings Park by the Sea".



Recreational fishing has a long and proud history in Cockburn. Over many decades, Cockburn Sound has been an excellent place to catch pink snapper, yellowtail kingfish, crabs and rock lobsters; however, those recreational fisheries have been under pressure in recent years. Pink snapper levels have been in decline and the crab fishery has been closed for roughly a decade. The commercial mussel fishery has also been closed. I know that recreational fishers have been anxious about the further closure of the demersal scalefish fishery that was implemented in 2023. I want to put it on the record that I have always supported that decision led by this minister. The minister was careful to limit the closure of the demersal scalefish fishery to only six months of the year, to spread that closure over intervals throughout the year and to keep the fishery open during the school holidays when families can enjoy the fishery. I support that decision, because it is important to take action now before more drastic action is required.

In this respect, I give the example of South Australia, where successive governments did not take action early enough to protect its fisheries. As a result, the pink snapper fishery in South Australia has been completely closed in two zones since 2019. After undertaking an independent review, the South Australian government recently extended the closure to 2026. That is a seven-year period when the pink snapper fishery in two major fishing zones in South Australia will be completely closed all year round. In supporting the government's decision to take early and decisive action to partially close the demersal scalefish fishery, I have continued to advocate for the government to open up sustainable access to fisheries in Cockburn Sound and to improve fishing infrastructure in my electorate, such as through the installation of more fish aggregation devices, or FADs.

As another example, I have particularly championed the redevelopment of Woodman Point Ammo jetty, which is an iconic location for fishing, diving and swimming in my electorate. It is the only disability-accessible fishing platform in the southern suburbs and a location where divers enjoy the great marine life attached to and surrounding the pylons that have been there for many years. I have lobbied the Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport to secure the funds to get this redevelopment over the line and I was pleased to see those funds delivered just in the last year. With consultation and design phases complete, I am pleased that we are moving into the delivery phase of the new redeveloped Woodman Point Ammo jetty. I cannot wait to see construction start.

In relation to fisheries, I know that some of my constituents are also concerned about the effect that the Westport project will have on Cockburn Sound. On that issue, it is worth noting that Cockburn Sound has been the site of heavy industry for many decades. We have long had to balance the needs of industry and the environmental values of the area. The Cook government continues that balancing act by progressing Westport, but also investing \$12.5 million in independent research by the Western Australian Marine Science Institution into Cockburn Sound, including research on its fisheries and aquatic resources.

Before I conclude, I acknowledge several organisations that support recreational boating and fishing in my electorate. The first organisation is the Cockburn Power Boats Club Inc, which has been the home of recreational boating and fishing in my electorate for many years. The CPBC provides boat pens, functions, education and advocacy for its members. It is ably led by Commodore Stephen Knight. Although Stephen's blood bleeds blue, he has been a great supporter of mine and I appreciate that. The association is also led by Vice Commodore Don Beisley, First-Rear Commodore Paul Chatterley, and Second-Rear Commodore Dave Turner. I also welcome Shaun Malone as the new general manager, who takes over from John Tissot. I thank John for his tireless work for the CPBC and for developing a strong working relationship with me. I wish Shaun the very best in the new role and look forward to working with him in the same way that I worked with John.

The second organisation I acknowledge is Marine Rescue Cockburn, which grew out of the CPBC in the 1970s when members saw the need for an organisation that would keep boaters safe at the northern end of Cockburn Sound. Marine Rescue Cockburn is led by Commander Brett Barbarich and Deputy Commander Brad Marston, who have been staunch advocates for Marine Rescue Cockburn and marine safety more generally. When I was first elected as the member for Cockburn, I spoke with both Brett and Brad about their priorities. I am pleased that we have delivered on those, in both introducing blood alcohol limits when skippering, and upgrading and refurbishing one of their vessels. I also acknowledge Marine Rescue Cockburn members Patrick Allieux and Bradley Nicholas, who were recognised for their service earlier this year at the City of Cockburn's Cockburn Volunteer Awards. I am also pleased to note that I will be attending the City of Cockburn's emergency services dinner in just a matter of weeks. I look forward to congratulating Marine Rescue Cockburn at that awards night as well.

In closing, I thank the minister for his ongoing support for fisheries in Cockburn Sound and ask him for an update on what the government is doing to support sustainable opportunities for recreational fishing and boating in Cockburn Sound.

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries)** [9.44 am]: I thank the member for his grievance and raising with me very important matters to the fishing community generally and in Cockburn Sound particularly. I also acknowledge the Cockburn Power Boats Club. I have met with the member for Cockburn and the members of that association on a couple of occasions and they were very engaging conversations, recognising the very important boating and fishing values associated with Cockburn Sound. It is a special area with great land-based opportunities. The protected waters of the sound create a unique, accessible and safe fishing destination for countless families. We have been doing a lot to try to improve recreational fishing experiences, but before I go into that, I will touch

on the importance of sustainability, which is fundamental to any decision-making in fisheries and to securing ongoing access to fish resources. Although sustainability is fundamental, the decisions are always made with the needs of the fishing community, both recreational and commercial, in mind.

The member raised the recent increase in restrictions on fishing for snapper, which are part of the west coast demersal scalefish resource. This is a prime example of having to make difficult decisions to ensure the future of one of the most prized and talked-about fish in our community. It is very unfortunate that the work of Hon Jon Ford, who recognised the issue and prevented commercial fishing of demersal scalefish in the metropolitan area back in the days of the Carpenter government, was not continued in the late 2000s, when the Barnett Liberal–National government failed to continue that work and watered down changes to address the sustainability challenge. We have lived with that decision since. We had the unfortunate position of trying to rectify this when the science identified the resource was not adequately recovering. The decisions associated with that are not made in isolation, but based on the Harvest Strategy Working Group, which includes commercial, recreational and government representation. We recognise that those decisions are difficult for those groups as well because multiple user groups within those peak bodies have their own particular views and interests. As we know in fisheries, those views can be expressed very strongly. We have acted to support the recovery and sustainability of these important fish and endeavoured to provide ongoing access across all sectors, notwithstanding criticism from the opposition, which is not based on science but on populism. I am still yet to receive a request for a briefing on one of the most important decisions that we have had to make about demersal scalefish that is based on science. I am still waiting for that request.

As the member has mentioned, South Australia had to make even harder decisions to close the snapper fishery entirely and that is not something we want to see in WA. That is why we are working hard. We have the Switch Your Fish campaign, which looks at other opportunities. It is a great opportunity on our west coast and in Cockburn Sound for all sorts of fishing experiences. We have a strong track record for sustainability and 96 per cent of our fish stocks are assessed as not being at risk or vulnerable through exploitation. That is incredible. Our herring stocks successfully bounced back after management changes were made in 2015, allowing us to increase the recreational bag from 12 to 20 in 2021. That is a great outcome. It is a great family fish and sport fish. In March this year, I announced the reopening of fishing for southern garfish in the metropolitan area, which has been very well received by the recreational fishing community. We were also able provide some additional sustainable access for the recreational sector for demersal species as a result of a successful voluntary fisheries adjustment scheme. This saw 18.5 tonnes worth of entitlement bought back to support the commercial sector to manage its catches to the revised recovery benchmarks. At the same time, an additional 20 tonnes was sold, which enabled the length of the spring opening in October–November to be doubled from two to four weeks, improving accessibility as well as additional tags for the charter sector. There will be a great opportunity for recreational fishers to go after blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound. It was closed in 2014 and I know a lot of people have been waiting eagerly to get back into that. From 1 December this year, recreational fishing for blue swimmer crabs in Cockburn Sound will resume under the same arrangements as in the Swan River.

There are recreational opportunities with the fish aggregation devices as part of a \$10 million support package that accompanied the demersal recovery program. There are 42 of those fish-attracting devices across the state targeting pelagic species, giving a great opportunity for anglers to get out on their boats and fish for Spanish mackerel, dolphinfish, and tuna that can be challenging fish to target but are a great sport fish and good eating. We have also released over 150 000 yellowtail kingfish into metropolitan waters over the past four years, which is another great non-demersal species to catch. The FADs program and yellowtail kingfish stocking program are all about creating opportunities for recreational fishers.

Although we have to make difficult decisions from time to time, we want to balance them by providing new options and new experiences. The member for Cockburn has been an advocate for the Woodman Point Ammo jetty in Cockburn Sound. That is a great opportunity. The Woodman Point Ammo jetty is a jewel in the crown for fishing in Cockburn. Not everyone can go out in a boat, and its unique location gives land-based fishers access to deeper water, increasing the variety of species that can be caught. It is also popular for swimming, snorkelling and scuba diving. It is a great asset. Through the member's advocacy, almost \$19 million has been allocated to support and replace the jetty. The new design is set to double the existing fishing space and improve access for swimmers and divers. The design also has great accessibility built in. A lot is happening, member for Cockburn. We have had to make difficult decisions, and we do not back away from that. At the same time, we will invest in our recreational fishing community and look for new opportunities. Along with the member, I want to thank organisations like the Cockburn Power Boats Club that recognise the importance of sustainability. I thank the member for his grievance.

#### **ATLAS FUELS, GERALDTON**

##### *Grievance*

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition)** [9.51 am]: Today I grieve on behalf of Atlas Fuels, Geraldton, which is a fuel wholesaler and retailer that is waiting for a power connection at its centre. My colleagues and I have raised similar issues with the Minister for Energy and his predecessor for more than three years. We have detailed multiple case studies involving delayed Western Power connections that have taken anything up

to two years—longer than some build times, in fact. This issue is not being resolved. It is hurting industry and is detrimental to development in our great state. This case involving Atlas Fuel reminds me of a case I raised with Minister Johnston 14 months ago. That involved a manufacturer of boom sprays, Goldacres, that had built a \$2 million shed in Goomalling and waited 18 months for a power connection. The existing power supply was just 20 metres away from the shed. The parent company that is based in Ballarat was incredulous that the power connection took so long. Similarly, the Atlas Fuels story does not involve a complex connection, but that business has been given the run-around by Western Power since September 2023, having received conflicting advice on numerous occasions. Atlas Fuels invested \$3.5 million in the new fuel station at 184 North West Coastal Highway, Geraldton. It is a significant development boasting a 250 000-litre tank farm. It opened to the public on 13 August, but without power, and is now reliant on a noisy genset and a third-party contractor to refuel the generator for safety reasons. Due to noise complaints, the generator is positioned in the drive-through, curtailing food and drink sales via the drive-through window. Generally offering the cheapest fuel in Geraldton, Atlas Fuels has been well received by motorists, but the local residents are sick of the noisy generator running 24/7.

The site had a live power supply until September 2023 when a pre-construction inspection identified that the site's main switchboard had been vandalised, posing a danger, advising that once the switchboard had been replaced, Western Power would reconnect Atlas Fuels. Construction was completed in July 2024 and the fuel station open to the public on 13 August 2024. For 14 months, Atlas has been given conflicting advice by Western Power that centres on whether this case involves a reconnection, an application for a new power supply or there is a need to disconnect before reconnecting. Meanwhile, Atlas Fuels, Geraldton, is running on generator power and has consumed in excess of 17 000 litres of diesel fuel to date, which has subjected the developer to financial hardship. The client estimates the sustained losses to be in excess of \$125 000 to date while waiting for this power connection.

Local Western Power inspectors visited the site on 7 August 2024 just after the notice of completion was lodged and signed off on the installation in readiness for connection. The advice received at that stage was that the connection should take a few days. The fuel station is literally waiting for the current transformer meter team to attend at the flick of a switch. Just weeks later, Atlas was refused connection by Western Power's head office and was advised that it could not skip the queue and had to apply for a new power connection. The advice given then was that the connection could take 12 to 18 months. Last month, two departments within Western Power have given differing advice about the correct form that is to be completed. Both departments insist that the other department is wrong. Atlas has tried submitting the form but Western Power's computer systems do not recognise the address. On 29 October, Western Power agreed to reconnect the power in line with the advice received in September 2023 and August 2024. On 9 November, when Atlas was advised that its project was at the design stage, it had no timeframe and was completely stumped about what needs to be designed. The developer associated with the project, Clint Nieuwendalal, a director of Chantica Midwest, says that the lot has a 630-amp supply allocation and necessitates only the reconnection and installation of a new current transformer meter. Clint made it clear to Western Power in an email this month that he would never want to build anything in WA again after this experience. A *Business News* article of 11 April titled "Developers frustrated by power delays" confirms that his experience is not isolated. In that article, businesses advise that connection times have blown out to two years, with building works completed well before the power could be connected, threatening lease agreements. In 2019, the connection times were four months. The article quotes Electrical Consultancy WA director Michael Anile, who had 250 applications with Western Power. According to my notes, he said —

"The biggest concern is it is stifling business growth in WA ...

"Businesses are signing leases on properties, but they are falling through because they can't get a power upgrade within a reasonable timeframe (three to six months) or ... they are running generators for months at a time, burning fossil fuels in a time when we are meant to be decarbonising the environment."

He said that a key issue at the state-owned utility was a lack of resources and that it is not proactive enough. Mr Anile said that Western Power should have been working on this in 2021. He said that it is reactive, not proactive. He added that Western Power did not realise the scale of the issue when it came about and instead thought it was a blip that would dissipate. He said Western Power thought it would go back to normal, but it has not.

Responding to my grievance on 21 September 2023, Minister Johnston said —

I have asked the chief executive of Western Power for a detailed program to make sure that the backlog is overcome.

It appears that for some commercial and industrial sectors the problem remains and, in fact, may be getting worse. I remind the minister that Western Power's webpage makes the following pledge —

Whether you're looking to connect your business or small to large-sized commercial site to the Western Power energy grid, our team is here to help.

There has not been much help for Atlas. I ask that the minister commit Western Power to urgently prioritise the connection of power to Atlas Fuels in Geraldton and not delay it by the months outlined in the minister's letter to me of 7 November. This saga has dragged on for far too long and needs immediate action.

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Energy)** [9.57 am]: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the grievance. I think we can both agree that the saga the member outlined is not good and that changes are needed. As I outlined in a response to a similar grievance from the member for Roe, Western Power is managing a much larger volume of those types of projects than it used to on the back of the booming Western Australian economy. I will paint the picture of where we are right now and the recent history. I have provided these statistics before. In 2019, pre-COVID, Western Power received about 3 000 applications for power connections a year and by 2022 the number had risen to more than 7 000; it more than doubled. That gives us an idea of the increase in demand on services. That increase has been sustained post-COVID and the latest number is that Western Power receives about 5 500 applications a year, compared with 3 000 pre-COVID. We have had a huge increase in demand. The challenge of meeting that demand was compounded by other factors, including global supply chain disruptions and a worldwide shortage of equipment such as transformers, as the world is very eager to decarbonise and electrify. Additionally, Western Australia's booming economy and strong jobs market means that Western Power, among other companies, faces competition in employing the specialist engineers that are needed to do that sort of work. As I have said before, Western Power is a regulated utility. It is different from a local plumber or a big commercial firm. Unlike those businesses, Western Power cannot refuse to take on new work. Western Power is obliged to serve the community and must take on new work irrespective of how busy it already is.

As the Leader of the Opposition pointed out, Western Power has been working on a new connection for the address of the Atlas Fuel facility located at 184 North West Coastal Highway, Wonthella. As I outlined in my letter to the Leader of the Opposition, this project has now progressed to the design stage. I absolutely appreciate that the customer is frustrated. It seems like this situation has been going on for too long and there has been confusion.

Western Power has advised me that its records indicate the previous supply to this site was abolished in June 2021. In September 2023, a fault call was made and, upon attendance, the Western Power fault crew found that the site had no meter. The fault crew called in the independent electrical inspector, who identified a noncompliant connection to Western Power's transformer. The noncompliant connection was disconnected and the customer was advised to submit an application to have the property safely connected to Western Power's network. I understand that the customer undertook the works to reinstate the customer's assets and connection back to Western Power's network as required. However, Western Power advises me that it did not receive a connection application for the property until 12 August 2024. Admittedly, confusion kicked in around this time. The application was made for a new supply, but because there had already been power supplied at the site at the size needed, only a reconnection was required. I am advised that on 30 September 2024, Western Power notified the applicant that they needed to request compliant reconnection or, more simply, a new meter.

I could go into the detail, but I do not believe I have the time. Suffice to say, this has not been an ideal situation. There has been confusion, but Western Power tells me that it has gone back to offer support to the applicant with the process on more than 10 occasions. Following the member's query in late October, Western Power has acted to assist the applicant to complete the correct application. Design review of the required works can take up to 12 weeks, as it is important that the design of any connection is carefully checked to minimise any risks or potential hazards. However, in this case, I am assured that the design is already completed. I understand that Western Power is expecting to issue the quote this week. Western Power also advises me that a planned outage will be required to isolate part of the network and that scheduling and construction of the works may take approximately 12 weeks to complete following completion of the design and payment of the quote. Again, it is important that any planned outages are carefully planned and undertaken to minimise any risk and impact on the surrounding community.

Again, I state that this whole process has been frustrating. We appreciate that customers can find navigating the process confusing. We and Western Power need to do better. Western Power is working to improve the systems and processes for delivering customer connections. The government recognises the critical importance of improving the process for network connections. We have spent \$10 million on a customer portal facility so that customers can gain access to know where they are in the queue, to know what is required and to update their information at any time. In addition to that, Western Power has doubled the number of specialist engineers. It is true that we have responded. We have increased resourcing and we have changed the way that we operate to deal with this issue. We have doubled the number of specialist engineers. Western Power is also realigning existing resources to find efficiencies and increase design, and is outsourcing by actively expanding an external design panel.

Western Power has also established a centralised dedicated quality assurance team to support both internal and external designers. To counteract the global supply chain issue, Western Power has invested in stock to have it on hand so that the equipment is there when needed, rather than being put on order. When that is not possible, Western Power has made early undertaking contracts available so that orders can be placed sooner when required.

This is admittedly a challenge. I want to thank the member for his grievance. I am hopeful that the applicant will be able to work with Western Power to get their connection finalised and done as soon as possible. More broadly, I am happy to follow up any other issues and specific inquiries the member may have on this matter. He has raised a legitimate concern and it is one that I share. It is a huge challenge. Western Power has made strong progress in meeting the increased demand, and, indeed, time schedules and timeframes have reduced for all types of connections, whether they be domestic, medium or large. But we always need to do better. I thank the member for his grievance.

**BALGA TAFE — REDEVELOPMENT***Grievance*

**MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary)** [10.04 am]: My grievance today is to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development. I want to thank the minister for taking my grievance. As the minister knows, the end of the school year is upon us and, once again, I have been attending a number of graduations around my electorate. I am always very impressed by the number of fantastic young people who are graduating and heading off to future careers and further study. Having access to education, training and pathways to employment is always a key concern for the people in my community because a good job is a pathway to a better future.

As young people graduate from school, one pathway that they are increasingly considering for future study is access to vocational training through TAFE. In my electorate of Mirrabooka, we are very excited that the redevelopment of Balga TAFE is taking shape. Just recently, I was out doorknocking near the Balga TAFE and people I spoke to were very excited to see how the redevelopment is progressing. Much of the building work cannot be seen from Mirrabooka Avenue, but from Loxwood Road, which is at the front of the TAFE campus, the incredible work that has taken place can clearly be seen. It has been a major redevelopment of the campus, including a new three-storey building that has replaced 22 run-down transportable classrooms that had been on the site. I understand this new specialist teaching block will be used to deliver training across a range of areas, including building and construction, electrical, English and adult migrant education. I also understand this new teaching block will have a mix of modern learning spaces, including technology-enabled classrooms and computer laboratories. The ground floor will welcome students and clients with a learning hub, a reception, student services and other amenities. It will also house the Balga jobs and skills centre. Importantly, a large future trades training workshop will accommodate emerging construction technologies.

Last year, minister, we had the opportunity to visit the site and see the fantastic new facilities taking shape. The new trades training workshop was particularly impressive. This redevelopment will ensure that Balga TAFE continues to serve my local community and much of the northern and eastern suburbs of Perth for generations to come. It is a particularly important institution for people who are wishing to enter the building and construction industry. My community is excited about this project. In raising this grievance today, I would welcome an update from the minister on the redevelopment and how it has progressed.

The significant investment in infrastructure in Balga TAFE and, in fact, around the state, has been just one element of our commitment to rebuilding TAFE and training. Another of our key commitments to vocational training has been to make TAFE affordable for young people and families. As the minister knows, when the Labor government was elected in 2017, we inherited a training sector in a mess. The Liberal–National government had trashed the TAFE system by cutting funding and making fees skyrocket. Not surprisingly, this resulted in plummeting enrolments. Under the Barnett government, TAFE course fees soared by 500 per cent, placing training out of reach of average Western Australians. Not surprisingly, annual student enrolments fell by 25 000. At that time, I recall clearly hearing about families in tears over those increases because they could not afford to send their children to TAFE. I wanted to share some examples of those increases that occurred between 2013 and 2016. A diploma of nursing increased by 409 per cent, costing a student \$9 467 to complete. A certificate III in education support increased from \$626 to \$3 050, an increase of 387 per cent. These increases had a devastating impact on individuals and their families who could no longer afford to study at TAFE. This appalling policy also had serious consequences for our economy because we need more workers with those skills. The Liberal–National policies priced many people out of being able to pursue training in those areas, impacting the pipeline of skilled workers our economy needs—and we continue today to pay the price for those poor decisions.

As members of our government well know, TAFE is not just a pathway for school leavers into a job. It has always played an important role in retraining, reskilling and allowing people to re-enter the workforce after career breaks. It has helped countless women to re-enter the workforce into a skilled job after taking a career break to have children, for example. TAFE has also allowed mature workers to re-skill for new jobs. Some of this reskilling has allowed mature workers to access highly skilled, specialised roles in industries like defence and resources. TAFE is also important to ensure that new migrants and refugees are able to access relevant skills and gain English language proficiency that will allow them to integrate into our community and find employment. This is particularly important in my electorate in which about half of all people speak a language other than English at home.

I am incredibly proud of our government's record on providing fee-free and affordable TAFE courses, but we have done more. We have provided access for students to experience TAFE and vocational education and training through our year 9 career taster program. This program is designed to encourage students to consider career paths and training at TAFE. We also have other initiatives that have been important for the rebuilding of the TAFE system, including the investment of \$25 million in TAFE colleges to upgrade their equipment to ensure that they remain relevant and meet current industry standards. I welcome an update from the minister on how these initiatives have been rolled out and welcomed, and the impact that they have had.

As I said, I am very proud of our government's record on TAFE and training. In 2017, we inherited a system that had been undermined by the policies of the Liberal–National government, but we have been committed to

rebuilding the TAFE and training system so that it meets the needs of young people, families and people looking to re-skill or re-enter the workforce. We have also been committed to rebuilding our TAFE and training system so that it meets the needs of employers and the economy. As we come to the end of this school year and young people are considering their future career choices, can the minister provide an update on our government's progress on rebuilding the TAFE and training sector through initiatives like fee-free TAFE courses, the career taster program and our investment in equipment? Can the minister also provide an update on the redevelopment of Balga TAFE and how it is progressing, as my community is eager to celebrate these incredible new facilities? Can the minister advise how the government is ensuring young people have access to vocational training so they can develop the skills needed to access secure and well-paid jobs and our economy can access the skilled workers that it needs?

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Training and Workforce Development)** [10.11 am]: I want to thank the member for Mirrabooka for raising this grievance. I would also like to acknowledge her impressive advocacy and work as the local member of Parliament on behalf of her community, particularly when it comes to ensuring that they have access to quality vocational training and the pathways that will provide them in order to take up the employment opportunities that we know are out there in our state at the moment.

As I have said in this place before and I will say it again, when we came to government, the training sector was in a mess. As the member noted, the previous Liberal–National coalition government hiked fees by over 500 per cent. That was a five-fold increase in some course fees. Annual student enrolments responded by falling by up to 25 000 as TAFE was put out of reach for many Western Australians. When we came to government in 2017, we went about fixing this mess. We immediately froze TAFE fees and then, after a period of budget repair, we went about slashing fees by up to 72 per cent for 210 courses in high-priority areas. We have also capped course fees at \$400 for job seekers, young people and concession holders, and \$1 200 for other students. These are significant improvements, but there is more.

When the Albanese government came into office, we partnered with it in a fee-free partnership. We now have 130 fee-free courses. We are also revitalising the TAFE sector by putting in place a range of measures, and it is working. Last year, publicly funded enrolments surged to a new record of more than 153 800. That is a record number of enrolments. They have increased again in 2024, up seven per cent to the end of September compared with the same time last year. With the federal government we have not only a fee-free partnership, but also a five-year national skills agreement. That provides certainty and security for the training sector in not only our publicly funded organisations like TAFE, but also privately registered training organisations. In addition to providing certainty, that national skills agreement also unlocks billions of dollars to build skills for Western Australians.

The member highlighted some comparisons between the Labor government and the former state conservative Liberal–National government and the fee increases that it imposed on Western Australians. I will also go over some of those fee increases because they demonstrate the stark difference between a Labor government and what the Liberal and National Parties should be judged on when they were last in government for eight and a half years. A student studying a diploma of nursing at TAFE was paying over \$10 000 for their qualification. Under our government, that course is fee free. A diploma of early childhood education and care cost more than \$6 800. Under our partnership with the federal government, it is free. Price really does matter, as enrolment numbers under our government show.

