



Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
2024

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 12 November 2024

Legislative Assembly

Tuesday, 12 November 2024

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

PAPERS TABLED

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

SIGNIFICANT MISCONDUCT RISKS TO GOOD GOVERNMENT

Correction — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.02 pm]: Members, I have received a letter from the Corruption and Crime Commissioner requesting that an erratum be added to correct errors in the report titled *Significant misconduct risks to good government*, which was tabled on 11 November 2024. The changes relate to incorrect references to the Legislative Council instead of the Legislative Assembly on page 4. Under the provisions of standing order 156, I authorise the corrections to be attached as an erratum to the tabled paper.

[See paper [3375](#).]

HOUSING — GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Removal of Order — Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [1.02 pm]: I inform members that in accordance with standing order 144A, the private members' business order of the day that appeared on the last notice paper as order number 1, "Western Australian Housing", has not been debated for more than 12 calendar months and has been removed from the notice paper.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — VALEDICTORY REMARKS

Standing Orders Suspension — Notice of Motion

MS C.M. ROWE (Belmont) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house she would move —

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary for —

- (1) precedence to be given to valedictory speeches of no more than 30 minutes each on Wednesday, 13 November after 5.00 pm; on Tuesday, 26 November after 4.30 pm; on Wednesday, 27 November after 5.00 pm; and on Thursday, 28 November between 11.00 am and 12.00 noon; and
- (2) private members' business to take precedence between 3.00 pm and 5.00 pm on Wednesdays for the remainder of 2024.

NATURAL RESOURCES SECTOR — GOVERNMENT PERFORMANCE

Notice of Motion

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) gave notice that at the next sitting of the house he would move —

That this house condemns the Cook Labor government for its mismanagement of our natural resources, further exacerbated by its dysfunctional relationship with the Albanese government, leading to damage across our industries.

NETBALL — CONSTELLATION CUP

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [1.04 pm]: The third game of netball's 2024 Constellation Cup between Australia and New Zealand was held at RAC Arena on 27 October. I was lucky enough to attend the fast-paced game that showed the real power of netball. Unfortunately, the Australian Diamonds did not come away with the cup this year, but they played an incredible series.

The Cook government was proud to support Netball WA and Netball Australia in bringing this game to Western Australia. It forms a key part of Netball WA's 100-year celebrations. Netball WA, as the governing body of netball in Western Australia, has been the key driver of the sport's growth and development for a century. Throughout the year, Netball WA has celebrated and recognised critical milestones that have been crucial to the success of the game in this state. The Constellation Cup game was another milestone whereby we were able to recognise and celebrate the significant role netball has in our community.

Netball is a game for all. At half-time of the Constellation Cup game, we were able to see players from community netball clubs who are also KidSport recipients enjoying the game we love. What a unique and amazing experience for 14 netballers and KidSport recipients to play in front of over 13 000 spectators at an international game. It is these opportunities that link our aspiring athletes of the future with the stars of today.

The Cook government continues to support Netball WA, providing more than \$550 