I also want to point out, as I have done at every opportunity recently in public forums, the solution of the Liberal and National Parties—the alternative government in Western Australian—to fix the housing situation in our state. We know that skilled labour is a key constraint to providing more houses in our state, so we have provided not only significant subsidies for training courses, but also a range of different solutions to try to unlock skilled labour for the building and construction industry. Under the former Liberal–National government, an advanced diploma of building surveying cost \$12 275. Under our government, people will pay as little as \$800. Another example is the advanced diploma of surveying. Under the previous government it cost \$4 748—just under \$5 000—but under our government it is free. The diploma of civil and structural engineering provides crucial qualifications and skills that are needed in our construction sector. That course cost just over \$4 500 under the previous government. Under our government it is free. I talked about surveying, an issue that local governments have raised with us. We have significantly reduced the fees for that course. As I said, it cost over \$12 000 under the previous government, but under our government students will pay as little as \$800. There are so many examples of courses in which we have not only reduced fees, but also, in some cases, made them free and really accessible for constituents like those in the member's electorate.

The member referred to youth participation in affordable training. This has resulted in a 58 per cent increase in enrolments across free and low-fee courses for students from 15 to 24 years of age. Just this week, with the federal government we announced an additional 2 140 fee-free construction places. These are all impressive offerings for making these skills courses accessible.

Member, I have run out of time because there is so much to talk about. The career taster program has been incredibly successful. We look forward to opening the improvements to the member's local TAFE college at Balga, which will not only improve access to training, but also show the value that we place on vocational training in our state.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE COMMISSIONER FOR  
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Tenth Report — Annual report 2023–24 — Tabling*

**MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington)** [10.19 am]: I present for tabling the tenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People titled *Annual report 2023–24*.

[See paper 3387.]

**Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE:** The *Annual report 2023–24* is the tenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People. The 2023–24 financial year was a busy year that saw us establish and conduct the bulk of the work for our inquiry into support for children and young people who have been directly and indirectly exposed to trauma associated with migration to Australia due to humanitarian crises. This inquiry was an important one for the committee. As part of the inquiry, we conducted several community consultations. The committee attended a consultation organised with the Edmund Rice Centre in Mirrabooka in April 2024. We attended further consultations in the Mandurah region in May 2024, where we met with the Multicultural Services Centre of WA and the Peel Multicultural Association Inc. At these consultations, we sought advice and input from community members about their experience of migrating to Australia and settling in Western Australia. They told us about the issues they see for refugee and humanitarian migrant children and young people. We would like to thank the community members who made time to meet with us. Their input and opinions are vitally important to inquiries such as these and gave us valuable insight into their experiences and priorities.

The committee would also like to thank all those who made submissions to the inquiry or who attended hearings. The input of academics, researchers, not-for-profit organisations, government agencies and others is critical to assisting committees in developing findings and recommendations for government. This committee is very aware of our important role in amplifying the voices of the children and their representatives who speak with us. We hope that we can convey the concerns of children and the community to government through our reports. Although the work for the inquiry was done during the 2023–24 financial year, the final report was not tabled until August 2024. It is titled *Pathways to thriving: Enhancing support for humanitarian children and young people in Western Australia*. We look forward to receiving the government’s response to the report this month.

In addition to the committee’s inquiry work, we continued with our oversight role of the Commissioner for Children and Young People and her office. The committee held a review hearing with the commissioner in November 2023. In April 2024, we also published a review report of some of the commissioner’s activities. The committee would like to acknowledge the commissioner’s ongoing advocacy, highlighting the needs and voices of children and young people. Her work is vital for ensuring that the issues impacting on children and young people are brought before government and policymakers. We thank the commissioner for her dedication to the role.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members for their contributions over the past year: the deputy chair, Hon Neil Thomson, MLC; Rebecca Stephens, MLA; and Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, MLC. Thank you also to our research staff for their support during 2023–24: principal research officer Naomi Sherrington and research officer Lucy Roberts. Lastly, thank you to our clerks, Isla Macphail and Mathew Bates, for their guidance, advice and support for our committee over this term.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE  
COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE**

*Eleventh Report — Priorities for further work for children and young people:  
Summary report of the work of the JSCCCYP of the 41st Parliament — Tabling*

**MRS R.M.J. CLARKE (Murray–Wellington)** [10.23 am]: I present for tabling the eleventh report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People titled *Priorities for further work for children and young people: Summary report of the work of the JSCCCYP of the 41st Parliament*.

[See paper 3388.]

**Mrs R.M.J. CLARKE:** I am proud to present to the Parliament this report, which summarises the work of the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People over the forty-first Parliament. The report highlights the areas in which the committee considers there is still work to be done and reiterates the recommendations from our research that we think should be addressed by government. Additionally, we hope that this report will provide a useful overview for the incoming JSCCCYP of the forty-second Parliament.

With three regional members and a member representing the North Metropolitan Region, the committee is well acquainted with the challenges faced by vulnerable children and their families. We chose to focus our research during this Parliament on the groups of children who are the most vulnerable within our community. Our inquiries therefore examined the importance of an independent advocate for Aboriginal children and young people, the need to address food insecurity for children affected by poverty and the needs of refugee and humanitarian migrant children impacted by trauma.

The committee's first research report examined the need for a commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people. There have been calls for an independent advocate for Aboriginal children and young people in WA since the Gordon inquiry in 2002. The committee's third report, tabled in 2021, reviewed the 20-year history of this proposal and again recommended the creation of such a position. Nearly every other state in Australia now has a commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people, or an equivalent advocate. Tasmania is the only exception, and it is currently progressing a bill to create such a commissioner. Additionally, a National Commission for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People has recently been established, with a new national commissioner due to commence in January 2025. WA will soon be the last remaining state jurisdiction without an independent advocate for Aboriginal children and young people. The committee understands that within the last two years, the Commissioner for Children and Young People has put forward two proposals for a directorate within her organisation to focus on the needs of Aboriginal children and that both funding proposals were refused. The committee continues to believe that the creation of at least a deputy commissioner for Aboriginal children and young people is of vital importance. This report therefore recommends that the commissioner be given additional and adequate funding to create such a role.

The committee's second inquiry report addressed the issue of food insecurity for children affected by poverty in Western Australia. The inquiry found that approximately 17 per cent of children in WA live with food insecurity. That is almost one in five children who do not have reliable access to good food. Insufficient food in childhood can cause short-term and long-term physical, mental and social impacts, and can impede the ability to learn. In my electorate, I see the significant impact that poverty and food insecurity have upon children and their schooling. I also see the enormous efforts made by individuals to address these problems. School staff go to great lengths to provide breakfast programs, food hampers, shopping assistance and other programs to help children to access good food, yet they often do so without systematic and comprehensive support. The committee was told that many schools have been providing food from their own funds, often at the expense of other educational resources or programs. We also heard of individual school staff using their own money to buy lunch for children.

Although the efforts of schools and staff to meet the needs of students are laudable, they are necessarily piecemeal and fragmented. They rely upon the goodwill of individuals within the school system. An engaged principal moving on to another school can mean the collapse of a school's food support program. An inability to find sufficient volunteers can threaten not only a lunch support program but also a school's breakfast program. The committee asked the Department of Education how much money schools were already spending on providing food for children. The Department of Education said that it was unable to quantify how much was being spent, and that it would impose an unreasonable administrative burden on schools to identify the funds used to provide free food. The committee does not accept this response. The Department of Education should know how much money is being spent to feed children. If it does not know, it should go to the effort to find out. This is particularly relevant, because the committee was told that some schools are using funds that would otherwise be used for programs such as literacy.

The fact remains that children who are hungry, and consistently hungry, cannot learn effectively. That is why the committee's *Hungry for change: Addressing food insecurity for children and young people affected by poverty* report recommended a coordinated and government-supported school lunch program. The committee is well aware that a school lunch program will need considerable funding and would face a range of logistical challenges, but big problems require big solutions, and I cannot think of a more important thing to spend money on than ensuring that children in poverty in our community are able to access adequate food. This is especially so, if it then improves their educational outcomes. This current report reiterates the recommendation of *Hungry for change* and calls for a pilot school lunch program to be established with a focus on low socio-economic metropolitan, regional and remote schools.

The committee's third inquiry report, *Pathways to thriving: Enhancing support for humanitarian children and young people in Western Australia*, examined the needs of children and young people from refugee and humanitarian backgrounds who have been exposed to trauma associated with migration. The inquiry looked at the supports available to these children as they settle here in Western Australia. Our research identified the following themes. There is insufficient data and research on refugee and humanitarian children and young people living in WA, yet experts believe that almost all such children have experienced trauma. Exposure to trauma can have a profound impact upon children's physical and mental health, which can continue into adulthood. However, this impact is not a certainty, and appropriate supports can enable such children to thrive. The inability to access appropriate supports at the relevant time can compound the effects of trauma and negatively impact on life outcomes; therefore, timely intervention is crucial for preventing negative outcomes. WA lacks adequate and dedicated support services for refugee and humanitarian children and young people. This is partly due to the mistaken belief that children are resilient and can easily adapt, and that addressing parents' needs will flow on to address children's needs.

The committee is looking forward to receiving the government's response to the *Pathways to thriving* report, which is due within the next week or so. We hope that the government will positively engage with the recommendations to improve settlement outcomes for refugee and humanitarian children and young people in WA.

This report also calls for greater focus within government on the needs of children. Two of the committee's reports have called for the appointment of a minister for children and young people, and this report reiterates that call.



The issues that impact on children and young people sometimes struggle for air in the crowded policy space. I would like to see the appointment of a minister who has responsibility and accountability for the breadth of policy implementation of children's issues. This should include a child wellbeing strategy. There have been calls for a child wellbeing strategy for Western Australia for some years now. Such a strategy should set out a whole-of-government shared understanding of what is important for child and youth wellbeing. It would reinforce other efforts to ensure policy coherence, and it would clarify the role of government and non-government actors in this space.

This report details the chequered history of the proposal, which has received government support at various times. However, work on the strategy appears to have stalled. The committee remains of the opinion that the government should prioritise the development and implementation of a child wellbeing strategy to address the long-term needs of children and their families in this state. Additionally, the committee recommends that any such strategy should include a particular focus on the needs of regional, remote and very remote children.

Finally, I acknowledge the previous Commissioner for Children and Young People, Colin Pettit, who was the incumbent when this committee began its term in 2021. Mr Pettit was a staunch advocate for the wellbeing of children and young people in WA and we thank him for his efforts. I also thank the current Commissioner for Children and Young People, Jacqueline McGowan-Jones, who commenced in the role in January 2022. I thank Commissioner McGowan-Jones for her passionate advocacy for children and young people and her efforts to highlight their needs and voices. Her work is vital to ensuring that the issues impacting on our children and young people are brought before government and policymakers. It is also vital that the voices of children and young people are heard. We thank the commissioner for her dedication to the role.

On a personal note, I want to say that I have found the work of this committee to be fulfilling, and it has been a privilege to undertake this role. I thank my fellow committee members for their contribution over the course of the Parliament: the deputy chair, Hon Neil Thomson, MLC; Rebecca Stephens, MLA; and Hon Ayor Makur Chuot, MLC. Thank you also to all the research staff who have supported this committee over the past four years: Dr Sarah Palmer, Naomi Sherrington and Lucy Roberts as principal research officers, and Carmen Cummings and Jovita Hogan as research officers. Last but not least, I thank our clerks, Isla Macphail and Mathew Bates, for their guidance, advice and support over this term with our committee. I thank you all.

#### EDUCATION AND HEALTH STANDING COMMITTEE

*Ninth Report — In the test tube: Finding WA's formula for health and medical research success — Tabling*

**MR C.J. TALLENTIRE (Thornlie)** [10.34 am]: I present for tabling the ninth report of the Education and Health Standing Committee, titled *In the test tube: Finding WA's formula for health and medical research success*. I also table a copy of the public submissions received by the committee.

[See papers 3389 and 3390.]

**Mr C.J. TALLENTIRE:** The inquiry that we have conducted has revealed a number of things. The current Cook government, following on from the McGowan government, has a strong commitment to medical research; that is beyond question. That commitment is backed up with dollars. As a government, we repurposed the Western Australian Future Fund. This goes back to 2019; I believe it was a 2017 election commitment. We repurposed that money to create the future health research and innovation fund, otherwise known as the FHRI fund, which makes available about \$60 million a year to medical and clinical research. However, at a national level, approximately \$900 million a year is available through the National Health and Medical Research Council.

Western Australia receives only four per cent of the NHMRC funds. If we use the standard criteria, four per cent is well below our 11 per cent proportion of the national population, so one of our fields of inquiry was how we can turn that around and address this problem, and what are some of the explanations for it. Those findings are documented in the report, as well as some of the initiatives we as a state can take to turn that situation around, because we need to attract that medical research talent to WA and we need to keep it here. We need to harness it. We need to invest in infrastructure and technology, and especially establish a research hub. Indeed, during the course of the inquiry, the Premier announced that he wants to take biomedical research to the next level by establishing a hub which, in time, will be part of a more extensive precinct. A memorandum of understanding has been signed with the CSIRO and the University of Western Australia to establish a hub at the CSIRO's Floreat site. In time, the intention is that this hub will form part of a wider biomedical precinct that will incorporate the UWA and Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centres in Nedlands. That is part of an announcement made by Minister Dawson, our Minister for Medical Research. I have to say, I found this quite striking: I was initially a little wary, because one always suspects that people are inclined to flatter the government and say nice things, but the number of times we heard that the sector was highly impressed by the energy, interest and attention to detail given by Minister Dawson was quite striking.

This report goes into a number of areas. The one I want to particularly highlight is the matter of how medical research can address issues around preventive health. There is a simple logic here; that is, if we can keep people out of hospitals, we can give them a better quality of lifestyle, make them much healthier all round and indeed save the state money by avoiding the level of hospitalisation that we unfortunately see. Connecting preventive health with medical research is a very important area.

Intuitively, we all understand that preventive health is a great way of achieving good bang for buck, but something we came to face during the inquiry was the shortage of people who could be described as health economists. We desperately need more people who work in that area so that we can have very academic, well-researched dollar figures on the benefits of doing things that avoid diabetes and go to problems with cardiovascular health. Those things need to be quantified in dollar terms, because we know that in our parliamentary setting, when we are dealing with the public service, to win an argument, it is always highly advantageous to have the dollar as well as the public health argument well lined up.

Going into a bit more detail on this matter of preventive health, I want to remind the house again of the sustainable health review's recommendation 2a, which states that we must —

Halt the rise in obesity in WA by July 2024 and have the highest percentage of population with a healthy weight of all states in Australia by July 2029.

Work is underway, but that recommendation has many facets to it. I have spoken in the past about the need to limit and contain the proliferation of fast-food outlets, which are the conveyors of the obesity problem, especially amongst our young people. We also need to look at preventive health measures as a clear priority for the medical research and clinician community. During the course of our inquiry, we were not convinced that that is the case. There was some encouragement that preventive health as a whole received about \$21 million from the \$173 million that has already been distributed through the future health research and innovation fund, so some money is going towards preventive health but whether it is targeted at obesity is perhaps another layer of detail. It strikes me that at the moment we are on a trajectory that is reliant on inventing our way out of a problem. We have seen the phase of people with obesity moving towards bariatric surgery; that is seen as a solution. Now there is a new wave of technological response, with a number of people using Ozempic, which is great for companies like Novo Nordisk, which has become highly profitable after selling incredible quantities of Ozempic. But that is not the pathway to a healthy country. We need to look at the preventive health mechanisms that can help us get there. I especially want to highlight recommendation 5 of our report, which states —

The FHRI Fund Advisory Council should ensure that projects which cannot easily demonstrate high return on investment are not deprioritised. Preventative health programs, which fall into that category, should be prioritised because of the overwhelming health benefits they can deliver.

This, of course, gets to the confirmation that could be had through the role of health economists.

Another very important facet of our medical research community that is perhaps worthy of a lot more in prioritisation, recognition and funding is the general practitioner community. We heard strong evidence from Associate Professor Nahal Mavaddat, who is the head of general practice at the School of Medicine at the University of Western Australia, and the WA chair of the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Dr Ramya Raman. They put to us that there was a role for primary health givers, GPs, to be involved in research. They gave us an example that demonstrates that their research could be incredibly valuable. The example was diabetes-specific studies. When these studies are conducted in the tertiary setting, there is a tendency to have lots of exclusion criteria. The clinicians and medical researchers want people who just have that type 2 diabetes condition to come forward so that they can focus their research on that problem. The finding in the GP world, the broader real world, is that about 78 per cent of people who present with diabetes have at least one other chronic condition. The perspective that research through the GP network could provide would be much more valid to the broader community. That is something really worthy of additional funding and support. It must be borne in mind, of course, that general practitioners are incredibly time-poor. I know that—I am sure other members find this—when I have an appointment with a GP, I am inclined to go in for only one or two issues; I am hesitant to veer beyond those things. It is not really the same as an annual health check. We need greater promotion of the possibility of booking appointments with our GPs on the understanding that it is going to be a long consult, one that might follow some blood tests and blood analysis work, during which there is a discussion. I know that at this workplace, we have had a very useful service that ticks that bill. As someone who is leaving this place, that is something I will miss, but I will endeavour to make sure that is something I gain through my GP in the future, rather than consultation on a single point. There are benefits to people being able to talk through with their GP their options to counter a weight issue: Should they be looking at bariatric surgery? Should they be looking at a weight loss drugs like Ozempic or should they be looking to change their diet and do more exercise? A GP is well placed to talk a patient through those sorts of options and help with the monitoring and advice that will enable them to find the best exercise program in the local area. I have noticed that GPs are increasingly in touch with those who provide exercise classes and walking groups and what have you.

This report is important on many levels. It is about the health of Western Australians and our contribution to medical research as a part of the global medical research community. We, of course, want to see Western Australia rise as a centre of excellence. We have many great areas of speciality, but we need to gain more from that and consolidate our reputation as a centre of medical research capability. Earlier in this Parliament, the Chief Scientist put forward an idea to boost our credentials and our standing in the global research community. His idea was around merging universities. It was given some media airing. The vice-chancellors of our universities did not like the idea of merging and attacked it in the media. Congratulations to Professor Peter Klinken, our Chief Scientist, for putting that idea

forward. We want Western Australian universities high up in the global university rankings, whether we use the Shanghai index or whatever one. Currently, WA has five universities for a population of three million; that is probably stretching things a little bit. It is always interesting to see those rankings and how we fare. That is something to keep an eye on.

The work of the committee over the forty-first Parliament has been characterised by its diligence and hard work. We have been very fortunate to have excellent principal researchers and researchers. Our principal research officer, Dr Sarah Palmer, has done an outstanding job on this and other reports. The support of our research officer, Maddison Evans, has been absolutely invaluable. Throughout my parliamentary experience, I have been struck by the outstanding quality of researchers who have worked on committees. It is a pleasure to behold. It is quite humbling to work with people who have such amazing capability. The issues we tackle are often very complex and require a whole new vocabulary. Each topic that we touch on tends to be a specialist area in which we are set to engage with people who have been working in that area for many, many years—their whole careers. Our research officers are equal to the challenge of engaging with those people and getting the best information, understanding the lie of the land at the moment and bringing that forward into a highly readable report and a series of findings and recommendations that do credit to our Parliament. I thank all the principal research officers I have had the privilege to work with over the years. It has been one of the highlights of my time in Parliament.

In a similar vein, I thank my colleagues the deputy chair and member for Maylands, the member for Dawesville, the member for Hillarys and the member for Pilbara. Their work has been very conscientious. They have kept me and my various ideas focused on the task at hand. They have been a pleasure to work with and I thank them for their support. I look forward to seeing the continuing careers of the members for Dawesville, Hillarys and Pilbara, and I look forward to seeing the next stage in the career outside this place that the member for Maylands embarks on. It has been an absolute privilege to chair the committee. We can be very proud of its work, including this report. I am happy to recommend it to members to read. For all the topic matter might sound a little dry, I think we have produced a highly readable report and anyone who has time to flick through it will find that their time has been well spent.

I again commend the report to the house.

**MS L.L. BAKER (Maylands)** [10.52 am]: I was going to start my response by welcoming the relevant minister to our house, but I note that he has fled. I thank him for coming. I am sorry he is not here to hear my contribution but I will endeavour to give as clear a response as I can to this report from my view. I am very, very grateful to have been able to work on this committee at the end of my career in this place. I thank both Catie Parsons and Sylvia Wolfe plus one—she just had a baby; although the baby did not work for us, Sylvia certainly did and she was fantastic. More recently, Dr Sarah Palmer has taken the reins with Maddison Evans. Both of these extremely proficient and talented women have done a great job working with the committee. I thank also my colleagues. The member for Thornlie chaired this committee for years and oversaw the production of five stellar reports. I thank him for his leadership and contribution over that time. I thank the member for Dawesville, the member for Hillarys and the member for Pilbara for their company and their contribution. It was all very welcome.

My contribution picks up towards the end of the report on a topic that I am sure members will not be surprised to hear that I am interested in; that is, what the best practice methods of testing in the scientific regime are. What is global best practice? Where is the future? Where is Western Australia compared with other countries around the world in adopting best practice? Although animals have long been used in medical research to avoid testing on humans, new technology is providing significant advancements in alternatives that are proving to be more reliable than using animals. National Health and Medical Research Council funding can be applied to assist with the development and validation of non-animal testing models, and some pharmaceutical countries—I mean, companies; mind you, they are about the size of countries, so perhaps that is more relevant. The companies are also showing an interest by investing heavily in non-animal models. However, evidence to the inquiry suggests that Australia and, in particular, Western Australia, is very much behind other jurisdictions in the development of alternatives and in phasing out the use of animals. I would not be at all surprised that that is the case. We no longer report on how many animals are used in animal testing in this state. I think that is a huge omission. I will come to that later.

The Education and Health Standing Committee's report *In the test tube: Finding WA's formula for health and medical research success* states —

Emerging research and testing methods such as organoids, organs-on-chip, in-vitro and artificial intelligence are resulting in more accurate research with greater applicability to human health. Discarded or donated human tissue is also being used as an alternative, which is obviously more biologically similar to the patients being treated, so medicines being tested are less likely to fail in clinical trials, which in turn saves resources. We believe the success of these emerging technologies highlights the opportunities for them to drive future research priorities in WA.

...

These technologies are beginning to exceed the performance of animal models in drug development and medical research.

Members should not forget that point; it is important. We are not saying to swap one for a failing other. I will share with the house some statistics the committee was given that underwrite this. We are saying that we need to swap animal testing for a far more efficient and effective form of medical testing. The report continues —

In New South Wales, the *Animal Research Amendment (Prohibition of Forced Swim Tests and Forced Smoke Inhalation Experiments) Bill 2023* was passed ... in March 2024, making NSW the first jurisdiction in the world to ban both controversial tests.

The name of those tests is exactly what they are. Animals are locked in a container and forced to swim until they are exhausted and they either die or are removed, and they are forced to inhale smoke under those similar awful conditions. That testing is now banned. I thank Hon Emma Hurst, MLC, from the New South Wales Parliament for her hard work to see that bill pass through that Parliament. She is an Animal Justice Party member.

It seems that although researchers in Western Australia are well aware of their obligations to use animals only when necessary, animal models are the go-to method here and there is no ready alternative or great incentive to find alternatives. The committee received significant evidence that the vast majority of drugs that succeed in animals go on to fail in human clinical tests. The figure differs among evidence, but sources indicate a failure rate on humans— are members ready for this?—of between 90 and 99 per cent, even though they have been applied to animal tests. Notably, drugs for Alzheimer’s disease failed to translate from animals to humans in 99.6 per cent of tests—and still we are killing animals for this sake. It is nonsensical to me. More resources need to be directed towards this area to ensure that Western Australia keeps pace with responsible, high-quality, best practice health and medical research. Significant investment is required to be committed as a priority to encourage a cultural change from the reliance on the use of animals to make alternative and replacement initiatives more accessible to researchers. The report continues —

Animal testing is often a requirement for regulatory purposes and commercialisation of products.

Although the Therapeutic Goods Administration does not mandate animal testing, it is heavily implied in its procedures. That needs to change. The WA government could, and should, establish an advisory group to support Western Australian researchers to use non-animal alternatives, as well as provide advice on how to source eligible funding. My committee agreed that this would be a positive step in assisting WA to embrace best practice methods.

I mentioned that we no longer report on the use of animals. In 2021, 100 000 animals were killed for research in Western Australia. Remember, about 90 per cent of that fails to transfer into human use. That is a diabolical figure. I agree with the RSPCA when it says —

community and research funders expect research to be conducted in a responsible and ethical manner. An integral aspect of best practice —

In medical science —

includes the use of non-animal alternatives ... High standards of research quality cannot be achieved without substantial and demonstrated commitment to the use of non-animal alternatives.

Hence, recommendation 15 of my committee’s report states —

The Department of Health in conjunction with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development considers directing more resources to furthering best practice methods of research in WA.

Before I finalise my comments, I note the Minister for Health is in the chamber with us and I am very grateful for her presence. I underline recommendation 15. It is not a big expense; it would be relatively cost free with potentially significant outcomes. We can put together a group from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development and Department of Health to look at how to best encourage research in this state to be far more relevant and mirror global best practice.

## JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON THE CORRUPTION AND CRIME COMMISSION

*Fifteenth Report — Who guards the guardians?:*

*Parliamentary and Parliamentary Inspector oversight of the Ombudsman — Tabling*

**MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda)** [11.00 am]: I present for tabling the fifteenth report of the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission titled *Who guards the guardians?: Parliamentary and Parliamentary Inspector oversight of the Ombudsman*.

[See paper 3391.]

**Mr M. HUGHES:** Member for Swan Hills, I will be relatively brief.

The Corruption and Crime Commission, in its *Report on the Western Australian Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman)* dated 8 October, respectfully recommended —

... that Parliament consider establishing a bipartisan joint committee to oversee the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations.

The commission also recommended —

... that the functions of the Parliamentary Inspector of the Corruption and Crime Commission be expanded to include oversight of the Ombudsman and the OWA.

That is the Office of the Ombudsman of Western Australia.

Members may recall that the above commission report on the Ombudsman advised Parliament of the outcome of its investigation into allegations of serious misconduct by the Ombudsman, Christopher Field, PSM. The commission formed an opinion of serious misconduct against Mr Field. After 17 years in the role, Mr Field resigned as Ombudsman. In its report, the commission observed that Mr Field had “faced little scrutiny over the years”, and the independence of the office of the Ombudsman “can only be assured if there is appropriate accountability”. In a similar vein, back in 2013, Hon Wayne Martin, AC, KC, the then Chief Justice of Western Australia, publicly spoke of the need for integrity agencies to be independent and accountable. The commission’s report on the Ombudsman highlights why more robust accountability and oversight of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Ombudsman is desirable, and recommends two additional layers of accountability.

As members are aware, oversight is a core function of Parliament, in addition to its lawmaking and representation functions. As well as holding the executive branch of government to account, Parliaments in Australia also oversee and hold independent statutory office holders, who report directly to Parliament, to account. It is essential that the Ombudsman is accountable to Parliament and the public of Western Australia. The public expects greater accountability and transparency from agencies that expend public funds, including statutory office holders and their accountability and integrity agencies. The joint standing committee therefore recommends that the Parliament of Western Australia enhances the rigour of committee oversight of the Ombudsman and the Office of the Ombudsman.

The committee’s preference is for Parliament to establish a new bipartisan joint committee focused on overseeing the Ombudsman and the other statutory office holders with whom the Legislative Council’s Standing Committee on Public Administration currently consults. Other options are noted in the report. A bipartisan joint committee of Parliament overseeing the Ombudsman and other independent statutory officers who report directly to Parliament is consistent with the approach taken in many other Parliaments in Australia. The committee recommends that the government examine whether additional oversight of the Ombudsman is necessary, including by the Parliamentary Inspector or an alternative oversight office, and that the tenure of the Ombudsman be limited to 10 years.

The committee thanks the commission for bringing the above to the attention of Parliament. I thank my colleagues on the Joint Standing Committee on the Corruption and Crime Commission—Hon Dr Steve Thomas, MLC; Hon Mia Davies, MLA, and Hon Klara Andric, MLC. I also thank Suzanne Veletta, principal research officer and associate research officer Jovita Hogan for assisting the committee to produce this report in an expeditious manner.

## ASSOCIATIONS AND CO-OPERATIVES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

### *Second Reading*

Resumed from 13 November.

**MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills — Parliamentary Secretary)** [11.05 am]: I rise to continue the comments on the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 that I began yesterday, before I was rudely interrupted by question time. At the time I was speaking about the many community organisations that I have had the great privilege to work with in my time as a local member.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Ms J.J. SHAW:** I was commenting about Chidlow. There is a particular organisation in Chidlow that it would be remiss of me not to mention. That is the incredible Chidlow Cougars Football Club. That organisation truly is the beating heart of Chidlow. Everyone is in some way associated with either that club or the fire brigade. I extend my gratitude for many friendships. My dad was the Cougars’ number one fan. It formed a guard of honour at his funeral. That club really got around my family when we lost my dad. I will be eternally grateful to the Cougars for that—I thank them again.

Mt Helena is the town next to Chidlow. I lived in Mt Helena for several years. The Mt Helena Residents and Ratepayers Progress Association is a great organisation that I was a member of before I became a member of Parliament. I tip my hat to the incredible Joan Quinn—what a powerhouse of a woman she is! The ratepayers association advocated for the Lion Mill Honour Roll, which had been sort of locked away by the Eastern Hills Senior High School. They had a bit of trouble getting the honour roll, which recognised the service of our diggers from Mt Helena, into a public place. It was Joan’s advocacy and the ratepayers association’s work that relocated the honour roll to Elsie Austin Oval Pavilion where the association organises Anzac services. That was an incredible thing that that association achieved.

The ratepayers association also runs the Hills Billy Cart Festival and the Whim Festival. They are two incredible community events. The billy cart festival can be a bit of a white-knuckle experience, but the kids do not seem to mind. It is a great community event organised by the association. The association has been incredibly persistent in

advocating for upgrades to the Elsie Austin Oval Pavilion. I was very pleased to provide a contribution towards the upgrade of the pavilion. I not only recognise Joan Quinn, but also Narelle Thredgold who, as part of the Mt Helena Football Club, has been pushing Starkick and advocating for accessible changing rooms and improving the quality of the oval. It demonstrates the incredible capacity that exists in ratepayer associations. The ratepayer association has been fiercely advocating to keep the Mt Helena pool open and accessible to the community as much as possible. I would like to acknowledge Wade Isard's advocacy with the ratepayer association on that issue.

The incredible Mt Helena Voluntary Bush Fire Brigade is headed by Andrew Duncan and Kerensa McGrane. The Mt Helena brigade turns out each and every summer, as do all brigades in Swan Hills. They do an incredible job, as does the Sawyers Valley Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. I acknowledge Adrian Woodley and his team. He takes a real leadership role in the volunteer bushfire community more broadly. I have always really enjoyed speaking to him about the issues that are of significance to all our local bush fire brigades.

The Wooroloo community has been most affected by bushfires in recent times. In 2021, we obviously had the Wooroloo fires that took out 86 homes, burnt 10 000 hectares of land and 250 firefighters from our local area turned out to fight those fires. The fire started in Wooroloo and the Wooroloo Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade was the first to turn out. I acknowledge David Burgess, Craig Pabst and Lesley Lynam for their leadership of the Wooroloo Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade. That is another association I have been very pleased to support over the years. That fire was a terrible event but it really drew the community together. I want to acknowledge Vanessa van der Swaagh, who won the inspirational volunteer award from the Shire of Mundaring for the work she did with many community organisations advocating for the things that people needed in the aftermath of that fire. She was remarkable. Ian Robertson from the City of Swan did so much for many years to help that community recover. People think that the majority of the trauma occurs during a fire event, but that is not the case. These events have a significant ripple effect that lasts throughout the years. Ian did a remarkable job for the City of Swan. I acknowledge the Noble Falls Tavern owners, Brian and Sharon Wickens. It was remarkable that the tavern survived, considering the way the fire swept through the area. The tavern became a real hub for the community and I acknowledge Brian and Sharon for what they did.

As much as it was tragic, I want to also highlight that some fantastic community organisations have been formed out of it and some of the wonderful community events that have occurred. I acknowledge the Australian Rustic Farm Art Awards at the Gidgegannup Agricultural Show. The rustic art awards were intended to create artworks out of the fire-damaged buildings. They are quite remarkable and I have been very proud to sponsor that. The Gidgegannup Men's Shed also formed. It did incredible work to help all sorts of people throughout Wooroloo and Gidgegannup to rebuild their properties. A lot of beautiful timber work was made from the trees that were felled. The Men's Shed is advocating for a home and I certainly hope that it gets one.

Although the fire was called the Wooroloo fires, Gidgegannup bore the brunt of them. I acknowledge the role of the Gidgegannup Recreation Club for bringing the community together and supporting the community. Paul and Leonie Carroll have done remarkable work. Paul in particular has spoken to me about how profoundly affected he was by the Wooroloo fires. The Gidgegannup rec club was another place where everybody gathered during the fires and in the aftermath to access services and support. I thank the Gidgegannup rec club for its work.

East Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is headed by Callum McCrudden and the current captain of the West Gidgegannup Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade is Neil Pennison. I want to send a particular shout-out to Beau Algeri and Tony Brine who worked with me to deliver the west Gidgegannup fire station, which was the single largest commitment a state government has ever made to a volunteer bush fire brigade facility. It is remarkable. I had the great privilege to open that on behalf of Minister Logan at the time. The brigades out there are worth their weight in gold and certainly do incredible work. In Gidgegannup we also have the Gidgegannup Progress Association and the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society. Sally Block does a lot of work with the GPA and Hugh Burgess does a lot for the Gidgegannup Agricultural Society. Hugh also runs the rustic art awards. I acknowledge Hugh's great work on those two fantastic community events. When the Gidgegannup show was on a few weeks ago, people could not get up Toodyay Road because it was absolutely packed out.

The Wooroloo fires came all the way from Wooroloo to Gidgegannup to the boundary of my neighbour's place. I was evacuated and at one stage thought I had lost my home. It also swept through to Bullsbrook at the other end of the electorate. The fire went from one end of the community to the next. The Bullsbrook community also came together, much like the Gidgegannup and Wooroloo communities. I acknowledge the remarkable efforts of the Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association, particularly Anne and Richard Janes, Anne and Frank Sibbel and Troy van Heemst. Name an issue in Bullsbrook and the BRRA has been fiercely advocating for it. The Bullsbrook tip petition was the first issue I took up as a local member. I acknowledge Lisa Vella and her late husband, Andrew. I thank Jill and Wayne Charles for their advocacy on that issue at BRRA. They fought for scheme water to Bullsbrook following PFAS contamination of the bore water. They are integral in advocating for the sort of community they want to build to the new Kingsford town centre. They certainly fiercely advocated to me about the Shady Hills access road that the state government has funded that is underway through the City of Swan. I acknowledge Shirley Routley in particular for her advocacy for that. The Bullsbrook Residents and Ratepayers Association auspiced the

Bullsbrook Museum. Even though Jill and Wayne Charles have moved out of the area, Wayne is there fighting for the museum, as are Sandy and Alan Pate. Frank and Anne Sibbel are also integral to the Bullsbrook Museum. An interpretation trail is now running through Bullsbrook. The Bullsbrook Men's Shed hosted at the museum. I acknowledge Geoff Liddle, Michael Appleton and Peter Tenant. The Bullsbrook Men's Shed is a fantastic organisation, as are men's sheds generally. I acknowledge from the Ellenbrook Men's Shed Colin Dacey, Merv Barret, Richard Long and Ken Robertson for all their work establishing and running the Bullsbrook Men's Shed.

Maxine Aitken does a wonderful job at the Bullsbrook Toy Library and Sue Davies works at the Bullsbrook Community Garden. The Bullsbrook Country Women's Association held a fantastic international women's day event and brought all sorts of migrant women together. It was absolutely fantastic. Bullsbrook Landcare Group does much for the local environment. Again, the Janeses and Wendy Claxon and Humphrey Park do incredible work in Bullsbrook. Chris Unstead works for the Bullsbrook volunteer fire and emergency services. What a community champion he is! I acknowledge that that fire brigade needs a new home. I have advocated that to the Premier. The Premier was very pleased to accompany me to Bullsbrook, which was the first time he had been to Bullsbrook. We visited the fire station together. I acknowledge that a better-quality facility is needed.

In the Swan Valley we have the Upper Swan District Ratepayers and Residents Association. Anne Winchester is there and is absolutely fantastic. We fought bitumen batching, worked on the planning of the Clementine Estate, the traffic issues on Great Northern Highway and on a raft of environmental and planning issues. Also in the Swan Valley is the Friends of the Western Swamp Tortoise. Cathy Levett and Jan Bandt do great work around the preservation of the nation's most critically endangered reptile. In Brigadoon we have the fantastic East Swan Volunteer Bush Fire Brigade, which is headed by Tex McPherson, and the State Equestrian Centre. All those equestrian organisations do a great job. More broadly in the Swan Valley, I thank Jeff and Carolyn Williams and Humphrey Boogaardt from the Swan Valley Residents and Ratepayers Association. The big issue it had was reorienting the Hanson rock quarry and making sure that the face did not break out in the Swan Valley. At the Swan Valley Tourism Alliance, Sally Zannino and the team promote the economic development of the region. We have grapegrowers, the Swan Athletic Sporting Club and the Swan Valley Sporting and Community Club. They are absolutely fantastic organisations.

It has been a great pleasure as the member for Swan Hills to work with all those fantastic community organisations. It has been a privilege. I am very grateful and can tell members that we have to make sure that we put the right legislative regimes in place to support the fantastic community work that so many associations do in our local areas.

**MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton)** [11.19 am]: It gives me great pleasure to also contribute to the second reading debate on the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Like my colleague the member for Swan Hills and many others, I am sure I will not have enough time to put on record all the amazing organisations and clubs throughout the electorate that I am so proud to represent. I will begin with just a little bit of background around the bill.

The Associations Incorporation Act 2015 commenced in 2016 and provided for a modern streamlined scheme for the incorporation and management of not-for-profit organisations. My background has a relatively short history in politics, in particular organised politics, but a very, very long history in organisations and clubs in the community space. My understanding of the bill comes from the perspective of someone who has really been in that space at a grassroots level. I have sat on many committees over the years, all of which have been voluntary. The people who contribute to those organisations find themselves there because they have either put up their hand to sit on that executive committee as a president, vice president or treasurer, or perhaps their hand has kind of been raised for them to help out in that capacity. They come from backgrounds with a wide range of experience, understanding and knowledge. We need to ensure that the legislative framework that wraps around those voluntary organisations is not only fit for purpose, but also streamlined and workable for those organisations that may or may not have access or knowledge around the certain legalities required to run effectively and deliver what is desired by the organisation and the community that it seeks to support.

The Associations Incorporation Act allows incorporation for —

- (i) a religious, educational, charitable or benevolent purpose;
- (ii) the purpose of promoting or encouraging literature, science or the arts;
- (iii) the purpose of providing medical treatment or attention, or promoting the interests of persons who suffer from a particular physical, mental or intellectual disability or condition;
- (iv) the purpose of sport, recreation or amusement;
- (v) the purpose of establishing, carrying on or improving a community centre, or promoting the interests of a local community ...

That pretty much covers off so many different organisations, charities and not-for-profits that we in this house have within our varied electorates.

The Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety's Consumer Protection division undertook a statutory review of the associations act during 2022 to assess its operational effectiveness and to identify areas in which it could be improved. A report on the review with recommendations was tabled in Parliament in March 2023. The bill will amend the associations act to implement the recommendations of the report, the most significant of which will allow an association to reserve its name when it commences the incorporation process or when it wishes to change its name for a period of up to three months. The bill will also provide for electronic attendance and voting at meetings to be the default position, with associations able to opt out of allowing electronic meetings and voting within their rules.

I have been a parents and citizens association representative at my local schools, originally at Palmyra Primary School, where my kids attended, and then at Melville Senior High School, where I still am on the P&C executive. For three years I have also been the Fremantle district representative at the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations, which is, in other words, the parent body of P&C associations. I have sat around many P&C meetings where we really struggled for a quorum. That has not been through a lack of interest, but because there is so much pressure on the parents and carers of children of school age to do the usual things of working, raising a family and other commitments. For them to then put forward voluntary time to support the interests of our schools and teachers, and the other kids and experience that they have alongside our own children, is something that is incredibly important. I highly value it and I have gained so much from this experience, but it is tough. The silver lining from COVID times was that people had the ability to attend those meetings remotely. It is vital that we allow people to do that, whether they be from the metropolitan or regional areas, to ensure that those associations like P&Cs can continue to do the very important work that they do.

This bill will provide for other things, like the appointment of an auditor for a fixed period of time not exceeding five years. I have never been the treasurer of a P&C. I have certainly been a president, a vice president and a fundraising coordinator and I have had other roles, but the auditing requirement is incredibly important. At times it has been quite challenging for the P&Cs that I have sat on to find a person to provide that audit service, so this is a really good change.

The bill will amend the associations act to give associations the ability to access small business restructuring arrangements introduced for businesses incorporated by the commonwealth in January 2021. These arrangements seek to assist small businesses to avoid failure. I have a somewhat unique perspective on this, having been involved with a lot of these committees and voluntary organisations, but my husband and I also have a small family business, which has grown steadily over the last 20 years, and to apply the thinking and logic and some of the support mechanisms that are in place for small businesses to not-for-profits and charities is a really important thing. It will provide for sustainability. When I talk about sustainability, I am referring to not just financial sustainability, but also the ability for the organisation to sustain itself over generations, particularly in the case of a P&C. We all know that traditionally there is a migration of kids out of primary schools at the end of year 6 to secondary schools. Of course, there is often a changeover of voluntary personnel on the P&C. Having some really important structured framework around that and assistance and support to allow for that succession planning again is absolutely vital. Whether we are a teacher, a person who has worked in a school environment, or a parent with children who have gone through schools, I think we would all agree that our schools are much better when we have active P&Cs that can work collaboratively with the principal, the administration and staff.

That is a nice little segue to something that I am going to read out. This is one of the chapters from my inaugural speech of 2017. I titled my inaugural speech "From P&C president to parliamentarian". It states —

My journey from P&C president to parliamentarian has been driven by a simple belief that people drive policy, and that with collective action and a common purpose great things can be achieved. I view life from the bottom up, not the top down, and believe we can change society one street at a time.

That statement is as true to me today, nearly eight years later in this place, as it was when I wrote it.

I will give a shout-out to a whole bunch of amazing organisations in the electorate of Bicton. I have a list of 50 organisation, and the list is growing, so I doubt that I will get through them all. I will read them out and maybe expand on a couple.

I start with my P&Cs. Attadale Primary School and P&C president, Gemma Brogden and Jason Macintosh. It is very smart that they share that role; I think that is a good tip. Then there is Bicton Primary School and Ellie Winch. I have a funny feeling Ellie might even be president–secretary. That is not that unusual. Then there is Melville Primary School and Tim Slater and Palmyra Primary School's Joel Thompson.

Just a little bit about Palmyra Primary School because that is where my kids went, and I am still, of course, really passionately connected because it is the community that I live in. I give a shout-out to the amazing sustainability subcommittee within Palmyra Primary School and all the incredible work it has done and continues to do. Do yourself a favour—if you are around that way on a Sunday, go visit the Palmyra Farmers Market, which I have proudly managed for three years on behalf of the P&C. I am so proud of that. It is still operating 15 years later. Check out the "Pally Patch", the kitchen garden at the school. It has now expanded beyond simply a school kitchen garden.



I am also proudly a member of the “Friends of the Pally Patch” and get in there and do a bit of weeding and mulch shifting on the weekends. It is good for the belly—it grows all the amazing produce that goes into the school canteen—and it is really good for the soul, so get down there if members can.

Then there is Claire Hopely from Richmond Primary School and Karen Greenwood from Melville Senior High School. My daughter is still at Melville. As I mentioned, I am still proudly on its P&C. Melville Senior High School’s “Megabites” canteen is a finalist in the global Jamie Oliver golden spoon award. On an annual basis, that school canteen turns over around \$500 000. It actually caters for a lot of the school events that they run as well as catering for our school population, which is incredible. It is incredibly healthy. I think of a lot of our school P&Cs have changed over time to be much healthier than the old cheesy they had when I was helping out at the canteen when my kids were little.

Our Lady of Fatima Primary School is a lovely little Catholic primary school in Palmyra. There is also Caralee Community School’s Rachel Wedgewood. In the redistribution, I had another primary school added, which is Caralee in Willagee. I am just getting to know that community. I have to say, it is really exceptional. It is really exciting for me to get to know that new community.

Kardinya Primary School is not in my electorate; it is in my colleague the member for Bateman’s electorate. Roughly half the catchment comes from, again, another new part of the electorate of Bicton. It is another exciting thing for me to get to know that community and the needs of those school families.

Then there are sporting clubs like Attadale Bombers Junior Football Club and Attadale Netball Club. I was super-proud to be part of delivering some shelters around the netball courts that have now been moved to Point Walter from Joondalup. That has really supported massive growth in that netball club. I do not want to forget my other netball clubs. I will obviously not get to run through them all, but I will give it a crack. Bicton Junior Cricket Club and Trevor Bilney; Bicton Netball Club and Kim Evans; East Fremantle Cricket Club and Michael Carmody; East Fremantle Croquet Club and David Fardon; East Fremantle Junior Cricket Club and Stuart King; East Fremantle Junior Football Club and Nikki Hevron, one of the few female presidents. The senior club in the electorate, Melville Rams, has its first female president in Amy Plover, who took the role on a year ago and is doing exceptional things. I give a shout-out to Amy.

Then there is East Fremantle Lacrosse Club and Tony Martella. Lacrosse is not a sport I had a lot to do with growing up. If members are along that stretch of Preston Point Road in East Fremantle when they are playing lacrosse, they will see that that game is quite dynamic. That is the word I would use. It kind of looks a little scary and violent as well, but there are strong rules around it. The exciting thing about lacrosse, apart from the dynamic nature of the sport, is that it is going into the next Olympics in Los Angeles. I am doing everything I can to support some of the talented youth coming through that club in East Fremantle. I am sure there will be representatives at that Olympic Games from East Fremantle. That is pretty cool.

Then there is East Fremantle Lawn Tennis Club and William Bell; East Fremantle Sharks Netball Club and its president, Clare Bonds; Fremantle City Football Club down at Wauhop Park and Tony Estrano, David Cain and all the incredible women. An entirely girls and women program is run out of Wauhop Park in East Fremantle. My colleague the member for Fremantle and I have delivered on a commitment we made in 2021 to support the upgrades to its facilities. We are excited to see those will open soon.

Then there is Hilton Bicton Cricket Club, Melville Junior Football Club or the mighty “Hawks” and Clint Davies, and I have already talked about Mighty Rams. I acknowledge the Melville Lakers Netball Club and Carrie Ashby, and the Melville Water Polo Club is another exceptional facility that I will talk a little more about in my two-minute statement.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mrs L.M. O’MALLEY:** Melville Water Polo Club supports aquatic activities to the elite level of the sport as well as the community perspective. I think the Acting Speaker will agree with me that post COVID, we had frightening statistics around drownings. My first career was in aquatics and fitness. As a former swim teacher and lifeguard, it worries me greatly that these statistics resulted from a lack of access to aquatic facilities, with not enough swimming pools or financial constraints. Communities that are coming from other countries to our wonderful state certainly may not have access to aquatic activities and learn-to-swim programs.

I will just zip over sideways to again talk about Melville Senior High School. Melville Senior High School, like some of our public schools, has a swimming pool. Correct me if I am wrong, members, but I do not think there are any public high schools with heated swimming pools. This is a bit of a no-brainer. If we can get our pools heated, our kids can swim for more of the year and high schools can partner with local primary schools to deliver in-term swim programs to look at alternative additional revenue streams for our high schools. Melville partners with Melville Lakers Netball Club to utilise netball courts; they have a kind of fee-for-service and access agreement.

Melville Water Polo Club is talking—and has talked, over the years; I have tried to bring them together—with Melville Senior High School about the growth of sport and the increasingly incredibly important opportunities to learn to swim can be supported. Melville Senior High School also has a school within a school. It brings students

from other areas into an intensive English language program for 12 months. These kids often get only one chance in one year. You cannot teach a kid to swim in two months, but you can definitely help teach them how not to drown. I get a little passionate about this subject, particularly when it comes to water polo. Water polo is a sport that is played vertically. In a former life I was a deepwater aerobics instructor so, again, I am passionate about aquatics. It is a vertical activity. When someone accidentally falls into a body of water, they do not roll onto their back and start floating; they often will be fully clothed, and they will be in a vertical position. Herein lies the thinking—if, for example, Melville Senior High School were to be partnered with Melville Water Polo Club through a partnership arrangement in the activity of water polo. This is not about providing an elite pathway; this is simply about providing students with an opportunity to become comfortable in a body of water, in a vertical position. The water is heated, so it could be done throughout the whole year. That is an outcome that I am certainly working towards, through a partnership between the school and the club. There have been many conversations about that over time, and over successive education and sport ministers. I know that both current and previous ministers have been very keen to create these sorts of opportunities, whereby we can increase physical health and sporting pathways to learn new skills.

I am sure that a lot of my colleagues would agree that our community spaces are really constrained in terms of access to things like playing fields and swimming pools. We need to unlock the assets we have within our schools. By working one-on-one as active local members with our schools and sporting groups, we can unlock those assets on an individual basis by looking at them more holistically across the whole state. That would be fantastic to see. Again, I go back to P&Cs, school principals and individual champions within these organisations. It should be the case that, when an individual champion leaves their role, there is still an opportunity to continue their really vital work.

I will keep on running through my list. Next is Palmyra Junior Football Club. I apologise in advance for all the sporting organisations I will probably forget or not get to. There is St Christopher's Netball WA, Winnacott Kats and Winnacott Eagles. These last two junior and senior football clubs are also located in the new part of the electorate of Bicton, in Willagee. That is another whole community of clubs that I had the great pleasure of getting to know and support over the last football season. Colin Armstrong is the president of Fremantle Rowing Club, and Greg Peters is the president of Troy Park Sporting Association. Troy Park has Attadale Junior Football Club and Attadale-Bicton Junior Cricket Club. Y Striders is a walking and running club that has grown to about 80 members or more, at Troy Park. Sondra Anderson is the president of the Fremantle Netball Association. Claire Bond is the president of Fremantle Sharks Netball Club, and she won the Westfield Hero recently.

I could spend another 20 minutes just talking about the East Fremantle Football Club, but there is not enough time for that. I am super excited that the facility at East Fremantle Community Park is now completed and the Sharks have moved in. That is just amazing. There are still a few little things to go through, but everyone is there and it is an amazing community. It is now fully activated and totally accessible, which is just amazing, and it is a facility that I am so incredibly proud to have been a part of delivering for the whole community.

In the time I have left I really want to talk about my amazing community organisations and charities that support the really important work of mental health. I have an ongoing passion for supporting organisations that are doing the really important grassroots work in the preventive space—organisations like the Kai Eardley Foundation. Claire Eardley lost her son Kai to suicide in 2016, and she has been able to take that awful experience and make something incredible out of it. It will never take away the pain of loss, but Claire has made a commitment to growing that foundation in honour of her son Kai. It has now become an incorporated charity that has a formalised structure and board. The awesome David Mundy is the chair. It raised money to partner with an organisation to deliver preventive mental health programs in our schools, including Melville Senior High School. Both my children have been beneficiaries of those incredible programs, through an organisation called Tomorrow Man Tomorrow Woman. It gives kids the all-important skills necessary to help them through challenging times in their lives so that they can be equipped to work their way through those experiences and build the resilience and language that is needed in that space. The Kai Eardley Foundation has now shifted to a point where it will be delivering programs directly, which is amazing. The Barbarians Group is another local organisation. The amazing Wendy lost her son, Conan, many years ago and that organisation raises money to support the delivery of programs.

I always give a shout-out to Lifeline WA, which is as important in my local community as it is across the entire state. Although I am incredibly passionate about and support the prevention space and the work it does, we still need crisis intervention. It is good to know that there are people on the other end of those phone lines. We know that they are under pressure; everyone is under pressure, but they are doing their absolute best and I particularly want to give a shout-out to Lifeline volunteers, who really do such incredible work in that space.

I will finish up with the Town Team Movement, which started when the member for Perth was mayor of the City of Vincent. It is a grassroots collective of individuals who come together to make their communities just that little bit better and safer in respect of issues such as traffic calming, for example. The state government has put money towards supporting local community initiatives and solutions for delivery in partnership with their local governments. Streets Alive is one such project in a new part of the electorate, on North Lake Road. The part of Kardinya that I have has major roads—North Lake Road, Leach Highway and South Street. These are typical problems, but community organisations are looking for solutions to lessen those kind of challenges.

Finally, I mention my local town teams: Pally 6157, which is the one I am involved with, because, of course, that is where I live; and the Hulme Court Collective, which is local businesses recognising and supporting their own communities. Community is everywhere. That community of small business owners is working to make a much better experience for not just themselves and their customers, but also the visitors to the space and their staff. I also mention Kardy Connect.

**MR H.T. JONES (Darling Range)** [11.50 am]: I rise to speak to the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. This bill comes out of the review of the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, which commenced in 2016, which provided a modern streamlined scheme for incorporation and management of not-for-profit organisations. Around 20 000 community organisations are currently incorporated under the act, and I will talk about some of those in my electorate.

Incorporating an association creates a legal entity through which the group's activities can be conducted. This offers the following advantages: the individual members of the association limit their personal liability, bank accounts can be opened in the name of the association, the association can enter into contracts and hold property, and the association can apply for government grants.

This bill will amend the act to implement some recommendations of the previous report. It will allow an association to reserve a name for a period of up to three months when it commences the incorporation process or when it wishes to change its name. It will allow electronic attendance and voting at meetings as its default position, with associations then able to opt out of electronic meetings. It will allow for the restriction of access to personal information contained in the members register in certain prescribed circumstances. It will also allow for the appointment of an auditor for a fixed period not exceeding five years.

Yesterday, the member for Willagee, Hon Peter Tinley, gave his great valedictory speech, which I recommend people watch, as I do other speeches. Peter is a tower of a man—an ex-SAS guy who showed a lot of emotion. Real men do cry!

**Mr P. Papalia:** I don't think he cried. Come on!

**Mr D.A.E. Scaife:** There would be no shame if he did, though, minister.

**Ms A. Sanderson:** Correct!

**Mr H.T. JONES:** There was a bit of sand in his eye! With all Peter's background —

**Mr P. Papalia:** I don't know whether he wants it recorded in *Hansard*!

**Mr H.T. JONES:** It is on video! The member said that he found unexpected joy as the member for Willagee, moving around the community, meeting different clubs, associations and individuals, and he said that so much that goes on in communities is noble and grand, but people never or rarely read about it. Obviously, this is uncorrected *Hansard*; it is not a quote.

I share those sentiments. Quite often, we are subjected to a bit of robust criticism in our job, but I think about my community and the joy I get being part of that community and seeing the contributions that people make. Of course, we deliver massive road and rail projects that are required for our communities, but I enjoy getting into the community and realising what a wonderful place my community is; I am sure it is the same in everyone's communities. So many people are giving their time and doing so much to make our lives a lot better.

I spent 30 years in the Navy. I never cried. I do not know; maybe I did! But it was not until I became the member for Darling Range that I really appreciated what it was to be part of a community. Defence life is a bit different. At least when I joined up, we were sort of cocooned in barracks usually away from the town, which is a good thing for the townsfolk! Sometimes we would go into town, but we never had time to be part of the community. We were posted every two years, so we did not have the chance to join a bush fire brigade. We probably could have, but we made excuses why we did not. Since I have been elected as the member for Darling Range, I have really appreciated the contributions people make, not only in the community and individual groups, but also across a whole number of organisations. We see the same people in all sorts of groups, and I really want to thank them.

I will touch on the Byford Progress Association first. It is the longest incorporated association in the electorate, as far as I could find in the records. It was incorporated on 10 August 1931. I will give a shout-out to the members: Colleen Rankin, OAM; Frank Rankin; Jill Barratt; Kevin Barratt; Karyn Booth; Jane Brown; Tony Brown; Donald Chantler; Judy Curtis; Bev Erskine; Max Erskine; Merri Harris; Moira Lane; Richard Lane; Keith Lovegrove; Yvonne Lovegrove; Patricia Olsson; Maria Plant; Thea Visser; Julia White; Stephen White and Athol Wigg. I am sure there are many others. I have a list. Those people—it was not necessarily them right from the start, but their forebears—are responsible for the way Byford has turned out. One most recent example is the statues that one sees when one drives through Byford on South Western Highway, which were a direct result of the Byford Progress Association and, particularly, Colleen Rankin. There is also now a statue on Abernethy Road of Mrs Abernethy and her three daughters. I posted about it. Incidentally, for some reason, that was one of my best posts. It got a lot of traction. There was a lot of interest in that statue. That was created by Len Zuks, and it showcases another of the characters who has lived in Byford in more recent times.

A subset of the Byford Progress Association is the Byford Enviro Link. That is again the same people, who practically go and clean up around the streets and do plantings. They are responsible for the flora road status of Soldiers Road. They put a lot of effort in, I think usually on Friday mornings. I have been to a few clean-ups. They collect rubbish in bags by the side of the road, the shire picks it up and pays the group a small fee, and they use that money to further contribute to the community. Last year, as one of those contributions, Colleen Rankin made a donation on behalf of the Byford Progress Association of \$650 for the Dandelions WA backpack appeal. That went very far towards boosting the number of backpacks that Dandelions could provide to children in need throughout the state.

Another group is Activate Byford, which was formed in October 2022. Again, a lot of the members of the Byford Progress Association are also members of Activate Byford, which is a collective of Byford locals who are committed to activating the Byford town centre through events, markets, art projects and more. There is an art installation in the Dome cafe car park whereby different photographs or art pieces are projected on the wall throughout the year. Recently, the group installed a number of road safety messages in the form of brightly coloured adhesive signs on the pavement to make sure that people pay attention when they are crossing the road, and other safety measures. I was happy to see that when Minister Michael was in Byford, he went along and had a look at the signs. They were good, were they not? He cannot speak from the Speaker's gallery!

The group does a variety of things. It has brought on a couple of plays to try to introduce theatre in Byford. They were put on at the Byford Secondary College and they were great events. There will be an artisans twilight Christmas market on Friday, 29 November from 4.30 to 8.30 pm. That will take place in the car park area adjacent to the Serpentine Jarrahdale Public Library. The one last year was very popular. I understand that it is now closed to new stallholders, indicating that it is going to be a fantastic market this year. I recommend that people go down there and take advantage of it. There will also be live music. The member for Bicton mentioned the Town Team, which is part of the movement to activate Byford. One of the things about having the market in Byford is that it does not have any food stalls. They are encouraging people to go to the markets, then go across the road and the highway to eat at the restaurants or the takeaway facilities in the area. That activates those businesses and gets them more patronage. It is a great thing that they are doing.

I want to talk about the Roleystone country club, also known as the Roleystone Club. I want to give a shout-out to the president, Michael Hansen; vice-president, Ash Stewart; and the secretary, Leonie Rinaldi. I was fortunate enough to go to a sponsors day a couple of weeks back at the beautiful club. I must admit, I have not been there as much as I should have. I used to live down the road on Brookton Highway. Maybe I was not looking at the club. When I lived there, I did not really know it was there. Now that I do, I have visited it a few times and I encourage people in Roleystone and surrounds to go to the club. It provides great food and drinks. It has a bowling green that overlooks the Brookton Highway valley. It is a great sport, particularly in warmer times.

It also hosts the Roleystone Musicians Club. Everyone will be aware that live music is suffering around Australia, particularly over east because of the proliferation of pokie machines and other forms of what they call "entertainment". The venues for musicians are diminishing. It is really good that the Roleystone Club hosts the musicians club to showcase accomplished and young musicians who come along to learn their craft.

I want to honour Brian Polden, who is a longstanding member of the Roleystone Club. Sadly, he passed away recently. I know he will be fondly remembered at the club. I give my sympathies to his wife, Nipha, and his family members, including Richard Polden. People in my area would know that he is a photographer for *Examiner Newspapers* and a published author no less, he says jokingly.

**Mr T.J. Healy:** He is a very good man.

**Mr H.T. JONES:** Richard is a very good man. A few months ago, he pointed out to me at the club that to get out of the gents toilet, people have to use a doorhandle that is quite high. Richard's father, Brian, installed a doorhandle halfway up the door to let Richard out of the toilets. That doorhandle remains. It has been there since Richard was a boy and that was a long time ago. It is staying there, and hopefully it will remain for all time.

Another country club is the Byford and Districts Country Club. It was incorporated in April 1958. It was formerly down on South Western Highway but moved to its present location of Linton Street North back in 2017. It is further down in my notes. It recently received a consecutive Clubs WA Club of the Year award for the outstanding service it provides to the people of Byford and surrounds. It also received awards for club marketing and the general manager, Ray Carey, received the long term service award. He is a great guy. He is Irish, but he is all right. I mentioned Colleen Rankin earlier. She is everywhere in Byford. She is the club's chair, and she was recognised for her volunteer contribution. I know Ray would like to thank the 62 amazing employees he has working there for their dedication. A lot of those employees are very young and are still in school learning hospitality. Ray is giving them an opportunity to work. The club is a great local employer. I obviously mentioned Colleen Rankin as the chair of the board, but there is the deputy chair, Leah Horton; the treasurer, Tony Filear; secretary, Emily Van Kampen; and board members Christopher Manning and Merri Harris. They all do a fantastic job at that club in Byford.

The Byford And Districts Country Club hosts a couple other associations. Within the club, there is the Byford Bowling Club. It was incorporated in 2017 when the club started. It has a facility there with undercover synthetic lawn, so

people can play all year round. I know how hot the sun can be when people are out there playing bowls, but it is all undercover. It is supported by the country club. The surface needing rectification was demonstrated in recent events, because there were some imperfections in the surface. What they thought was a \$200 000 job became a \$300 000 job when they lifted the surface off and realise that the subsoil and foundation of the bowling green was not installed correctly 10 years ago. They had to go through the whole process of basically building a whole green again. I think they started work in August. I am glad to see that the green has just been opened again. On 4 November, the club had its first match on the new surface playing against Gosnells Bowling Club. It defeated Gosnells in all divisions. It had a home turf advantage. I want to acknowledge the country club for funding that project.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr H.T. JONES:** Another club within the country club is the Byford Classic Car Club, which was incorporated in 2009. It holds regular static shows in the country club car park. It also does some rallies. It promotes responsible ownership, enjoyment and driving of classic cars. They are not necessarily showpieces for museums; in most cases, they are driveable classics. They benefit from the Labor government's concessions for classics scheme. I am glad to see that the previous rule of 30 years for a classic car is now a rolling qualification. If someone has a 1991 Holden Commodore, it can be included as a concessions for classics vehicle.

**Mr D.T. Punch:** What about a Hillman Imp?

**Mr H.T. JONES:** A Hillman Imp? They are well in!

The registration and insurance fees will be down from \$867 to \$171. That is a great saving and bonus to encourage people to keep hold of their classic cars. Obviously, they cannot drive them as they would a normal vehicle. There are restrictions of a maximum of 90 days of driving, and they can attend shows et cetera. It is a huge saving, particularly as some people are fortunate enough to own many classic cars. I always keep my eye out for one. I have not seen one yet that I like.

I want to give a shout-out to the president, Barry Western. He also runs a separate thing called Bazza's Car Cruises, in which people go for drives. The vice president and events coordinator is Allan Connors and the secretary is Tunney Western, who is Barry's partner. She is actually an entertainer, singer and MC. She is most often seen in a pin-up style. That really fits in well with the 1950s classic cars of the club, and she is a great ambassador for the club. The treasurer is Tara Connors, the registrar is Jerome Donders and the general committee is Norm Fowler, Barry Hahn, Scott Fellows, Gary Galant and Shane Kelly.

I got my motorbike licence when I was 17. It was either on my birthday or the day after; it was very close. I was doing my year 12 tertiary admissions examinations at the time, but my priority was getting my motorcycle licence, and I got my car licence shortly thereafter. The first car I drove was my mum's car, a 1974 Leyland Mini.

**Mr R.R. Whitby:** You poor thing!

**Mr H.T. JONES:** It was a terrible greeny-blue colour.

**Mr R.R. Whitby:** Did it stop when it rained?

**Mr H.T. JONES:** No—I thrashed it to within an inch of its life! At the time I had started to work, I had some money and I wanted to buy a car. My dad's friend Keith Sumner, who has sadly passed away, used to own a smash repairs business in Welshpool. He had a TC Cortina that he wanted to sell. It was not one that had been in a smash; it was his car. But my father would not let him sell it to me because it was too powerful for me. It was a 250 six-cylinder car. It was powerful and I was a novice driver. With the benefit of hindsight, I am pleased that my dad did not let me buy it, but at the time I was not very happy. I googled the TC Cortina and saw a story on [www.drive.com.au](http://www.drive.com.au) from 1999 that described the car. It stated—

In September 1972 Ford added a six-cylinder engine to its Cortina model, completely transforming the nimble but not especially quick medium-sized sedan.

What Ford transformed it into was a nose-heavy, fuel-gulping disaster with horribly heavy steering and deadly understeer.

That sort of vehicle that was attractive to me at the time was not suitable for a novice driver. I am glad my father put his foot down.

I know everyone in the chamber will know someone who has passed away in car and other vehicle accidents. I am no exception to that. When my family migrated to Perth from Wales, it was just mum and dad, my two sisters and me, but two other families, the Williams and Edwards families, came out at the same time. They were like our cousins. Dylan Williams passed away in February 1989 at the age of 19. He would be 54 now. He was a passenger in a car driven by another young chap I knew, who was a responsible young man in normal circumstances. The allegation was that they were racing a little against another car and, unfortunately, the car that Dylan was in struck a power pole on Canning Highway in South Perth and he passed away. That had devastating consequences on our family group—our pseudo cousins, if you like. Dylan's family obviously withdrew in grief and things were never the same again. It was a terrible event.

Similarly, young Calan Clarkson from Roleystone lived on the same street as my sister and parents. He was a wonderful young man who passed away riding a motorcycle in the hills when he was 22. He was going too fast and came off the road. Tom Saffioti was known to my family. He was friends with my daughter's group. He passed away at the age of 15 in September 2021. Matthew Mauger passed away in Byford in January 2023 at the age of 21. He was a passenger in a ute. He was on the tray, allegedly sitting on an office chair. They were skylarking and probably thought it was a good laugh, but, unfortunately, as they went around a corner he came off the tray and passed away. It is well documented that Nicholas Campo passed away at the age of 18 as a passenger. In a recent incident on Orrong Road three people died. The driver of that vehicle lives in Roleystone and he and his family are dealing with that now. It is a terrible tragedy and, of course, there were other people in the car. Only last Saturday morning on Thomas Road, Oakford, Jady Turner passed away at the age of 22.

All those young lives were cut short. They had bright futures. I was always told that you cannot put an old head on young shoulders, and I tend to agree. However, it is our responsibility as leaders—it is also the responsibility of parents and older siblings—to urge people, particularly young men, to be more careful when they are driving. Police Commander Mike Bell was very emotional at a press conference when he talked about the number of lives being lost.

I am very happy that “Tom’s Law” has passed, limiting from 1 December the number of passengers for a novice driver to one passenger. A red P-plater in the first six months of their driving will be allowed to carry only one passenger, with a couple of exceptions. That law may not have saved the people I mentioned earlier, but it is about reinforcing to young people that driving is a privilege and a great responsibility. The first six months is when they learn habits and they need to be cognisant that having passengers in cars introduces risks. I urge young drivers, particularly those who are going off to schoolies—they might be there already, I am not sure—just to be careful and think about the people they might leave behind.

In speaking about that I have missed a bunch of community groups! The Serpentine and Districts Golf Club was incorporated in 1984. It is a great club and is the only club in the metropolitan area with sand greens. It may be the only one in WA, I am not sure; there could be others in the country. It is one of the clubs I used to play at with the Western Australian Naval Golf Society back in the day. It is a great club, although the facilities are ageing a little. I commend in particular the president of the club, Scott Hambley, and Rick Murphy, Peter Townsend, Fred Cox and other members of the club for the work they are doing to stand up a grant application to improve the clubhouse, particularly access for people with disabilities and facilities such as showers.

**Ms C.M. Rowe:** Member, it would be great to hear some more about that.

**Mr H.T. JONES:** I have already had an extension!

**Mr R.R. Whitby:** Tell us about all your cars again.

**Mr H.T. JONES:** I had an EH and a couple of HRs.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Suffice to say that a golf buggy is a car!

**Mr H.T. JONES:** The last thing I will mention quickly is Homelessness We Care Serpentine–Jarrahdale and Surrounds. It was incorporated only last month, on 15 October 2024; however, it has been running for 12 months in Byford. It was under the umbrella of Homelessness We Care Perth, which unfortunately has ceased to be. Stuart McLellan and his wife, Coral, supported by Kevin Bailey—a former soldier and a great guy—Liesl Bailey, his daughter, Michelle Jerrett, Reece Jerrett, Glenice King, Pia Steele, David Emery and a bunch of other people go along and help on Friday nights. On Friday nights they provide food and clothing and other essentials that homeless people need. They set up next to the Byford library and support the homeless people. They also do a lot of work with homeless people who we do not see. I am aware that Stuart has received a grant from the Western Australia Police Force to survey the area around homelessness. Stuart tells me that there are lots of homeless people camping in the bush. He now has some funding to document that and that will form part of his recommendations on how we deal with homelessness.

**Mr T.J. Healy:** The Animal Protection Society.

**Mr H.T. JONES:** Yes; I have not got time. I have talked about it many times before. With that, I thank the house for its indulgence and I commend the bill to the house.

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition)** [12.19 pm]: I rise to speak to the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 as the lead opposition speaker, and probably the only opposition speaker, and put on the record that we support the legislation. As we know, this bill will amend two acts: the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and the Co-operatives Act 2009. The bill will amend the associations act to allow an association to reserve a name; allow associations to implement rules that are in addition to, but not inconsistent with, the requirements of the act; and allow an association or co-operative to hold, and vote at, meetings held by electronic means. The bill will also affect the Co-operatives Act in that sense to restrict access to personal information contained in an association's member register. That will happen especially when there are safety implications, because the current act requires the full list of names and addresses to be made available to any other

member. The bill will also allow associations to appoint an auditor for a fixed period. As we know, there is some difficulty in moving auditors on, so the bill will allow for the appointment of an auditor for a number of years and then a reappointment, as happens in other sectors. The bill will provide the Commissioner for Consumer Protection with the power to wind up an association, including discharging its debts and liabilities via payments from liquidators; allow for the application of small business restructuring processes to associations as an alternative to winding up and administration provisions in the event of insolvency; provide additional powers for the commissioner to cancel an association's incorporation, such as when it is in the public interest to do so; improve access to the State Administrative Tribunal for former members who wish to appeal their expulsion from an association; and include provisions in the Co-operatives Act to explicitly permit electronic signing of documents and clarify aspects of voting by proxy at general meetings. That is a run-down of what the bill will do that I wanted to put on the record.

As far as the Co-operatives Act goes, this bill appears to me to be uniform legislation and I wonder why it will not be examined by the Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Statutes Review.

In Western Australia, there are around 70 cooperatives. Interestingly, some states have more than Western Australia does, but Victoria has over 500 co-ops. I wonder what has led to that scenario historically. In days gone by, in many parts of Victoria, because of the more intensive agriculture, there were many co-ops—dairy cooperatives, fruit-growing cooperatives et cetera—but I do not know the reason behind that very high number now compared with that in other states. As far as cooperatives in Western Australia go, probably the largest and best known is Co-operative Bulk Handling Ltd. It handles billions of dollars each year in grain and marketing and is, by far and away, the largest cooperative there is. Wesfarmers was once a cooperative. There used to be a time when farmers would trade in Wesfarmers shares. Other models have existed, especially in rural and regional businesses and communities over the years.

The Business Council of Co-operatives and Mutuals released a discussion paper in August 2023. It was when I read through its introduction that I thought that this bill appears to be uniform legislation, so I wonder why that process has not happened. The introduction of that BCCM discussion paper states —

The Co-operatives National Law was passed in 2012 in New South Wales as the first step in the project of national harmonisation of co-operatives legislation. By 2020 all jurisdictions had adopted a nationally consistent legislative framework.

It goes on about the impacts of the new harmonised law and states —

- co-operatives now have a form of national registration, thereby eliminating the requirement for multiple registrations where the co-operative wanted to carry on business in more than one state or territory;
- they have power to issue a unique form of security (Co-operative Capital Units) without compromising the principles of member control and ownership; and
- fundraising is no longer subject to oversight by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission and the associated regulatory costs of that oversight.

This bill appears to be part of a legislative model under the cooperatives national law, including the consistent Co-operatives Act 2009 in Western Australia, so why will that bill not be referred to that committee in the other place for scrutiny? Be that as it may, we know that this legislation is supported by Co-operatives WA, the peak body for cooperatives in Western Australia. In a letter to my office, Co-operatives WA states that it is the —

... peak representative body for co-operatives registered under the Cooperatives Act 2009 ...

Part 3 of the Bill is the result of collaboration between the Office of the Registrar of Co-operatives and Cooperatives WA on the need to modernising the Co-operatives Act

The proposed amendments to the Act have our full support.

The sector is keen to see the Bill passed prior to Parliament being prorogued for the March 2025 election.

Unfortunately, that will not happen. This government has not made this bill a priority; therefore, this legislation will not survive the dissolving of Parliament prior to the March 2025 election. It is unfortunate and disappointing for Co-operatives WA and the cooperatives that make up that group that this bill is not a priority of the government. The government has other priorities, and a number of groups in Western Australia will be disappointed that this legislation that they have consulted on with government has not been deemed a priority by the government and will therefore not pass in this Parliament. The government determines the pace of the passage of legislation. We have seen the guillotining of debates, the declaration of urgent matters and, shall we say, an extremely streamlined process of discussion in the Legislative Council compared with most years. It is entirely up to the government to determine which legislation comes into this house and its speed of passage here, and which legislation appears in the Legislative Council and its speed of passage there. There are other very important pieces of legislation, such as the Evidence Bill, that will not progress due to the wishes and priorities of this government.

The amendments to the Associations Incorporation Act will affect the many community associations that are captured under the act. About 20 000 such associations in Western Australia will be captured by this legislation, and many members have spoken about some of their local examples. In regional communities in Western Australia especially, many of those associations and community groups—be they involved in land care, community care, sport and recreation, or many different aspects of life—play a vital role. I have been moving around the metropolitan area a little more because, for the first time, we are running candidates in the metropolitan region. The member for Darling Range was talking about some of the aspects of life in that area of Darling Range. I have been down there with Morgan Byas, the Nationals candidate. I was very impressed by the number of community groups and associations that exist within the Shire of Serpentine Jarrahdale, which apparently has some of the highest volunteering rates of anywhere in the state. That can be seen with the many groups that I have come in contact with. I have been further in around the Bateman area with Donna Gordon and caught up with many different groups and organisations in that locality. It was a bit of an eye-opener for me as a regional person that there is such a level of volunteering and associations getting together right across Western Australia, not just in regional areas.

We know that Volunteering WA is an organisation that is something of a peak body for the volunteers who make up a lot of those associations. There are about 750 member associations of Volunteering WA, but those associations have under them up to 523 000 volunteers. It is a very significant number of people indeed, but, unfortunately, the number of volunteers is dropping. There are about 150 000 fewer than there were pre-COVID-19. That is about 150 000 more people involved in volunteering in Western Australia in 2019 than there are now. This is a worrying trend perhaps caused by COVID keeping people away from each other for some period and changing their social patterns and methods of behaviour. It might be, as we know, that labour is in very short supply in Western Australia at the moment and people are working longer and harder and simply do not have the time to commit to volunteering. Whatever it is, it is a bit worrying because we know that belonging to an organisation as a volunteer provides benefits for society in many ways. Obviously, if people are volunteering in an organisation and doing work in the community, that is a great outcome for the community, and also themselves; it is the old adage of “Act Belong Commit” as a means for their own mental health and connection, which is also a very important matter.

One would think that with numbers like that—half a million volunteers—the government would have made this legislation a priority. Volunteers and cooperatives are both looking forward to change and the streamlining of the Associations Incorporation Act and the Co-operatives Act. The Associations Incorporations Act was introduced in 2015. A statutory review was undertaken and many of the measures outlined in this bill flow from that statutory review requirement when the act came into place. I remember when that act came into place, there was a great flurry of organisations having to change their structures to fit in with the new legislation. A lot of paperwork was created for a lot of volunteers at the time. We must remember that when dealing with these types of associations, many of those 20 000 associations will have volunteers happy to play the role of secretary and office bearers. Any changes that are made have to be considered and take into account that we do not want to unnecessarily cause an increase in workload for those people. The cooperatives and the associations will be disappointed that this bill will not survive the dissolution of Parliament. Therefore, I would consider it to be a complete waste of everyone’s time to take it to consideration in detail because it will need to be re-examined post the March 2025 election by the government that is formed post 2025, whichever government that may be. We will not need advisers to come in and assist to go through this bill in great detail.

I will wind up my contribution. I believe other speakers still want to talk, so I will conclude at this point. I reiterate that the opposition is supportive of the bill. We would have supported its passage through the Parliament had it come in in time to be taken through. I am sure that if it had been a priority of the government and progressed in a more timely fashion, it would have become law in 2024. Unfortunately, that will not be the case due to there being one week—three days and so many hours—left of the Parliament in this term, unless there is a recall for whatever reason. With that, I conclude my remarks and offer our support for the bill.

**MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary)** [12.34 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to debate on the second reading of the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill. I will speak about some of the fantastic associations and incorporated groups within my electorate. We have an amazing group of community members and volunteers. I look forward to talking to members about some of the amazing things that happen within Canning Vale, Gosnells, Southern River and Huntingdale.

Before I highlight all the great work, I want to speak to some of the technical natures of the bill. Members would be aware from the fantastic contributions that have already been made in debate on the second reading that this bill is related to the Associations Incorporation Act 2015, which commenced several years ago and provided a very modern and streamlined scheme for the incorporation and management of not-for-profit organisations. I have personally been involved in a number of Scouts groups, Lions groups, church groups and youth groups. Many voluntary organisations contribute to the community, and having an incorporated group allows them to formalise, provide structure, have a bank account and public liability insurance, and do the number of things that they do. Of my volunteer group activities, I think a number of them were informal. What are now a standard for public liability, risk management systems and auditing and other aspects did not exist very much when I was doing a large chunk of my volunteering in the later part of the previous millennium in the 1990s. Now there are a lot more. If a group



wanted to simply have a stall at a shopping centre, the arrangements were much more complicated, but having an incorporated group allows the group to place a deposit and have public liability insurance to cover the groups and all the volunteers in a particular way; it is very important. I understand some 20 000 incredible organisations operate across Western Australia. I will take the time to take members through a number of those 20 000 that are wonderfully connected to the Southern River and Gosnells communities.

I commend the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety for its statutory review of the Associations Incorporation Act during 2022 to assess the operation and effectiveness of the bill and finding the areas where it can be reviewed. The report was tabled here in this Parliament, and this bill incorporates a number of those recommendations about the implementations such as preserving names for the group, electronic attendance in terms of voting and movements, the activities of auditors and the number of technical amendments that exist.

I draw members' attention first of all to the incredible Lions Club of Gosnells. Those who would like to support the Gosnells Lions' great activity—a great group in my electorate—can purchase one of the Gosnells Lions cakes, which are currently on sale in my office at 466 Wharton Road. I used to be the local Santa for Gosnells Lions. That sits very proudly in my parliamentary biography. I have now retired as one of the local Santas for the Gosnells Lions but I continue to support them through my office, which is open from Monday to Friday nine to five. If members would like to buy a Gosnells Lions cake, these two, I have to say, are little mini-cakes. They are a new little thing, which makes them much easier and cheaper. They are available for cash purchase from my office. If members would like one of the larger traditional cakes, though, these one-kilogram cakes can be purchased for \$16. It is \$20 for the larger one. Again, if members would like to support the Gosnells Lions by getting one of these cakes, they are also available at the static Santa visits that we will be promoting very soon on the Lions' Facebook page and on my Facebook page as well.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** What is a static Santa?

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** A static Santa, for those who are playing at home —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Everyone was wondering; I just thought I would ask.

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I will finish my short promotion, then I will explain that. If members would like to purchase one of these—we are open Monday to Friday, nine to five—come down and support the Gosnells Lions Club.

I will explain static Santa. Back in my day, when I was the Gosnells Lions Santa we had a trailer—they still do. For those who are playing at home, I am an assistant to Santa to allow them to do more work and be in a number of places. I am, of course, not Santa, member for Landsdale. Around Southern River and Gosnells we would publish a map, and I would sit on a trailer with a chair that was crafted into the form of a sleigh. We would drive with music playing, alongside Scouts and Gosnells Lions ringing bells, past 300 to 400 houses over six or 10 streets.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Was your presence appreciated?

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** Absolutely! Gift-wrapped as well! Presence is spelt in two ways—presence and presents—of course, for the purposes of *Hansard*.

To answer the member for Landsdale's question —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** He is getting to the point.

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I am getting there—exactly!

I would dress up as Santa. I would send letters out about the streets where we were going so that families could come out onto their council verge. As we went past their houses, kids and families would come out. We would have music blaring, bells ringing and things like that. It has been a great community event. Some families found it frustrating, though. It depended on how many families came out. We could never know where we would be from 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm, for example. We would publish the route, but some families were a bit upset that we may have hit a street sooner. There may have been an extra 20 or 30 families on that street. Santa would stop and give lollipops to all the children; there would be family photos. Santa would do what Santa would do and talk to the young people. The speed at which Santa went down the street was complicated. If your street was at the end of the route, and it was already dark, we would have to stop. We received feedback that some families were a bit frustrated by that; therefore, we moved to a static Santa.

For those who still cannot sleep at night because I have not explained it, we park Santa and the sleigh, statically, in one location at a park. Rather than moving through the streets and suburbs, Santa stays in a static location. We have an older group of volunteers—it is easy for me, I have to say, because I get to stay in the big Santa chair. I do not have to move at all. It is the most wonderful thing to be driven around with Christmas carols and bells and things, but it is a bit hard for our vollies. I might have to get a list of the static Santa locations. Santa will be at Terry Healy's youth plaza at 7.00 pm on Monday, 9 December. There is a number of different parks and locations around our electorate. We now promote the one location and say, "Santa is here at 6.15 pm. Santa will be here for an hour." We heavily promote that one location so families can come to Santa as opposed to Santa coming to them. At each of the locations, the Gosnells Lions are selling cakes. If people cannot get down to Terry Healy's office to purchase a cake; they are certainly available from volunteers at static Santa locations.

The Gosnells Lions is a fantastic organisation. I have been a part of the Lions for well over 10 years. I think I was its Santa formally for five to six years, but becoming a dad and a member of Parliament has made it harder to be Santa. I only did one Santa visit last year and I was the Santa for Banksia Hill, I think, but I used to be the Gosnells Lions' regular Santa and I have now formally handed over to a new generation of Santa apprentices, who are now the Gosnells Lions' Santas. I will continue.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Did you find it bad for your elf? Is that what it was?

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I like to say that I work on my Santa figure all year round but, yes, for my elf and my health it was very good being Santa. It is one of the most wonderful things. I love being a teacher and I love being a member of Parliament, but children would bring notes and letters about the things that they would like. It is a beautiful thing. Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 6343.]

### **CRAIG HEGGATON — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Member for Roe*

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.45 pm]: I acknowledge Liz and James Heggaton who are sitting in the Speaker's gallery today, and Emma and Jess in their absence. Craig Heggaton's remarkable life was celebrated recently following his untimely death. Craig left a legacy that cannot be adequately summarised in only two minutes, but I will try. Craig was married to Liz, his soulmate. They have three children, Emma, James and Jess, who individually reflect the hard work and innovative thinking Craig and Liz are known for. On graduating from Murdoch University in 1983 with a degree in veterinary science, Craig and Liz established a small farm within the Padbury farm in Kojonup. Some of Craig's many achievements since then include the establishment of Genstock—40 years ago—the longest serving ovine artificial breeding business in Australia and possibly the world; BreedersBEST Genetics, which developed two composite breeds: Sherwood Poll Dorset and Sherwood White Suffolk stud; and Kojonup Feeds. Craig joined the board of the Western Australian Meat Marketing Co-operative and became the chair in 2015. He retained that position until his death. He was the chair of the Sheep Alliance from 2016 to 2019.

At his funeral, Craig was remembered for his vast knowledge of genetics, nutrition and all things sheep, together with his innovative and strategic thinking, which made him an outstanding asset to the industry. Craig lived his life to the fullest, always with a joke and never taking anything too seriously. His dry wit was legendary, and he had an innate ability to connect with anyone. Craig's determination, incredible work ethic and love for his family and the sheep industry will be sorely missed.

Vale, Craig.

### **NORTH SHORE COMMUNITY HUB**

*Statement by Member for Hillarys*

**MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys)** [12.47 pm]: I would like to recognise North Shore Community Hub in Kallaroo, a dynamic facility in the heart of my electorate that is dedicated to fostering social connections and improving the wellbeing of locals. I am a proud sponsor of this remarkable club, which has been a staple of our community for over 40 years. North Shore offers something for everyone, from competitive and social tennis and the ever-popular pickleball, to a lively social calendar. Whether it is live music nights, book clubs or the vibrant Markets by the Sea, there is always something happening. The venue is a go-to spot for birthdays, weddings and iconic Sunday sundowners. The beloved Grounded Cafe is the centrepiece of the club's friendly atmosphere. Locals often compare the vibe here to the diner from *Home and Away*, where everyone feels right at home. Feel Good Fridays, inclusive of ocean dipping, meditation and yoga have become a community favourite. For those eager to stay active, the club hosts Openair Fitness, which brings women together in an inclusive setting that fosters fitness and friendship.

Due to the club's growing popularity, the North Shore Community Hub is looking to the future, with plans to expand its facilities and upgrade recreational areas to better serve the growing needs of our community. The committee has carefully researched local needs to craft the strategic plan and preliminary building designs that will ultimately transform the hub into a community-led space that will support even more activities and amenities. As the member for Hillarys, I am committed to supporting the redevelopment of the North Shore Community Hub and look forward to working closely with the committee. I wish to thank president and life member Larry Hirsch for his many years of dedication to the club, and as Larry would say, "C'mon, North Shore!"

### **REMEMBRANCE DAY — CLAREMONT RSL**

*Statement by Member for Cottesloe*

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe)** [12.49 pm]: Remembrance Day marks the end of the First World War, a milestone in our history. Over the years, it has also become a day to honour all those who have served across generations. The sacrifices made by our service people, those who have risked and given their lives to protect our freedoms, have shaped the secure and democratic society we enjoy today. We owe them our deepest respect and gratitude.

I wish to thank the Claremont RSL and the Town of Claremont for the Remembrance Day service held on Monday at the Town of Claremont's war memorial. The ceremony was a moving tribute, bringing our community together to honour those who have served and sacrificed for our nation. My thanks go to Mayor Jock Barker, the Town of Claremont and the Claremont RSL for their dedication to preserving this important tradition.

I would like to make special mention of the Claremont RSL president, David Thomas, whose leadership and commitment to recognising the contributions of our service men and women has been exemplary. David's efforts, and those of his team, ensure that the memory of our veterans remains alive within our community. David is a tireless worker for his community. He is vice-president of Perth Western Suburbs National Seniors Australia, president of the Australian Special Air Service Association of WA, president of the Claremont RSL, a board member of RSL WA, president of the Boer War Memorial Society of Western Australia and immediate past president of the Royal Agricultural Society of WA. I thank David for the extensive and tireless work he does for his community. Lest we forget. Thank you.

### **SCOTT JOHNSON — TRIBUTE**

*Statement by Member for Cockburn*

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary)** [12.50 pm]: I rise today to mourn the passing of Scott Johnson, who sadly died on 9 September at the age of 40. Scott was a legend in the Cockburn community as the co-founder and chief executive officer of Assisting Your Life to Achieve Inc, better known as AYLA. Scott founded AYLA with his husband, David, in 2010 to provide support and emergency relief to people experiencing poverty and homelessness. Scott and David originally operated AYLA from their home in Banjup, filling shipping containers with non-perishable food and goods that could be distributed to those in need. Demand for AYLA's services was so great that it eventually moved to dedicated premises on McKinnon Street in Cockburn Central.

Although I did not know Scott well, I had the pleasure of meeting him and David on several occasions, and of touring AYLA's premises. AYLA is a truly special and innovative service. At the one warehouse, you can obtain food relief, enjoy a coffee at the cafe, get clothes adjusted, find a bargain in the op shop, have a haircut, attend workshops, and find a friendly face and social connection. AYLA is a colourful, bustling space, which reflects the colour and energy that Scott and Dave brought to everything they did together.

AYLA is a place of support for all people, but particularly for our LGBTQIA+ community. Scott was a proud gay man, who was open about his own experience of coming out. He ensured that AYLA had a particular focus on serving our LGBTQIA+ community, including through the provision of emergency accommodation. Scott's passing was met with shock in the Cockburn and LGBTQIA+ communities, but no-one has been more deeply affected than Scott's husband, David, and their three children. I extend my deepest sympathies to them.

I want to remind every member of our community that help is always available to you through services like Lifeline, on 13 11 14, and beyondblue, on 1300 224 636. While Scott may be gone, his legacy in changing the lives of so many lives on.

Vale, Scott Johnson.

### **TELECOMMUNICATIONS — 3G NETWORK**

*Statement by Member for Central Wheatbelt*

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt)** [12.52 pm]: I rise to express my concern for the safety of and potential economic implications for communities in my electorate of Central Wheatbelt as a result of the closure of the 3G telecommunications network on 4 November. In advance of this, there have been consistent and persistent concerns raised by communities, businesses, local governments and members of Parliament that it would result in a reduction in connectivity and service, and this has now come to pass. Greg Evans from Corrigin called my office yesterday and advised that he and his neighbours have been having serious problems since the 3G network was shut down. Greg is a chief bush fire control officer and farmer, and now regularly finds himself without service at multiple points across his property.

There are understandable concerns about the coming summer months, especially with the shadow of the fires from a couple of years ago present in everyone's mind. Other farmers are reporting that in the peak of harvest, the technology that they rely on is no longer working. This is in line with an ABC report on Tuesday by Joanna Prendergast and Tara de Landgraft that despite most of us in the wheatbelt having purchased CEL-FI boosters for our vehicles to enhance the phone signal, there are widespread blackspots appearing. Customers are reporting that they are now unable to hold uninterrupted phone calls in areas where previously they could, which is impacting on their ability to sell grain, buy fertilisers or organise trucks and staff during the busiest time of the year. There is also a work safety aspect when it comes to staff that are spread across large geographic areas. People have reported dropouts and blackspots emerging in areas where they previously had very reliable connectivity.

These issues have been raised time and again with telecommunications companies—particularly Telstra—through submissions, consultation and advocacy from groups including the North Eastern Wheatbelt Regional Organisation of Councils. Technology improvements are welcome, but the attitude that a very small percentage of the community

will be impacted when this occurs is not. That very small percentage is almost exclusively in regional communities with small populations. Just because there are not very many of them does not mean we and they do not deserve access to an essential service to run their business or keep their community safe. I will continue to work hard to improve telecommunications and connectivity for all our communities. They deserve better.

### **MELVILLE WATER POLO CLUB**

*Statement by Member for Bicton*

**MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton)** [12.54 pm]: Melville Water Polo Club is located on the edge of the magnificent Swan River, or Derbarl Yerrigan, and is a cornerstone of our community, serving as a beacon of sporting excellence and social inclusion for over 70 years. Founded in 1946, the club has been represented continuously at the Olympic Games since 1960, placing our state and our nation on the global stage. Among these are luminaries of the sport, such as Tom Hoad, who has represented Australia at eight Olympic Games as team captain and coach; David Neesham, who has represented Australia at four Olympic Games as team captain; Aaron Younger, who has represented Australia at three Olympic Games as team captain; Gemma Beadsworth, who has represented Australia at three Olympic Games and won two bronze medals; and Zoe Arancini, who has represented Australia at three Olympic Games as captain and was a silver medallist at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games.

The club is also a vital institution for community health and wellbeing. Over 30 000 local children have participated in the club's grassroots programs, learning the critical skills of aquatic safety and developing lifelong healthy habits. Melville Water Polo Club is more than a home for aspiring athletes; it serves the wider community, offering programs that enhance water safety, which is a key issue in our state in which water-based activities are a major part of our culture. The ageing facilities are no longer fit for purpose and are in dire need of an upgrade. Infrastructure improvements would allow for the club to continue to grow and ensure that water polo players and local swimmers have access to facilities that can cater for this growth, as well as help meet the urgent need for greater community water safety education. This would support athletes and the expansion of aquatic programs to include swim teacher training and host lessons for local schools and local jobs in coaching, lifeguarding and pool operations, and engage local businesses during construction. I acknowledge and thank Melville Water Polo Club for its significant contribution over many decades to our youth, local public health and our shared sporting heritage. I also acknowledge the current president, Rob Neesham.

### **RAILFAIL CAMPAIGN**

*Statement by Member for North West Central*

**MS M. BEARD (North West Central)** [12.56 pm]: The official launch of the RailFail social media campaign was marked on 28 October. It is designed to ensure that mandatory lighting standards for trains are implemented to make rail and road travel safer in rural and regional Australia. The RailFail campaign is the result of the tireless work of Lara Jensen and Merrilea Broad, who represent families across Australia who have tragically lost loved ones in rail crossing collisions. The campaign is strongly endorsed by Australian country music legend Lee Kernaghan, who not only has a deep connection with rural Australia, but also, with his father being a former truck driver, understands firsthand the risks on rural roads. As Lee puts it —

It's unacceptable that there is still no legal requirement for trains to be lit to a particular standard in Australia ...

Lee continued by saying that it is "high time" the government acted. He is urging government and politicians from all sides to get behind this initiative to prevent future tragedies happening on our roads and save lives. As a regional member who understands the importance of this call, travelling around 100 000 kilometres each year and sharing our roads with trucks that are lit up like Christmas trees, I echo Lee's call.

Earlier this year, I was proud to support Melissa Price, MP, member for Durack, in co-sponsoring a federal petition that received 6 600 signatures in support of legislative change. The campaign is also backed by the National Farmers' Federation, the Country Women's Associations of WA and New South Wales, and the Australian Trucking Association.

Currently, 80 per cent of the 23 000 railway crossings in Australia do not have warning lights, despite trains being the largest and most poorly lit vehicles on land, with minimal frontal lighting and no side lighting. Despite countless tragedies and coronial recommendations, little has been achieved in convincing government to implement compulsory lighting standards for trains. RailFail is a David and Goliath fight, with families fuelled by a determination to protect others from the same pain. We owe it to all Australians to support their call for reform and make rail crossings safer across our nation. A quote from a speech by Merrilea Broad in 2003 to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Transport and Regional Services following the tragic loss of her daughter Jess is compelling —

Our plea is to stop the ripple effect and make the trains and not just the crossings more visible.

...

We would like to hope that the system they believed in will not fail them.

**FOODBANK AND SECONDBITE***Statement by Member for Belmont*

**MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont)** [12.58 pm]: This year's *Foodbank hunger report* identified that half of low-income households have faced food insecurity in 2024. This means they are often skipping meals, reducing portion sizes or going entire days without eating. I am really proud of the work done by Foodbank, the head office of which is in my electorate and is run by its tireless CEO, Kate O'Hara, and incredible staff and volunteers.

I would also like to give a shout-out to another food relief organisation in my community, SecondBite, run by the CEO, Lyndon Nilsson, and his team of tireless volunteers. They provide food to vulnerable Western Australians across the state via their charity network.

Recently, I was delighted to present SecondBite with a Lotterywest grant of \$1.2 million. This will go towards a fit-out of its Kewdale warehouse, which I have toured. This grant will go towards the installation of cold storage facilities, racking, office space and a high-reach forklift at the facility. This will reduce food wastage and ensure that more WA families in need will be provided with fresh produce that would otherwise go to landfill. This facility has the capacity to distribute over 17 million kilograms, which is the equivalent of 35 million meals a year, allowing it to distribute a greater volume of essential food items to its network of 200 charity partners in WA. This grant comes in addition to a \$500 000 investment from our government to SecondBite, which formed part of a \$1.5 million donation to food relief organisations to provide relief to struggling families as part of our recent state budget earlier in the year.

I am very proud to be part of a government that is so committed and dedicated to addressing genuine cost-of-living needs and providing relief to so many families. I would like to acknowledge Lyndon Nilsson and his team and, of course, Kate O'Hara and her terrific team at Foodbank.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm***DISTINGUISHED VISITORS — BEN TAYLOR, MEGAN ANWYL AND RHYS WILLIAMS  
YULUMA PRIMARY SCHOOL***Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [2.01 pm]: Members, I have a couple of acknowledgements. Firstly, on behalf of the member for Scarborough, I would like to welcome the student leaders, principal and teacher from Yuluma Primary School in Innaloo. Hopefully, I pronounced that correctly!

On behalf of the member for Mandurah, I welcome Mayor Rhys Williams from the City of Mandurah to the Speaker's gallery.

I also acknowledge to the Speaker's gallery Uncle Ben, a long-term friend—it is lovely to see you here—and Megan Anwyl, a former member for Kalgoorlie.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****METHAMPHETAMINE — BORDER SEARCHES****839. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the Corruption and Crime Commission's report tabled today titled *Misuse of Drugs Act 1981: Annual report 1 July 2023–30 June 2024* and the minister's media statement of 28 March 2023 in which he boasted that his so-called meth-buster laws would create 22 permanent search areas around airports, ports and road and rail border crossings, effectively creating "a hard meth border".

- (1) Can the minister explain why, after a full year of these laws being in place, not a single search has been conducted on any road or rail border crossing into Western Australia?
- (2) With less than one gram of meth seized under these laws, how does the government justify its claim of creating a hard meth border when Western Australia Police Force statistics show that drug use has surged to record levels in recent months?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

- (1)–(2) I have not seen the report. I have a few portfolios and a few things going on. To my knowledge, the statistics referred to by the Leader of the Opposition are not correct. Operations employing the Misuse of Drugs Act and border search areas have found more than what the Leader of the Opposition said.

**METHAMPHETAMINE — BORDER SEARCHES****840. Mr R.S. LOVE to the Minister for Police:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister admit that his so-called hard meth border is nothing more than a PR stunt?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

What I will say is that the creation of the 22 search areas around all entry points—road, rail, sea and air—affords the police an additional tool to combat organised criminals bringing illicit drugs into Western Australia. I have spoken about this in this place before and given members a little insight into police operations. I am not a police officer; I do not pretend to have as deep a knowledge of police operational practices as the Commissioner of Police, but I have told the house in the past about the way operations work. Often, they will employ an operation in one location to identify individuals or acquire intelligence that enables a consequence or another action elsewhere. A search area activated in Albany might identify somebody of interest. The police may exclude others who are not necessarily worth pursuing or involved in an operation and conduct an operation further on from that search area, utilising the intelligence they acquired in the search area. It might be something in the city with arrests made in the city. They may not want to draw to the attention of organised criminals that their pathway of introducing illicit drugs into the state has been infiltrated or busted. They may want to retain that intelligence from the subjects of their investigations. Because an operation happened and an arrest was not made, does not mean that the operation was not successful. I make those observations, which I have made in this place before. To my knowledge, the numbers claimed by the Leader of the Opposition are not correct. I do not know what the report states, whichever report it is from the CCC. However, I do know that a number of operations have employed the powers afforded to the police under the Misuse of Drugs Act and they have been successful.

## LABOR GOVERNMENT POLICIES

**841. MR S.J. PRICE to the Premier:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's nation-leading rollout of free respiratory syncytial virus immunisations, which have now been introduced across the nation.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house any other policies of this government that have now been adopted elsewhere?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house whether he is aware of any risks to Western Australia's nation-leading status?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

I thank the member for the question. Before I start, I acknowledge the staff and students from Yuluma Primary School. They once gave me a beaded wristband to celebrate R U OK? Day. I love it when the kids are out there building up awareness of mental health. I also acknowledge Uncle Ben Taylor in the Speaker's gallery, who is a great statesman and elder for the Aboriginal community and everyone, and Megan Anwyl, who was almost as good as the current member for Kalgoorlie during her time! It is great to see you all here.

- (1)–(2) We know that WA is the leading exporter of goods in Australia. We account for 50 per cent of the nation's goods. Our success is underpinned by a strong mining and resources industry, which is driving the exports of iron ore and LNG and bringing prosperity to the state and nation. Our fastest growing export is arguably sensible forward-thinking policy. The federal government has announced a replica of the WA's free RSV immunisation policy. This policy was rolled out in Western Australia in April and has protected 23 000 babies across the state, which reflects an 84 per cent take-up rate of the vaccine. It has prevented hundreds of hospitalisations. I am so proud that this great WA initiative is now being replicated nationally. That is not the only WA policy that has been transferred to other jurisdictions. I want to illuminate the chamber on some of the great work that has been replicated around the country. First of all, the electricity credits are now a federal policy. Our cheaper TAFE fees have also been picked up by federal government. It is a great partner with our state government, with the Minister for Training and Workforce Development announcing another spate of fee-free TAFE courses with Minister Giles earlier this week. Other notable policy exports include the nation-leading crackdown on bikies, which has been replicated in New Zealand; student assistant payments; and free VacSwim lessons, on which the Victorian government is doing an okay job replicating, but it is not going quite as well as ours. In addition, our cap on public transport fares was adopted by the Queensland government. There are some WA policies that other states can only dream of, such as the WA domestic gas policy—I am not sure that that will get a guernsey—and, of course, keeping Western Power and Fremantle port in public hands. Can members imagine today if we were at the mercy of a private port operator or a monopoly private operator of our power transmission? We would see super profits being generated from the energy transition rather than a poles and wires proprietor working for the common good and benefit of the community, not for the benefit of profits. We are so fortunate in Western Australia to have not gone down that particular route.

We are, of course, officially the best-performing economy in the country. Unemployment has averaged below four per cent for more than three years. That is a record for this state. We continue to sensibly manage the finances. Madam Speaker, because we manage the finances, we can afford to provide cost-of-living relief and build world-class infrastructure for Western Australia. That is why it is so important to make sure that we continue this great legacy that the WA Labor government has created.

There is a risk to everything that we have gained and our leading economy. There is a risk to everything that we do that is forward thinking and produces great sensible policy, and that is the so-called opposition alliance—or the opposition divorce! I am not quite sure what stage we are up to. Each member or candidate seems to have their own spin on whatever policy the opposition runs each day, whether it is opposing inner-city schools, closing down women’s shelters, bringing homophobic, extremist, racist and bigoted remarks to the public domain or making declarations on behalf of the party that the Leader of the Liberal Party has no idea about. Of course, there is the yawning chasm between the Nationals WA’s official line and the Liberal Party’s official line, particularly when it comes to housing.

At the moment, we are seeing a vague meandering of spending commitments from the parties on the other side that should send the message to the people of Western Australia: do not risk your vote on the Liberals and Nationals. They do not have experience. They do not have the policies. They have not done the hard work to actually earn people’s votes, but the most worrying aspect is the calibre of people and sorts of characters that they are pre-selecting right across the state. Madam Speaker, we stand for common decency. We stand for mainstream services, jobs in Western Australia, keeping our economy strong, investing in health and making sure that we continue to drive housing supply in this community. The only risk to those policies—many of which have been replicated in other parts of Australia—is the Liberals and Nationals.

#### HEALTH SERVICES — INVESTMENT

#### 842. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I refer to page 16 of the *Annual report on state finances* and the minister’s comments yesterday —

I will never be accused of reducing health spending. That has not occurred under this government; it has not ...

In the minister’s words, is it “misinformation” and a “blatant lie” that health infrastructure spending totalled \$339 million in 2023–24, which is 27 per cent less than the \$464 million spent in 2022–23?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please. I am waiting to be able to give the call—no hand gestures either, thanks. I am waiting to be able to give the call to Minister for Health.

#### Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

The graphic that I referred to yesterday is a Liberal Party graphic that clearly says, “WA Labor Government Spending 2023–24” and for health it has \$339 million. That is what it says. The budget papers, which the member has access to, have the total —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I think the minister is trying to give a clear explanation of the facts here. It is not assisted by anyone interjecting.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The total cost of services for health in 2023–24 was \$12.6 billion. That is in the budget. Nowhere on the graphic does it say infrastructure.

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I am going to be taking the point of order from the member for Cottesloe in a moment and I remind all members that points of order are heard in silence. If for some reason you want to make your own point of order, you can seek the call to do that—do not interject.

#### *Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Madam Speaker, I cannot hear the response from the minister because of the unedifying interjections of her own deputy leader of the party. She is interjecting constantly throughout the minister’s response.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Members! It is not assisting having another dozen of you call out. Leader of the Liberal Party, the minister wants to give an explanation and draw attention to the figures that she is quoting from the budget. I think we need to be able to hear that. Following that, if you have a supplementary, you will be able to ask it should you not continue to interject.

#### *Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Thank you, Speaker.

The graphic that I quoted yesterday does not say anything about infrastructure; it says WA Labor spending on health. That is what it says. It is on the member’s social media account and it has a Liberal Party graphic. It is untrue and

it is misleading because the actual budget papers, which are public documents tabled and actually examined line by line in this place during estimates, state that the overall cost of services is \$12 billion, and that is exactly what I said yesterday.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Quiet, please. I will take the supplementary providing it is a supplementary.

#### HEALTH SERVICES — INVESTMENT

##### 843. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

I have a supplementary question. Given the minister sits in cabinet, is it acceptable that the government jointly decided to spend more on ports than health infrastructure last year?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Firstly, I have advised the Leader of the Liberal Party that you do not start a supplementary with a statement. When you use the word “given”, it is the start of a statement. Secondly, you are making a comparison between spending in one area and spending in another. That is a question that could be appropriately addressed to either the Treasurer or the Premier but not the Minister for Health. That is out of order.

#### STATE FINANCES

##### 844. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Treasurer:

I refer to the Cook Labor government’s strong record of responsible financial management.

- (1) Can the Treasurer outline to the house how this government’s sensible approach to managing the state’s finances is allowing the government to do what is right for WA?
- (2) Can the Treasurer advise the house whether she is aware of any threats to WA’s strong financial position?

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

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for that question because my answer is about the opposition’s lack of understanding of the state budget. The last question basically demonstrated that again. Members, you cannot manage the budget if you cannot read a budget. Time and again, the opposition has shown that it has failed to learn to read a budget, no more so than in some of its recent attacks on social media.

I was not in question time yesterday, but I understand that the Minister for Health was asked about spending. She claimed that we spent more than \$12 billion last year in health, and we did. The claim that we spent \$339 million on health last year is a blatant lie. It is a lie. Not only did the Liberal Party lie when it put it on social media, the member came in here and backed it up with a question today. They stood up and said, “How could you have spent \$339 million in health last year?” If we could have delivered all those services across the state for \$339 million, I would take my hat off to you, Minister for Health!

We have record spending on health throughout the state. I know because the Minister for Health every day fights for spending, and we are spending a record amount in health across the state. Whether it is for regional hospitals or metropolitan hospitals, we are spending a record amount on health. The idea that members opposite come in here and, as I said, not only not tell the truth—look at the Leader of the Liberal Party. Honestly, if we could all go around telling lies like this and coming in here —

#### *Withdrawal of Remark*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** It is inappropriate for the Treasurer to directly say that the Leader of the Liberal Party is lying and she should withdraw the statement.

A government member interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Yes she did. She said exactly that.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Further to the point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I do not think I need anything further added to the point of order. I am not upholding the point of order. You can refer to a political party as lying and you can refer to particular advertisements as lying but you cannot directly say that a member has lied. Short of examining it again and seeing something that I did not hear, my understanding is that the Treasurer has asked some rhetorical questions, as in: how can the member come in here and say this and how can she come in here and say that? Providing the Treasurer continues to stick with that distinction, she may continue.

#### *Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** As I said, what happened today is that the member went out there and did not tell the truth—the Liberal Party lied about health spending—and has come in and talked about it again. I want people to notice and take the point that in seven and a half years, the Leader of the Liberal Party has a responsibility to learn how to



read the budget. We have all been there—or many—when members get elected. People have come up to me asking me how to read a budget and we have people seeking information. Two political parties have had seven and a half years in opposition. Go and learn to read the budget. The member has come in here and said it was infrastructure. That is not what the member said originally. She should apologise. That is why people do not take her seriously. Even her own party does not. The Liberal Party upper house members sit there telling us that they do not take her leadership seriously because she cannot get on with people and she cannot tell the truth. That is why.

Let us go through the economic and fiscal mismanagement of the now opposition. The question was about our record versus theirs. Again, it can be demonstrated why the former government stuffed up the budget. It is because it did not take it seriously. It did not care. If its members cannot read a budget in opposition, they cannot manage a budget. The former government ran deficits and did not tell the truth about the deficits. Debt climbed to an unsustainable level. The former government increased debt by tens of billions of dollars. It also ran the economy into recession with key domestic indicators dropping, like business investment and government investment.

**Mr P. Papalia:** They lost the AAA credit rating.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It lost the AAA credit rating. Thank you, Minister for Police. What have we done? We have an operating surplus, a strong economy and a AAA credit rating. We were promised a new alliance in 2021. Do members remember that? The Liberals and Nationals WA said that they would work together yet they cannot even talk to each other. We now have two sets of policy commitments totalling over \$8 billion already. The Nationals' and Liberal Party's election commitments are over \$8 billion. They will say anything. When we are asked whether we will match it, I do not know. Whose policy commitment should we believe? We do not know whose policy commitment has priority over the other. We have no idea how they will fund \$8 billion of commitments. Maybe it will be by cutting services across the state. Then to come in here and lie about how much we are spending on health, as I said, is a blatant lie. The Liberal Party lies about health in this state and this is another blatant lie. Learn to read the budget. Do some work. Do not just chase a headline —

**Ms L. Mettam:** Get your priorities right.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** As the Leader of the Liberal Party, the member's priority is to provide an alternative plan. She should get her priorities right. Talk to the other leader. The member's priority is to work as an opposition, not to just chase the cameras like she does every day.

*Point of Order*

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I question the relevance of this answer to the question that was asked and ask that the minister be brought back to the question.

**The SPEAKER:** The minister has provided a very extensive answer already. I am not sure whether she needs to be brought back to continue to answer it. I was kind of hoping you may have finished.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** As I said, the Leader of the Liberal Party has been caught out again with the financial facts.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** It is no wonder members opposite stuffed up the finances the last time they were in government. They cannot read a budget. How can they manage a budget?

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** I have to say, Leader of the Liberal Party, if you continue to interject like that, you provoke a response so the answer gets longer the more you interject.

EAST FREMANTLE OVAL — REDEVELOPMENT

**845. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the \$30 million spend of taxpayers' money at East Fremantle Oval, the home of the Sharks.

(1) Is the minister and the member for Bicton embarrassed that this amount of money has not resulted in a fence around the oval that now sees the Sharks looking to play its home derby at Fremantle Oval just to generate some revenue?

(2) Can the minister confirm that due to the woke Town of East Fremantle's decision to not allow gas on site —  
Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Can the member pause for a moment? I want to hear the question in silence.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I repeat —

(2) Can the minister confirm that due to the woke Town of East Fremantle's decision to not allow gas on site, the facility is able to host approximately only 1 500 patrons, excluding East Fremantle Oval from the ability to host a derby for up to 6 000, 7 000 or 8 000 patrons?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

(1)–(2) It is very interesting because the member has been in this place talking about his defence of local governments. He has attacked the reforms to the Local Government Act and said that we were interfering too much with local government because local governments should have the autonomy to do all sorts of things but when local governments do something through their own an autonomy, he says they are woke. Who is he? Where is he from?

Several members interjected.

*Point of Order*

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Point of order.

**The SPEAKER:** I remind members that they do not have to be called to order four times before they are asked to leave. You can just be asked to leave. I do not want to have to say every time I take a point of order that points of order are heard in silence. That is something you should simply abide by.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I merely point out the fact that the member is required to speak from his place instead of in the corridor with his back to the Speaker.

**The SPEAKER:** Before the minister continues, I will rule on the point of order. I am upholding this point of order. I require the member to speak from his seat as I require other members to speak from theirs.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I have only three left!

This member says that he supports local governments having autonomy but when he does not agree with how they handled an issue, he says they are woke, pathetic and that I should intervene. Let me tell the member this: if we are talking about fences, the member is sitting on a non-existent one. He comes into this place and raises issues like this. I want to put a couple of things on the record. We are very proud of this government's investment in what is a very significant community facility in East Fremantle that has been wanted and needed for a long time. While that seat was previously held by the member's side of politics for so long, nothing happened—nothing happened—as is the case with so many electorates throughout Western Australia. Those members sat on their hands and did nothing at all to progress community facilities to support and encourage sport for children and young people. The member comes in here and says that it is a woke council over there. Gee, that is a dangerous thing to say, because if there is any remnant of a conservative rump around the state, there might be a couple in that area, and the member has gone and put himself offside with them.

I will make it very clear that this government made an election commitment to deliver a high-quality community facility that would include a heritage club—the East Fremantle Football Club—which I support strongly. I think it is a tremendous club with a great history and its home should be where it has been built for it. That is because of the advocacy of the member for Bicton who has ensured that it was built, unlike other people who may have represented that electorate from the other side of politics. There has been a bit of a tit for tat between the local government and the football club. I have involved the director general in making sure that there is progress with regard to the arrangements that will happen. But I can tell members that East Fremantle Football Club now has access to a world-class facility.

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

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** No, no, “wokey boy”, you sit there!

**The SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Oh no, I am going to get in trouble!

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, just pause for a moment. I ask you to withdraw calling the member for Roe “wokey boy” and apologise.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** This is becoming a habit! Thank goodness my term is coming to an end! I will be in the manure!

**The SPEAKER:** No, you say, “Madam Speaker, I withdraw and apologise.”

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I apologise, Madam Speaker, for calling him “wokey boy”.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** But there is this wokeism. Let us just look at this opposition, if we can call it that, because it is a fractured little rump of people who do not talk to each other and do not know what each other is doing. When there are only three question times left after this one, they raise issues such as this one. They know they cannot raise issues about employment because we have lowest unemployment in the nation and we have a track record on that. The opposition does not raise questions about record infrastructure in country towns and regional areas.

*Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** This theatrical presentation has deviated into areas that have nothing whatsoever to do with the question that was asked.

**The SPEAKER:** I am also not upholding that point of order. We have had a lot of interjections. The minister is answering as he sees fit and he is drawing an analogy that hopefully will come to a conclusion soon.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I am looking forward to next week!

The trouble with the member for Roe and others on his side is that there is no theme or thread in their arguments. They are so fractured.

**Mr P.J. Rundle:** That is \$30 million of taxpayers' money.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** Yes. Is it not a great facility? Is it not a brilliant facility? Has the member for Roe seen it? Has he gone and had a look? Has he poked his nose through the non-existent fence? Has he? No, he probably has not.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister, stop asking him questions. He has asked you the question. Can I just say that we have not had a supplementary question yet.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** I cannot wait for that doozy!

Regarding the fence, can I just say that the early conversations were all about making this a community facility that allowed community engagement. Three key clubs are part of that precinct—the bowling club, the football club and the croquet club. This is a great opportunity for them to enhance their membership, because the other elements that have been added to that community facility include nature play places for children and families and a whole range of other additions. This will be a leading example of the community working with a heritage club. I encourage both East Fremantle Football Club and the local government to continue to work together through some of these issues that the member for Roe says are “wokey”. This is a great opportunity for them to grow. This government, along with the local government and, I think, the AFL, have invested some significant dollars and now it is their chance to make this work really, really well. I do not sit around the council table and I also do not sit on the board of East Fremantle Football Club, but I hope that the club sees the opportunity that has been given to it and that it takes full advantage of it to grow its membership, to grow participation and to ensure that the female game in AFL through East Fremantle Football Club continues to grow. That is what I think is important. Am I embarrassed? I am absolutely not. It is a great investment; it is an important investment and it will have lasting positive effects for children, families and people who visit East Fremantle for games and on the whole precinct for the community.

## EAST FREMANTLE OVAL — REDEVELOPMENT

**846. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I have a supplementary question. There is \$30 million of taxpayers' money, overseen by the minister and his department —

**The SPEAKER:** Not a statement, just a question, please.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Once again —

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** — is the minister concerned that East Fremantle Football Club has to play its home game at another oval after this mess overseen by the minister and his department?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** It is my fault now! Understand what happened here. There was an election commitment and two key players: the heritage football club, which is East Fremantle Football Club, and the local government. The member for Roe says that local governments must have the say and not to interfere with local governments. A range of issues have occurred and I want to see those resolved. That is why I asked the director general. I have to tell members that she has put in a lot of time and I thank her for it. I do not sit around the board table of East Fremantle Football Club and I do not sit around the council table of East Fremantle. I want them to work it out and make sure this works because they have been handed a very, very good opportunity and they need to seize it. I want to see games played there all the time through East Fremantle Football Club. I want to see derbies played there, and they will be played there. The member for Roe's negativity, constant harping and his attacks on people being “wokey” and all this sort of thing are not the point. The point is it will be a great facility and let us make it work.

## SOCIAL HOUSING — SUPPLY

**847. Ms E.J. KELSBIE to the Minister for Housing:**

I refer to the rollout of the Cook Labor government's \$3.2 billion housing and social housing investment.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment is increasing housing supply across regional Western Australia?

- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of anyone who does not support the delivery of more housing?

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

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for her question. As I have said numerous times in this house, the government is deeply cognisant of the pressures in both the housing and rental markets. We take the matter very seriously and we are throwing everything at it to boost housing supply across the continuum from greenfield sites to social housing to affordable rentals right through to medium to high-density housing. Every additional home matters and counts for Western Australians.

Last week, it was a pleasure to announce a new project in regional Western Australia, and that is part of our housing diversity pipeline. It is a 30-dwelling community housing project that will be built in Busselton. It will deliver 16 social and 14 affordable rentals. This is a big site of 2 000 square metres. I think it will be a four-storey development. It is about maximising lazy government land. Our preferred proponent will be Housing Choices WA. It would be built to silver liveable home standards. This is a demonstration of how we are trying to get innovative projects not just in the city or the Perth metropolitan area, but also outside of Perth in regional Western Australia. Just as a side note, we have also done a land transaction with the Shire of Narrogin, with a 50 per cent discount for crown land, to assist with new housing development there. We have a message to regional Western Australia: we are open for business and we want to work with you to facilitate new housing.

I note that to date we have not heard anything from the member for Vasse—silence. We would think that as the local member she might welcome a new social and affordable housing project. The silence may be an indication that she does not want social and affordable housing in her own backyard. The rhetorical question is: does the member for Vasse resolutely and absolutely support a four-storey social housing development in her community?

**Ms L. Mettam:** Yes.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** That does not sound convincing at all. I look forward to this project going out to —

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** The member for Vasse is very agitated and I understand that.

I look forward to the community consultation going out and the member for Vasse will be resolutely —

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** I look forward to her —

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Vasse, I just called you to order twice and the first thing you did was interject again.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** You will be shown the door if you want to make gestures like that.

**Mr J.N. CAREY:** It is clear that the member for Vasse is under considerable pressure. We know what is happening in the Liberal Party room. It is unlikely that she will be there in a few weeks. We know there is tension, and that is why she is getting highly agitated. We have heard—it is now on the record—that the Leader of the Liberal Party resolutely supports social housing in Vasse. I look forward to her public support in the future, in particular as part of the community consultation.

I come back to this: we are constantly seeing the Liberals and the state opposition take different positions. Recently we saw another favourite of ours, the “Liberal for Bateman”, appear in—I kid you not—two social media posts directly after each other. The first one promotes the Liberals’ plan for housing. It is a flimsy plan, not resolute. He is in a photo with the current leader; he will probably have to change the picture in a week. It shows the current housing plan. The next Facebook post shows Hon Steve Martin with the “Liberal for Bateman” opposing a City of Melville plan to upzone areas for housing. It is not my state government plan. It has not been put forward by me. It was put forward by the City of Melville. We know that the Liberals and the Nationals are champions of local government.

The point I constantly make is that on one stage, we have the Liberals peddling their housing plan that would ultimately pour hundreds of millions into the development sector. On the other stage are Liberal candidates exactly like the one I mentioned, and the Liberal Party does not see any contradiction at all. They are opposing upzoning of land for housing. Where do they sit?

What we see from the Liberal Party is not a consistent position. As has occurred many times in this Parliament, we hear different Liberal candidates saying different things. But we do know that everywhere we look, Liberal candidates are opposing housing in their communities. What is their coherent plan? How will they deliver their suggested target when at every opportunity they have a chance to show they support housing projects, instead they are opposing them?

MEDICAL RESEARCH — LIVE RODENT SHORTAGE

**848. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

I draw the Premier's attention to comments made by Associate Professor Jason Waithman from the UWA cancer immunotherapy program that the shortage of live rodents for medical research is presenting a major threat to continued cancer research in our state.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Members opposite might not think it is serious but other people do. An article published in *The West Australian* on 28 October outlined that privatisation of the Animal Resources Centre had caused major delays in the supply of live rodents, negatively impacting vital cancer research and risking the shutdown of cancer research programs in our state.

- (1) As the Premier was the minister who initiated the closure of the Animal Resources Centre, has he been made aware of the problem described by Professor Waithman?
- (2) Why did the Premier's government give assurances to the medical research community that the Animal Resources Centre closure would not disrupt the supply of animals for research when this is exactly what has happened?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please.

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

- (1)–(2) Obviously, medical research and clinical trials are an important part of our overall health ecosystem. The fact of the matter is that the current facilities that were based at Murdoch University were significantly challenged in the way they operated, the viability of the service and its future, primarily because Murdoch University wanted the land upon which it was based. The opportunity to continue to make sure that we service that particular part of the medical and life sciences industry was obviously taken up by a private provider. That is simply the way this part of the industry is going.

It is not optimal that scientists are struggling in this area. Quite frankly, I am sure that we will be able to resolve this issue. It is essentially a national ecosystem now; it is not simply a matter of each state supporting this particular endeavour. The decisions we made took account of that.

MEDICAL RESEARCH — LIVE RODENT SHORTAGE

**849. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Has the Premier or any of his ministers had any discussions with the new centre owner, Ozgene, to ensure that critical cancer research programs are not delayed or even cancelled due to this shortage?

**Mr R.H. COOK replied:**

That is not in my portfolio so I cannot inform the member what discussions have gone on with Ozgene. If the member could either put the question on notice or perhaps ask one of his colleagues in the upper place to ask it, we will be able to provide the member with details.

WOMEN'S AND BABIES' HOSPITAL — MATERNITY SERVICES

**850. Ms D.G. D'ANNA to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's investment in new maternity care services, including the new women's and babies' hospital.

- (1) Can the minister advise the house of this government's comprehensive plan for maternity services in WA, including how this plan benefits regional women?
- (2) Can the minister inform the house whether she is aware of any alternative proposals to provide high quality maternity care in WA?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Kimberley for her question. The member is acutely aware of the challenges that providing health care across the largest jurisdiction in the world involves and the networks, partnerships,

innovations and resilience that is required to deliver that health care. We deliver that health care with our partners—the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Newborn Emergency Transport Service. NETS is a world-leading high quality service that transfers really vulnerable newborn babies when they need access to medical care.

As we have heard today in particular, and certainly over many months, the Leader of the Liberal Party has taken the position that she would continue to build the women's and babies' hospital on the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre site, despite the overwhelming evidence that it would present unmitigated risks to the rest of the system. We still have many questions about the Liberal Party's plan to build the hospital at that location that need to be answered. Which of the outpatient clinics will the Leader of the Liberal Party close down in G block? Where will she relocate them? Which of the elective surgeries will she cancel? How will patients and visitors actually access the sites, particularly when they are accessing the emergency departments? If people have a sick child or toddler in their car and they do not want to call an ambulance, they drive to Perth Children's Hospital. It is already a congested site. It is a serious risk. It was not the government that said that; it was the independent experts who wrote the business case. Infrastructure WA outlined the unmitigated risks of accessing the system.

Is the Leader of the Liberal Party going to commit to our plans to expand services at Osborne Park Hospital, a new birthing centre and a 2 000-bay car park at Fiona Stanley Hospital or is she going to scrap it? Is that the plan? We still do not know. We have no clarity about the Liberal Party's plan. The government wanted to build the hospital there but the overwhelming evidence steered us in another direction. Of course we are disappointed with that. That evidence was a business case, which was tabled in this place and is transparently available to the community. It was a report from Infrastructure WA, which also said, "You cannot do this within the next 10 years; it will take 20 years to build this hospital." That would mean King Edward Memorial Hospital would stay open for another 20 years. It has not got 20 years. Women deserve a new hospital now and the people who work there deserve a new hospital now. The Leader of the Liberal Party has heard evidence from leading neonatologists that challenge those claims of death and disability. She has heard directly from the director general; she received a private briefing from the director general. She heard from the director general during estimates about the unmitigated risks, and still she refuses to accept that expert evidence.

We have another set of experts who are supporting our plan. They are delivering care in remote places. That is the Royal Flying Doctor Service. It has written to me to support our plan to build the women's and babies' hospital at Murdoch because it will be better for regional patients. I will quote a letter from the chief executive of the RFDS, Judith Barker. She states —

I write in support of your decision to locate the new Women and Babies Hospital in the Fiona Stanley Hospital ... precinct. The close proximity of the FSH precinct to the ... [RFDS] base at Jandakot ... will ensure timely care for many of our most urgent patients from regional Western Australia. In 2023, this included 216 newborn babies (<28 days) and 469 women with complications of pregnancy who required RFDS transfer to Perth.

The RFDS is the expert in regional and remote health care. Furthermore, the letter goes on to say —

The Newborn Emergency Transport Service (NETS WA) retrievals by RFDS helicopters are due to commence in late 2024 following the introduction of a new system developed and tested by RFDS and NETS WA. This will mean RFDS helicopters can safely carry neonatal patients directly to the new hospital, minimising time to critical care and impacting positively on patient outcomes.

The organisation that supports rural communities when they need access to health care supports this decision. We still need to hear from the National Party about its position. That party purports to support regional women. We have seen the evidence. I urge you to examine the evidence before you. The Leader of the Liberal Party is in a very difficult position; she will have to either break her promise or break a contract. That takes leadership. It takes leadership to make a clear-eyed, carefully deliberated decision on the facts in front of you that addresses the risks and benefits across the whole system. Rather than listening to one group of people, in government you have to listen to everyone. You have to show leadership. Sometimes you have to make difficult decisions. That sometimes means making people unhappy, but your job in government is not to make everyone happy; your job is to do the right thing for everyone in the community, and that is what this decision is.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY — ALKINA HOLDINGS PROJECT — YORK

**851. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Environment:**

Further to my questions asked in this house on 21 September and 17 October this year regarding the Alkina Holdings project to build a tip at the entrance to the historic York town site, can the minister advise when he will be making a decision to either green-light or reject the application?

**Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:**

That was an extraordinary question from the member, who sat around the cabinet table of a previous government and actually decided that this project did not require Environmental Protection Authority assessment. If it had not been for the election of the McGowan Labor government in 2017, that site would now be operational. There you have it. We made an election commitment to review this project and send it to the EPA for proper assessment, and we did that. The process has taken many years because of changes of ownership and plans. We will consider this. We will take our time and make the right decision. We will make the right call.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** You made a promise—eight years.

**Mr R.R. WHITBY:** As I explained, there were changes to the ownership and what was planned for that facility, so the assessment changed over time.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** It's been done, minister.

**Mr R.R. WHITBY:** I remind the member that she was at the cabinet table when the former government made the decision that this would go ahead. If it were not for the election of a Labor government in 2017, the community there would have this landfill facility operating right now and it would have been operating for a number of years.

We will make the right decision. We will consider the outcome of the EPA process. I will make a decision. I will take on board that information from the EPA process, but I will also consider issues beyond the environmental impact, as is my responsibility as minister. I will make a considered decision. I will make the right decision that gets the right balance.

## ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY — ALKINA HOLDINGS PROJECT — YORK

**852. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Environment:**

I have a supplementary question. If the minister cannot or will not advise when this decision will be made, can he at least confirm for the good people of York whether they will know their fate before the next state election?

**Mr R.R. WHITBY replied:**

I will make a decision at the appropriate time, but I will tell the people of York that if it had not been for a Labor government, that landfill facility would already be operating.

## SPORT INFRASTRUCTURE

**853. Mr G. BAKER to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:**

I refer to the Cook Labor government's investment in high-quality sporting infrastructure throughout Western Australia.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment is delivering improvements in both community and professional sporting facilities?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this government is planning to meet future demand at our community sporting facilities?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for South Perth for the question and congratulate him for his ongoing advocacy, particularly for sporting infrastructure in his area and within that rapidly growing corridor, which is a very important part of the metropolitan area. I was really pleased to join the member for South Perth, the Minister for Local Government and member for Victoria Park, and the member for Belmont last week at Como Secondary College—another place for which the member has been fighting hard—for an announcement about our government's commitment to a major planning exercise for a new sporting facility in that corridor.

The announcement of \$2 million will ensure that planning commences for an important facility for which people have argued and, indeed, advocated for a long, long time. I think the member highlighted to me that some of the basketball, volleyball and netball stakeholders who were there had said that this was the first time a government had been serious about catering for the expanding needs of those codes in that area. I was appreciative of the stakeholders being present as well. That money will be used to commence the planning for an indoor sporting facility in Perth's inner southern suburbs.

We know that there has been an increase in population in Perth's inner southern suburbs, with lots more young families with kids there. In terms of the codes of basketball, netball and volleyball, the demand for covered courts continues to grow. This announcement will ensure that planning for that can now commence. We will of course utilise a lot of the work already done by those stakeholders. I congratulate those stakeholders; they have worked very hard to articulate their needs so that they can be accommodated in this process. I am very confident that through the member for South Perth's advocacy, and the advocacy of the members for Belmont and Victoria Park, we will be able to ensure that a facility is delivered under

a Cook Labor government. As we know, the member's seat was previously held by the other side. It took the first Labor member for South Perth in history to advocate and get results. He already has a track record, and he has been here for only nearly four years. I congratulate him for his advocacy.

The other thing that is occurring nearby is the Australian hockey centre. As members know, in 2022, after some very fierce fighting by this government, we secured the continuation of national hockey being centred here in Western Australia. This was a very important campaign. I have to tell you that the Queenslanders are still ropeable about the fact that Western Australia got it. They are steaming over there. Some people in the eastern states thought they should have everything.

**Ms R. Saffioti:** They always do.

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** They do. Well, they are not having everything. We have the Australian hockey centre. We have a history of delivering with regard to hockey facilities in Western Australia. We will deliver an outstanding expanded facility that will include new fields, an indoor hockey space and a goalie practice area. All the facilities will be focused on athletes so that our Kookaburras and Hockeyroos will have state-of-the-art, world-class hockey facilities over the next couple of decades in which to build their campaigns for the Commonwealth Games, Olympic Games, world cups and other events going forward. It will also mean that this facility will be the best in the Southern Hemisphere, and possibly the world. Therefore, the opportunity to attract the Asian Cup and other games from our near neighbours also will be enhanced.

I thank those members who advocated very strongly for us to secure the Australian hockey centre at Curtin University. Can I thank Curtin University. We signed the final lease arrangements and documentation last week. We will now commence construction of the Australian hockey centre, the home of hockey in Australia and the home of our Kookaburras and Hockeyroos. I assure all those who play the code in Western Australia and Australia that it is going to be delivered by the Cook Labor government. It will be a world-best practice facility that will enhance our chances and opportunities in future Commonwealth and Olympic Games and world cups. It is very exciting, and I thank the member again for his tremendous advocacy for sport, more broadly, in his electorate. It is another reason why on 8 March, when those good people from South Perth —

Several members interjected.

**Mr R.S. Love:** Is that the election?

**Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN:** What is wrong? What is he barking at now? What is he doing? He is barking. He is like a little terrier. He is like a little Shih tzu over there!

When the good people of South Perth vote, I am sure that they will be looking very favourably upon the member, because the member, after a long period of conservative government, has delivered so much. He will deliver more after 8 March.

#### YOUTH CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — SHIRE OF CARNARVON

##### **854. Ms M. BEARD to the Attorney General:**

I refer to the Attorney General's recent response to concerns raised by the Shire of Carnarvon about youth crime, antisocial behaviour and serious issues around accountability, consequences and respect within the community.

- (1) Can the Attorney General provide any details about any legislative reform initiatives being considered and how might they provide greater protection for the community?
- (2) Will the Department of Justice Night Space program, as implemented in Fitzroy Valley, be implemented in other towns such as Carnarvon and Meekatharra as a non-legislative priority?

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

- (1)–(2) If we are going to have a reduction in youth crime in Carnarvon, it has got to be through the reduction of the pervasive alcohol distribution in that town. As far as youth crime goes, this government will be making a very important announcement as to what we will do to divert more children away from detention to change their lives earlier and deal with the social problems that exist in the member's town.

#### YOUTH CRIME AND ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR — SHIRE OF CARNARVON

##### **855. Ms M. BEARD to the Attorney General:**

I have a supplementary question. Will this include the Night Space program in towns such as Carnarvon and Meekatharra?

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I give the Attorney General the call—firstly, we do not need everyone interjecting. Again, I do not think the Attorney General is responsible for the Night Safe program—are you? No. That question is not in order. That concludes question time.



## ASSOCIATIONS AND CO-OPERATIVES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

*Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**The SPEAKER:** Before I give the member the call, I hope people will move to where they are moving to. There is a bit too much noise and movement in the chamber. Member for Southern River.

**MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.03 pm]: Before we rose for lunch, I spoke about static Santa. For those who were having trouble confirming what I meant, I now have all the static Santa locations from the Gosnells Lions Club. I look forward to welcoming the new apprentice Santas to the Gosnells community on 2 December from 7.00 pm in Gosnells, on 9 December in Huntingdale at some local parks, and of course at the youth plaza. I have ensured that members are aware that they can purchase their Gosnells Lions cakes from my office if they cannot get along to a static, or we might say “fixed”, location for a Santa.

It gives me great pleasure to talk about the fantastic organisations within my electorate. I would like to talk about a fantastic location shared by the member for Jandakot—the member for Oakford—Yaz Mubarakai, Hon Stephen Pratt and me. That is the C.Y. O’Connor Village precinct. It is a very important location. Some would be aware that the first historic reborn Starbucks is just outside that precinct. The C.Y. O’Connor Village precinct won two significant awards recently as part of the Australian Hotels Association Hospitality Awards for Excellence. The member for Jandakot, Yaz Mubarakai, Hon Stephen Pratt and I formally place on the record our appreciation for its great work. It has been awarded Perth’s best hospitality venue and the family dining award. Members will be aware that there is the Village Pub, the Steak House, Charlie’s Paddock—a great location that I take my kids to—Tilly’s Garden, Paperbark Burger Co and, of course, the Thirsty Camel. On behalf of my colleagues, I pass on our congratulations to the Dawkins family and the team that work together to make the C.Y. O’Connor facility a fantastic place.

It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the fiftieth anniversary of the Gosnells Police and Community Youth Centre on behalf of Deputy Speaker Stephen Price, Chris Tallentire, Hon Bill Johnston and, of course, local heroes Ron Sao in Cannington and Daniel Morrison-Bird in Thornlie. On 14 December we will celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the Gosnells PCYC. It is a fantastic organisation that has been part of my local community for many years. Members will be aware it has been delivering incredible engagement and youth projects for a number of years—in particular: archery, gymnastics, boxing, judo and air rifles. It is also a safe place. There are a number of different night services through the police services. On behalf of the Parliament of Western Australia, I acknowledge all the volunteers, including life member Pat Morris and all the local heroes who have been part of the Gosnells PCYC for the last 50 years. We congratulate them on behalf of our local community.

I return to locations of fantastic community organisations. I give a shout-out to the Amanda Young Foundation. In my electorate, there are some beautiful landscapes within part of the remaining—what I would call—rural part of Southern River. On some large blocks by the river is Amanda’s Garden. I give a special shout-out to Barry and Lorraine Young and their team of volunteers who put on a two-day fete in the name of raising funds for meningococcal awareness and research. It was a beautiful event last month. Thousands of people attended. I thank all the organisations that were part of that.

I would like to mention the Friends of Mary Carroll Wetland in Gosnells. Mary Carroll Wetland is a beautiful section of Gosnells. It is right on the border of the Thornlie and Southern River electorates—a beautiful part of the Gosnells community. I give a shout-out to Unice Robinson, one of my constituents, who heads a wonderful team of volunteers who look after the wetlands in honour of Mary Carroll and the work she began many years ago.

Members will be aware that the state government recently provided a Lotterywest grant of \$1 million towards the very first Changing Places facility in the Gosnells area. The toilets are open. We have a fantastic local council there. The council has built some bridges to allow an easier walking connection to allow people to better enjoy the wetlands and those areas. The contribution of the Lotterywest grant has allowed us to invest in new toilets. Like I said, not everyone is aware of a Changing Places toilet with a Master Locksmiths access key. For those people who need to access a Changing Places facility, there are very few in the southeast corridor, and it is absolutely fantastic to have this investment there to allow people to access that facility. The playground is due to open in a couple of months. There will be a beautiful all-abilities playground on the banks of Mary Carroll Park. As a Gosnells resident who does not live too far from that, I cannot wait to enjoy that space with my family. I acknowledge that thanks to the volunteers of the Friends of Mary Carroll Wetland—a great association—more people will be able to access that beautiful space within my community.

I give a shout-out to the Gosnells Salvation Army—a beautiful group of volunteers in the Salvation Army who do great work. Recently, the Gosnells Salvation Army held their annual fete. Daniel Morrison-Bird and I ran a balloon-twisting store. We made our free balloon animals available to all the families who came through. That is a really great, free fete for families to enjoy with a lot of low-cost products available for Christmas. I give a great shout-out to all people involved with that.

I will conclude with a couple of points. I have some amazing school P&Cs and community groups within my electorate. I appreciate that they are involved in a number of different paid work and voluntary capacities, and I appreciate all the hours of volunteer work they put in, whether it is for Scouts or Cubs or environment or sporting groups. Although we cannot always get to all your events, please know how much members of Parliament here greatly appreciate the work you do to make our community a better place.

**DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.12 pm] — in reply: I rise to speak in reply on the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Firstly, I thank all members who have contributed to debate on this bill. Working with the fantastic local clubs and associations is one of the greatest joys of being a local member. Most of these associations are run by working parents and almost all of them volunteer their time to make these associations work. There are a lot of activities, meetings and fundraisers. They organise events and look after the community. We need to support them by every means possible so that they can function at their best level. The provisions within this bill will make things easier for those associations so that they are better able to move into the future.

The Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024 will amend the Associations Incorporation Act 2015 and the Co-operatives Act 2009. It will implement recommendations from the 2022 statutory review into the operations of the Associations Incorporation Act and industry-driven amendments to the Co-operatives Act. Broadly, the purpose of the bill is to modernise and improve the operation and effectiveness of the legislation—to streamline and simplify the obligations under each of the legislative frameworks.

Key amendments proposed by this bill will allow an association to reserve a name for up to three months; implement rules that are additional to, but not inconsistent with, the requirements of the Associations Incorporation Act; restrict access to personal information contained in an association's member register under certain circumstances; and, in the event of insolvency, avail itself of small business restructuring processes under the Corporations Act 2001 as an alternative to winding-up and administration provisions. The bill will improve procedural fairness via access to the State Administrative Tribunal for former members who wish to appeal their expulsion from an association. It will allow both associations and incorporations to hold meetings and vote by electronic means and will insert provisions into the Co-operatives Act to explicitly permit electronic signing of documents. It will clarify aspects of voting by proxy at general meetings. It will provide the Commissioner for Consumer Protection with the power to deal with the assets of an association after winding-up when required and cancel an association's incorporation when it is in the public interest to do so.

I am pleased to hear that the opposition will be supporting these sensible reforms. I now take the opportunity to respond to questions asked by the Leader of the Opposition during the course of the second reading debate.

The Leader of the Opposition asked whether the bill should be considered a uniform legislation bill. I can confirm that the bill before us is not a uniform legislation bill. The amendments are being made at the request of WA cooperatives to serve the requirements of local cooperatives. The intergovernmental agreement for the national law allows some differences between jurisdictions. The amendments are not for the purpose of aligning with the cooperatives national law, and the amendments are not part of any agreement with other jurisdictions to make amendments.

It is not clear why cooperatives have been less used in Western Australia than is the case in some other jurisdictions. The Leader of the Opposition may be right that it is simply a matter of regional differences across the country, although it is noted that the legislative framework was quite complex and unwieldy prior to updating the law in 2009, and that may have discouraged use of the model.

As members who have contributed to debate have noted, the importance of incorporated associations and cooperatives to the Western Australian community cannot be overstated. A legislative framework that better supports their work in the community and the economy is critical. I am sure we have done our best to support associations in our communities.

I commend this bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

*Third Reading*

**DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.17 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition)** [3.17 pm]: I rise to once again put on the record that the opposition supports the Associations and Co-operatives Legislation Amendment Bill 2024. Unfortunately, we will not see it progress through the other place in this term of Parliament. In a future Parliament, if the government of the day wills it, the legislation will return. On the face of the legislation here, if I were to return to this place, I would still support this legislation in the future.

**DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.18 pm] — in reply: I once again thank the opposition and all speakers who have spoken on this debate to support the bill. I thank the advisers for their work to bring this bill to Parliament.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

### PREMIER'S STATEMENT

#### *Consideration*

Resumed from 12 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

**MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale)** [3.19 pm]: It is customary on these occasions to speak about developments and achievements in one's electorate; an inspection of *Hansard* indicates that I have done so on many occasions. There have been times when I have had to persistently repeat the necessity for a specific project for my electorate in more than one Premier's Statement address. As I had no opportunity to speak in 2023, I have a bit of ground to cover today. I will briefly chronicle what has transpired in the Landsdale electorate over the recent past. This being my penultimate speech, I am largely able to say, in the words of George W. Bush, "Mission accomplished."

Landsdale Gardens Primary School has almost completed its second year under the leadership of its principal, Natasha Doyle. Landsdale Primary School finally has a brand new canteen that can meet the needs of a large school in a growing area. At the school's recent thankyou morning tea for volunteers, Sue and her team at the canteen produced a table groaning with an endless array of delicious goodies. No doubt the renovated canteen facilitated their efforts. The CCTV system installed at Landsdale Primary School has seemingly minimised the incidence of theft, which is vital given the increasing use of technology at such schools.

I am delighted that the Pearsall Primary School therapy hub is up and running, with 16 different programs for students and parents to improve outcomes through early intervention. The state government's contribution of \$176 000 has enabled this to occur. It is much appreciated by all, including chaplain Lisa Ingram, who has capitalised on the opportunity of a separate, safe and welcoming space for therapy programs. It is used by both students and parents alike. The expansion of the Warradale Community Centre and Clubrooms—it was, I have to say, a 2016 election promise—is at last finished and includes umpire rooms, change rooms and tables. Despite the presence of Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex nearby, it is difficult to keep up with demand for sporting facilities in the electorate, especially for junior sport. The Northern Suburbs Men's Shed, which is currently located in suboptimal rental premises in Wangara, will move to land near Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex. The plans, which were a long time in gestation, as well as the need to create an access road, have finally received planning approval and construction should be finished next year. The premise is funded by a \$1 million contribution by the state government.

I am also excited about the Cook Labor government's major cash injection of \$6 million for the City of Wanneroo Landsdale library. The contribution to Dordaak Kepup—the place of living waters—funds part of a larger building as a youth hub within the facility. The Minister for Culture and the Arts, David Templeman, recently visited the site, where construction is full steam ahead. There has been lengthy consultation with neighbouring schools, so completion is eagerly anticipated by young prospective users.

The Wanneroo Cricket Club can now put runs on the board with an electronic scoreboard. Planning is well in hand for major renovations at the clubhouse.

The McGowan government's \$2.6 million towards world-class lighting at Kingsway Olympic Sports Club's ground enabled the ground to be used as a home base for the Danish team during the FIFA Women's World Cup tournament in July last year. More importantly, in the longer term those improvements will be a legacy for the whole community because they will enable more night matches and training to occur. Kingsway Olympic Sports Club recently hosted an Australia Cup match under lights. Kingsway Olympic successfully and historically made it to the quarter finals of the competition, which comprises more than 700 feeder clubs from all over Australia. Alas, they lost to Adelaide Football Club. Unfortunately, the lights highlighted the own goal! Had they been dimmer, it would not have been so upsetting to us all. More importantly, the clear TV broadcast was enabled by the lighting.

Most exciting—I should not have left it to last—is the government's \$40 million injection to support major upgrades at Ashdale Secondary College in Darch. Construction will commence early next year. The project includes a new two-storey specialist teaching block, a STEM lab training place and digital design learning and science labs. An adjacent single-storey building will house design and technology workshops. I thank the Minister for Education, Dr Tony Buti, his staff and the department for giving this project the priority it so richly deserves. As they say in the classics, good things come to those who wait and wait and wait!

In my remaining time, I turn to several issues with which, sadly, I have had little success.

The first concerns the ability of pedestrians to safely cross Mirrabooka Avenue between Darch and Landsdale, particularly during peak periods. Mirrabooka Avenue, which is one of the busiest roads in my electorate, is a four-lane

distributer road with a speed limit of 70 kilometres an hour. Given that Mirrabooka Avenue connects with the Landsdale industrial precinct and Ocean Reef Road, it is used by a variety of vehicles, including heavy haulage trucks. The speed and volume of traffic activity has always presented a challenge for safe pedestrian activity on Mirrabooka Avenue; however, the issue became more serious and acute after the Department of Education approved the construction of Landsdale Gardens Primary School. The school opened in 2023 with a catchment area that is bisected by Mirrabooka Avenue and includes parts of Landsdale and Darch. Students from Darch who attempt to walk to school are expected to cross four lanes of traffic without the assistance of a warden or infrastructure that deters speeding or calms traffic. The City of the Wanneroo has installed u-rails and adjusted the footpath and kerbing to facilitate pedestrian crossing; however, this does not improve the safety experience of students.

Walking and riding to school is an initiative that the Cook Labor government has firmly endorsed, particularly through its support of the Your Move campaign in schools across WA. Safe transport routes within a school's catchment area, access to footpaths, traffic wardens and traffic-calming measures are necessary to ensure that participation in the program continues to increase. My advocacy and correspondence to the City of Wanneroo, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Road Safety and the Department of Education began even before the school opened. I pleaded for a sensible traffic treatment that recognises the unique circumstances of pedestrian activity across Mirrabooka Avenue. Regrettably, the exchanges to date can be described as creating a catch 22. The school's enrolment numbers, which is a little over 200 students, cannot justify an application to the Western Australia Police Force for a staffed school crossing; however, student numbers from the Darch side of the catchment area are unlikely to increase without improved pedestrian access.

Earlier this year, I received a letter from Landsdale Primary School co-signed by the board chair and president of the school P&C. The principal, Ms Natasha Doyle, has also spoken to me about safety concerns during my numerous pastoral visits to the school. The letter includes traffic data provided by the City of Wanneroo, and reads in part —

We are advised recent daily measurements indicate that between 7:30 am–9:00 am, the volume of traffic is 1088 vehicles northbound and 1398 southbound. Between 2:30 pm–4:00 pm, there are 1241 northbound and 1567 southbound.

The operating speed of Mirrabooka Avenue is between 77–78km/h.

The board chair and school parents and citizens president say —

We consider that even if an illuminated school crossing sign were installed (without a crossing guard) given the nature of the site, this would be insufficient to mandate timely driver compliance. There needs to be the highest level of road safety infrastructure on this busy major road.

We note that in other similar sites, Hepburn Avenue, Kingsley; Canning Highway; and Cambridge Street, West Leederville with similar conditions red and white poles with flashing lights have been erected in addition to standard measures.

We have been made aware of "near miss" incidents. We feel duty bound to advocate for all appropriate measures to be implemented to avert the possibility of a tragic outcome.

The City of Wanneroo has repeatedly advised that Main Roads Western Australia is the responsible authority for approving and installing traffic treatments such as red and white poles. Given that the red and white poles were approved at the other locations I referred to with similar or better traffic conditions and road structures, I am at a loss to know why such infrastructure has been ruled out of hand in this instance.

While I am on the subject of traffic congestion and safety concerns, I note the intersection of Kingsway and Hartman Drive, Darch. The intersection is in close proximity to the Kingsway Regional Sporting Complex, Ashdale Secondary College, Kingsway Christian College and Ashdale Primary School. As of semester 2 last year, Ashdale Secondary College had 1 826 students, Kingsway Christian College had 1 325 students and Ashdale Primary School had 727 students. Therefore, close to 4 000 students are travelling to and from those three schools on weekdays. The congestion is significant and the issue is exacerbated by the road structure and the number of people in the school community driving to pick up and drop off children. The area is relatively close to my electorate office and I have observed several incidences of delays to navigate the roundabout along Kingsway and Hartman Drive exceeding 15 minutes during the congested periods. Transport buses, cyclists, cars and pedestrians all try to navigate those busy transport networks. The situation appears to be getting worse as student enrolments continues to increase. Main Roads Western Australia, the Western Australia Police Force and the City of Wanneroo must continue to work together in collaboration with local schools to ensure that the safe and efficient road use is the top priority around that intersection. Despite this acute congestion, I have ironically noted on several occasions a police presence to enforce speed limits in close proximity but nothing is done to ensure that cars do not queue across the roundabout intersection, thereby compounding the problems. The issue of speed is laughable given that everyone is at a standstill.

I have raised with the Minister for Transport and successive energy ministers the lack of expedition in completing the planned Alexander Drive shared-path project that is to provide pedestrian access along Alexander Drive between Hepburn Avenue and Gngalara Road. The project was planned several years ago by the City of Wanneroo and is funded by cell 9 developer contribution plans. I understand that the project was delayed by more than two years

as the local government awaited approval from Western Power for the relocation of underground power assets. I have been advised that on both occasions, Western Power was experiencing resourcing issues that impacted the approval and project completion timeframes. Given the Cook Labor government's commitment to active transport, including cycling and pedestrian activity in the metropolitan area, this project needs to receive the necessary approvals to facilitate the expeditious construction of the project.

While I am reflecting on traffic, recently there have been legitimate concerns about the level of road trauma in Western Australia. It takes a terrible toll on families, loved ones, witnesses, first responders and survivors. Some years ago in opposition, I advocated for the creation of a road trauma victim counselling service and drafted an amendment to legislation to permit funds from the road trauma trust fund to create such a service. The impetus for the creation of the service began in February 1999 when Alan and Glenda Maloney found themselves on a journey no-one would wish to take. Their 17-year-old daughter, Skye, and her friend died suddenly in a road crash. Alan and Glenda Maloney became increasingly aware about the lack of support available while trying to cope with their trauma and negotiate all the post-crash procedures whilst in this state. They delivered school presentations, advocated for a 50 kilometre-an-hour urban speed limit and petitioned for a car manufacturers' code of conduct against using speed to advertise vehicles. Being contacted by other grieving families seeking support during that time reinforced their belief in the enormous gap in support services. Their own research showed that the existing agencies were severely stretched. Time delays and excessive costs to access suitable help led to people feeling isolated and unsupported. The Maloneys' lobbying was tenacious and, after many years, their determined persistence was ultimately fruitful.

Supported by the road trauma trust account through the Road Safety Council, the Office of Road Safety and the Department of Health, the vision of many became a reality and Road Trauma Support WA was launched on 17 November 2013 on the annual World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims. Dr Sudhakar Rao, a trauma surgeon at Royal Perth Hospital, is its patron. That was great news, but unlike the equivalent service in Victoria, the Western Australian service does not assist with victim impact statements in court.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms M.M. QUIRK:** Most significantly, it does not coordinate volunteer emergency service personnel to provide road trauma awareness seminars that are given to persons who have been before the courts on low-level driving offences and are referred as part of their sentence to better appreciate the impact of road trauma. My research in the context of this is that it is beneficial for volunteers to provide those training seminars because they get to speak personally about the impact road trauma has had on them and it acts as a very significant deterrent for the offenders. I recommend that we consider extending the service here with the attendant increase in resourcing to include these elements that work so well in Victoria. We know that offending behaviour quite often occurs because there is a lack of empathy on behalf of the offenders. By ensuring that offenders have a firsthand account of the impact their offending has on others, I believe this may impress upon them the need to take care when on the roads in future. It would also expand the options of sentencing authorities, which I know would garner community support.

On the final issue I will raise, I need to declare an interest as an apartment dweller, an electric vehicle driver and a resident ratepayer in Perth. I refer to the lack of expedition by some metropolitan local governments to expeditiously facilitate public EV charging infrastructure. That applies to my electorate in the City of Wanneroo where there is perhaps a surprisingly high penetration of EVs. Despite my representations, the availability of state government grants and the mayor driving an EV, the response could best be described as tepid and has not translated into action. The City of Perth is a member of the World Energy Cities Partnership and boasts that it is committed to fostering the transition to a more sustainable energy future and is leading initiatives to build a lower carbon source to power the world today and into tomorrow. In Perth there are many apartments, but there are legislative constraints on retrofitting chargers within apartment complexes. This creates a very real problem. This is compounded by the lack of expedition and enthusiasm by the City of Perth to ensure adequate publicly available on-street or pole-charging infrastructure for the needs of visitors and residents alike.

I might just digress here. There was recently a by-election in the City of Perth and I wrote to all the candidates about this issue. I got some quite perplexing responses. The person who ultimately won that election sent me a very glossy email that was his vision for the City of Perth, but referred to bike paths, so I remain a little perplexed.

As of June 2023, there were only 39 electric vehicle charging points in the car park operated by the City of Perth. That represents 0.37 per cent of the total number of bays available. Given that the proportion of EVs sold each year is tracking above 10 per cent, there are major concerns about the lack of charging infrastructure. As an aside, I am shortly to retire, and I am looking forward to pursuing this issue with some vigour and making a pest of myself. The response to my correspondence to the City of Perth asking whether it had a policy or management procedure for EV charging stations at established facilities acknowledged that the city's planning scheme 2 was not retrospective and therefore did not apply to existing buildings. When pressed about plans for retrospective installation, the City of Perth advised that a number of issues needed to be considered such as having large volumes of electric vehicles in car parks, weight distribution and concerns over safety, with short-term use of lithium batteries and closed-space fires. This kind of ill-informed Luddite reaction is not only frustrating but also at odds with public pronouncements about the City of Perth being at the forefront of sustainability.

Sydney and numerous other cities accept that not everyone in the community has access to private parking. Measures are adopted to help meet the challenge of providing on-street charging capacity without intrusive infrastructure taking up precious road and footpath space. For example, in Sydney, Mayor Clover Moore recently announced collaboration with the private company, EVX, to install pole-mounted charges. This augmented a number of other initiatives and trials already in place.

The Cook government, through its excellent Charge Up grants program, encourages local governments, not-for-profits and small businesses to install EV infrastructure for ratepayers, residents, clients and customers. However, there is a failure of many local governments to expeditiously respond to the requirements of electric vehicles. This is despite \$7 million being made available in the latest round.

With many cheaper EVs now entering the Australian market, and escalating petrol prices, we can predict an exponential rise in the number of EVs and hybrid vehicles on the roads. EVs will no longer be seen as a luxury for a select few; in fact, there has been a range of affordable and smaller EV models arriving on our shores in recent months. Fast-charging infrastructure would be convenient in many circumstances, such as a family charging an EV at a local cricket oval while the child is playing a match or during a day trip to the aquatic centre, a playground or recreation centre. That is what the City of Bayswater has done, taking advantage of the Charge Up grants to install two charging stations at the Morley Sport and Recreation Centre.

Spending millions of dollars on an obscure and ineffectual advertising campaign of cavorting ballerinas to attract visitors to the city is risible. The provision of streetside EV charging stations would be more effective in attracting visitors from the burbs who would then patronise Perth retail businesses, cafes and restaurants. I stress that EV drivers are prepared to pay their way. They are not expecting a free ride. They are unhappy about the failure of local governments such as that of the City of Perth to facilitate installation of sufficient and accessible charging stations in existing structures in community facilities and on the roadside and to actively collaborate with private providers. I think this point is very significant because it is not as if the council needs to run and maintain the charging stations. It can make spaces available for a private provider such as Chargefox, which does an excellent job.

Public policies down the track will need formulation to ensure that EV users pay for road usage in the same way as those fuelling their cars with petrol with excise money used to make road improvements. However, at this stage we need the more fundamental step of providing infrastructure in the first place and having progressive governments that understand the transitioning energy needs of the community.

The final matter I want to briefly mention is a recent award that was given to Brother “Ollie” Pickett, AM. He has taken out Senior Australian of the Year for Western Australia for co-founding Wheelchairs for Kids Australia, which operates out of my electorate. Since the 83-year-old started the charity in 1996, more than 60 000 custom wheelchairs have been gifted to children in over 80 countries. These wheelchairs are particularly robust and can be adapted as a child grows. They are extremely welcome and do a lot for our comity, especially with Pacific and Asian nations where the wheelchairs are sent. I must say that it is one of the few organisations I have encountered that has a waiting list for volunteers. Not only that, but Wheelchairs for Kids has one of WA’s largest charities, with an average volunteer age of 74 years. It is one of the oldest volunteer-led charities in the state. Congratulations Brother Ollie. The award is well deserved. Successive Premiers have visited the site, as did the Leader of the Liberal Party recently. They will all attest to the fact that the work being done by Wheelchairs for Kids is exceptional and the award is very much well deserved.

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [3.47 pm]: It is always pleasing to be able to speak in the last spot on a Thursday, with one’s contribution standing between the adjournment. I want to make what will be my last ever contribution to the Premier’s Statement general debate. As members will know, it is not often we can speak about our own electorates. I will talk about a few of the things, but I start by talking about a few things in the electorate of Cannington. I will talk about this next sitting, but 51 per cent of people in Cannington were born overseas. We have now moved ahead of the seat of Mirrabooka. We used to be second, only to Mirrabooka, in multiculturalism and now we are first.

On Monday I had a seniors afternoon tea celebrating WA Seniors Week. A total of 360 seniors attended, along with the Minister for Seniors and Ageing. It was a great event. My electorate has always had a very large seniors population, and I was very pleased to host all of them in what will be my last ever Seniors Week as the member for Cannington. I particularly want to acknowledge Margaret Adams, who lives in Ferndale, and is the president of the Ferndale Residents Association. She is a very active senior. Last year, she was richly celebrated at Parkwood Primary School for her years of service. She is still there as a lollipop lady every morning. She is a stalwart of the Ferndale, Lynwood and Parkwood areas.

I also want to acknowledge Bannister Creek Primary School, which won the excellence in cultural responsiveness award at the most recent WA Education Awards that were held on Monday of this week. I want to read the citation. It is a remarkably good school. It reads —

Bannister Creek Primary School staff are committed to building culturally safe and engaging learning environments through a range of practical initiatives. Among them is the school’s Aboriginal parent liaison

group called Baldja Waangkiny (Talking Strong Together) where parents and Aboriginal leaders guide important cultural learning opportunities, projects, celebrations, and activities. Cultural education also flows out on to school grounds, with an outdoor classroom and Aboriginal six seasons trail where students learn about caring for Country, Aboriginal perspectives, language, plants, and animals. The school's Aboriginal and Islander Education Officer ... is also instrumental in leading cultural projects and supporting students to achieve their best.

I was recently able to attend when the school launched its reconciliation action plan last month. The fact that an independent public school such as Bannister Creek has its own RAP is a genuine credit to it. The school was amalgamated out of three primary schools just when I was elected, so it was created in 2008. It has been at its current site for about 10 years. It is performing in a really outstanding way.

I have also been going through all my different election commitments. All of them except for one have now been implemented. This year I was able to attend the opening of the \$23 million refurbishment of Lynwood Senior High School, which was greatly needed. The infrastructure of the school now matches the quality of the teaching.

The Metronet level crossing removal, which is something that I have been campaigning for almost since I got into Parliament, is fast nearing completion. The engineering infrastructure is in place. I was away on the day the engineering completion was celebrated so I was not with the member for Victoria Park when that little event took place, but it is certainly very exciting. Interestingly, I do not get complaints about the disruption to services. I know that the media likes to talk about disruption. I get compliments for the fact that such a massive investment is going into our community. Everyone says, "Yeah, there is disruption, but gee it will be good when it is done." Already, Wharf Street functions. There are still disruptions to traffic all over the place while the construction work is going on but the fact is that we do not get stuck at Wharf Street when trying to go north and the people who live on Wharf Street on the north side of the rail line can get out of their driveways in the mornings.

The one 2021 election commitment that was fully funded in the 2021 budget is the Metcalfe Road and Nicholson Road intersection treatment. The amount of \$2.5 million was in the 2021 budget. Instead of doing the project itself, Main Roads Western Australia decided to give the money to the council so it could get the project. The council and Main Roads could not agree on the treatment, which I thought was a bit odd because I always thought the treatment of that site had been agreed. However, I have now been advised by the council that it has approval to proceed with the works, which will start before Christmas. That is very welcome news.

I want to pivot to the airport. It recently put out a press release celebrating its decision to come to a deal with Qantas. It can now proceed with its second runway. That is a challenge for the people in my electorate. The electorate of Cannington is the most-affected electorate in the state. It is more noise affected than the electorates on the northern side of the runway because Queens Park is only 2.5 kilometres from the end of the runway. The residents of Queens Park are the closest to the airport compared with any other constituents in the area. Obviously, the people in Redcliffe are closer but the planes do not come right over them; they fly next to them. I wish to make it clear that I understand that, but they are directly under the path.

The problem with the second runway is that the cross runway will be used less so there will be more north-south take-offs and landings. The people of Beckenham, which is also 2.5 kilometres from where the new runway will end, will be subject to a significant increase in noise flow. I have been making submissions to the airport master plan process over the 16 years that I have been the member, setting out exactly how I think the problem should be solved—that is, the airport should be a good neighbour and work with constituents to provide noise amelioration works for them in their homes. Given that billions of dollars are being spent on that project—the airport tells us that on its website—and that \$850 million was spent on the Gateway project, the Tonkin Highway works that happened a number of years ago, half funded by the Labor federal government at the time, a lot of public infrastructure supports the airport, and a bit of help from the local residents.

Jason Waters used to be the CEO of Synergy and then the CEO of the Gold Corporation. He is now the CEO of Perth Airport. He and I get on very well. He will read my speech and probably send me a text message or something. I cannot finish as the member for Cannington without putting that on the record. I have talked about these things in the past. I talked to him only recently. Rob Cole, who used to be the chairman of Synergy, is now the chairman of Perth Airport, so he will probably give me a ring as well. One way or another, there needs to be a good outcome.

The Canning Show was recently held at the Cannington Exhibition Centre and Showgrounds. It is the only metropolitan show in which the show society owns the grounds. The Canning Agricultural, Horticultural and Recreational Society actually owns the land on which the show takes place. It is not council land. A lot of people think—from Kelmscott or Wanneroo or whatever—that the Canning Show is held on council land but that is not the case; it is independently owned. It has had very good leadership over a long period of time. Maxine Jamieson is currently the president and Diane Beggs has retired from the role of chief executive officer. I wish her well. She used to live in Beckenham and now she lives up in the hills, so she cannot vote in Cannington anymore. She has been a great servant of CAHRS, the Cannington Agricultural, Horticultural and Recreational Society, of which I am a member, and it does a wonderful job. One of its tenants is the Station Street Men's Shed, which is not only the only

men's shed in Cannington, but also the only one in the immediate vicinity. The problem is that the Station Street Men's Shed is full. It has a waiting list of people who would like to join because the area does not have enough space. Because it is a tenant of the agricultural society, it cannot apply for infrastructure grants. One of its problems is that the cost of doing commercial work is so much higher than doing other work. It needs to meet industrial standards if it wants to expand but it does not own the land. It would have to get approval from its landlord, which could certainly be arranged, but it is hard for it to apply for a grant. One of the challenges is that the City of Canning will not support a men's shed that is not on City of Canning property. That challenge needs to be resolved. The government of Western Australia is happy to support institutions and give a grant, so the money leaves us. The City of Cannington is saying that it will only support something when it can keep the asset. That is unfortunate. The City of Canning, the government of Western Australia, the Canning Agricultural, Horticultural and Recreational Society and the Station Street Men's Shed should be able to do something together to resolve this problem.

I spoke to the Minister for Lands the other day about the challenge of parking on Marriamup Street, which runs along the Canning River Regional Park. A bike path runs along the edge of the road and sometimes cars park on the bike path because the road is quite narrow. There is not enough room for car parking embayments, but we could take the land that is currently used as a bike path and use it for car parking embayments as it is a very popular park and a lot of people want to use it. We would then have to take a sliver of land off the regional park for a new bike path, which I understand could be done under the Land Administration Act with the help of the Minister for Lands. We would not normally want to take land off a park to build a bike path, but because this would allow even more people to use the Canning River Regional Park, it is probably a good idea.

I also visited the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare, or SERCUL, the other day. SERCUL is one of the most important environmental groups in the metropolitan area and is based in Beckenham in my electorate, where it leases a property off the Western Australian Planning Commission. It finally has a proper lease with the Planning Commission; I was very pleased to be able to work with SERCUL on that. I did not have to directly intervene, but I made sure that the relevant minister, the Minister for Lands at the time, was aware of the challenge. In the end, they were able to resolve all the issues. I was very pleased to see that. SERCUL does a magnificent job not just in what it does itself, which is extraordinary, but also through its support for all the other friends groups in the area. It provides administrative support so that those groups, including the Canning River Regional Park Volunteers, Friends of Queens Park Bushland, Friends of Brixton Street Wetlands over in the electorate of the member for Forrestfield and the Wilson Wetlands Action Group, can acquire their grants. All the different volunteer groups in the area can get support from SERCUL. It is important work.

One of my 2017 election commitments included funding for SERCUL to build an all-access toilet onsite. It hosts a lot of groups at that site—volunteers and others—but it did not have sufficient toilet facilities. An environmentally sensitive toilet has been built that will not impact the Canning River, because obviously SERCUL is surrounded by the park. That is really good. Stephen Johnston was the chair of SERCUL; he stepped down at the AGM. Interestingly enough, he has the same name as my brother, he spells his surname the same way that I do, and his daughter has the same name as my daughter Zoe. The member for Victoria Park will probably know Stephen's daughter because she works for the member for Swan. That is not my daughter; that is his daughter. I wish Stephen well. SERCUL is an important contributor to our local area.

I want to pivot and talk about a few policy areas. We have an election coming up in 122 days or something like that. It will be a choice between a strong, stable government that puts the interests of Western Australians first and the chaos and dysfunction of the other side. I note that there are 14 shadow ministers and that seven will not be in the next Parliament. Half the current shadow cabinet will not be in the next Parliament. Six are retiring and the member for North West Central and the member for Moore are running against each other in the same seat, so half of the shadow cabinet will not be in the next Parliament. They pretend that they are an alternative government, but who will take those roles? They will need 17 cabinet ministers. Who will be in cabinet? Why are they hiding these things? Can anybody tell me the name of the shadow Treasurer? Does anybody in Western Australia know the name of the shadow Treasurer? I do not know their name. Perhaps the member for Roe, who is here with us, can tell us the last time anybody on the opposition bench in this chamber asked the Treasurer a question. In the eight and a half years that we were in opposition, I do not remember a day going past that we did not ask the Treasurer a question. Member for Roe, have any of you asked the Treasurer a question this year?

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Of the six opposition members on that side of the chamber, has anybody asked the Treasurer a question about any matter? They complain that our budget surplus is too large and that we should have a smaller surplus, but have they ever asked her any questions about the surplus? What about our level of debt? Has there been a single question to the Treasurer this year, over this entire 12-month period, about the level of future debt in this state? Has that happened even once? What about the level of taxation? What about the budget strategy—has there been a single question this year? That is a genuine question. I do not know; perhaps one of the journalists who read the galley copies of *Hansard* so thoroughly could ask the opposition to tell us the date on which a Treasury question was last asked of the Treasurer in question time in this chamber. Are you so disinterested in financial and economic



management that you do not care about it? You ask obscure questions about technical aspects of government reports but you do not ask about the number one issue of government. If you cannot understand the finances, how can you govern?

**Mr D.A.E. Scaife:** Or they get it wrong when they ask, like today.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Or they get it wrong. That member did not ask the Treasurer the question about the budget; she asked the Minister for Health about the budget. That is the whole point. I keep making the point that there have been no questions to the Treasurer. The shadow Treasurer is in the other house and nobody knows who he is. I mean, seriously; this is not a genuine opposition. I know what it is like to be in opposition. I was in opposition for eight and a half years. I know how much work both the Treasurer and I put in when we were in opposition. You would think that they would ask one question a day, a week, a year! What is it? Are they just so scared? I know that they are scared of her. Of course, they ask her questions about Metronet, although they normally ask the Premier about Metronet and not the responsible minister. I know they are scared of her and that is why they do not like asking her questions.

Let me make it clear: you can do nothing in government unless you control Treasury. In fact, that was one of the big problems of the Court Liberal–National government. It sold the tier 3 rail lines to a private owner who then shut them down. We cannot get them back. Even though the private owner does not use those rail lines, we cannot use them ourselves. They get no income from them, but we cannot use them either. That is how bizarre and terrible that deal was. A National Party member was Minister for Transport at the time and they sold it. It is just bizarre. I was told by senior people who worked in the Premier’s office that what used to happen was that their Expenditure Review Committee process would say no to things and then ministers would go and see Richard Court—Richard Court is a nice bloke; I get on well with him—and would say to him that there would be political problems, so he would give them the money anyway. In the Barnett government, there were two budget processes—one run by the National Party and one run by the government of Western Australia. It was just a mess.

Where is the plan? Here is a question that journalists could ask the Leader of the Liberal Party or the Leader of the National Party—whoever those leaders are—about their budget deficit limit: how much borrowings are you going to allow over the next four years if you win government? These are not minor questions; these are fundamental questions that are asked of every opposition before an election, but here we are, four months out from an election and with three days of Parliament to go, and we do not know the answer to these questions. We cannot have an election until the opposition answers these questions. It cannot hide forever. It has to front up. We do not know who the ministers will be if the opposition were to form government. No wonder members opposite are in danger. They are a mess.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** They’re hiding.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Absolutely, they are hiding.

The rumour in political media circles is that the Leader of the Liberal Party will be replaced by the candidate for Churchlands, who is not a member of Parliament, and that he will take over once Parliament is prorogued. Mr Zempilas is the man with the glass jaw. Every time he is criticised, he goes and whinges to the media.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** He’s attacked you!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** He has attacked me; it is just ridiculous how childish his behaviour is. Mr Zempilas referred to the member for Cockburn as “unknown”. Mr Zempilas got 3 264 votes at the last City of Perth election, and that included corporate votes, not people. The member for Cockburn got 17 714 first preference votes, never mind his two-party preferred result. The member for Cockburn got five times the number of votes, and probably six or seven times more people voting for him, than did the Lord Mayor with the glass jaw. I mean, it is bizarre.

The Lord Mayor says he wants to build a cable car from Elizabeth Quay to the top of Mt Eliza in Kings Park. I want to know how much that will cost. Which route will it go on? These are not minor questions. These are the sorts of questions that politicians should answer before an election, not after. How much will that project cost? We have in the forward estimates a projection of what the state debt will be for the next four years. If the Lord Mayor does not want to borrow more money, something we are currently planning to do will need to be cancelled. I ask Mr Zempilas whether he is going to cancel a project in the forward estimates or increase debt to build the cable car to Kings Park? That is not a difficult question. It is a very, very simple question. How much will it cost? Where will it run? Which project will he cancel, or will he increase debt? These are not complex questions.

I know that not every journalist wants to be a tough journalist who asks difficult questions, so I am not criticising radio journalists for being soft on Mr Zempilas. Journalists should choose the questions they want to ask. I am not telling anybody to do anything, but if anyone wanted to be a tough journalist, these would be the questions to ask. Mr Zempilas says that he wants Western Australia to be like Dubai. Dubai is a dictatorship run by a royal family! It does not have democracy, and nearly 90 per cent of the people who live there are not citizens of that country.

**Mr D.A.E. Scaife:** Just like Qatar!

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Correct! People from the Indian subcontinent do most of the day labour there—the sort of work the Deputy Speaker did before he came to this place. Their rates of pay are those of the subcontinent; they are not paid Western Australian rates of pay. Is the Lord Mayor saying that he wants to bring foreign labour in to live in barracks, as they do in Dubai, to build infrastructure like his cable car from Elizabeth Quay to Kings Park? Or was that just some nonsense that he went on about because he wanted to say something he thought was smart?

Many cities around the world are suffering the same problem that the City of Perth is suffering—the decline of office space utilisation and retail trade in the CBD. That does not just happen in Perth; all around the world, we see the same problems. Many cities around the world are providing incentives to convert office buildings into apartments. What incentives is the City of Perth providing? None. It complains about other levels of government, but it takes no action of its own. Why does it not provide a rates holiday for empty office buildings that are converted to apartment blocks? The City of Perth can borrow on the guarantee of the state government. Why does it not borrow money through that process and lend it to developers at low interest rates to develop those buildings?

These are all things that the City of Perth could do, unless the Lord Mayor has no idea how to do his job. Maybe that is why he does not come up with anything innovative and just talks about other people and other things. Maybe that is the answer; I do not know. Maybe that is something that a tough journalist could ask him. As I said, I am not telling journalists what to do; they should do exactly what they want. I had my fights with journalists when I was state secretary and I am not getting back into that again. Journalists should ask only the questions they want to ask, but these are questions that the community needs to know the answers to. Even if journalists are not going to ask Mr Zempilas these questions, I am asking him. If he is too scared to debate me, it says more about him than it does about me.

Mr Zempilas also says that he wants to raise standards, but he still has not apologised for the racist comments he made about the Minister for Education and the Treasurer. He never apologised for that. He said, “Oh, it was just a bit of fun.” That is what all racists say. I made this point the last time I talked about these issues. Mr Megalogenis wrote that great book in which he referred to the challenges of the Greek community here, the racist attitudes and all the other things that struck the Greek community back in the 1970s and 1980s. I am surprised that Mr Zempilas has not fronted up and apologised; perhaps he is not man enough. Perhaps that is the reason he will not apologise to the Treasurer and the Minister for Education—he is not man enough to admit when he is wrong. That is up to him. It says more about him. I could not trip over his standards, they are so low, but that is up to him. If he does not want to debate me, he can be as scared of me as he wants. I am departing; he wants to arrive. It will be interesting on election night to see how the Churchlands seat goes. The great thing about the current member for Churchlands is that she is interested in the community.

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

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE**

*Special*

On motion without notice by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)**, resolved —

That the house at its rising adjourn until 1.00 pm on Tuesday, 26 November 2024.

*House adjourned at 4.18 pm*

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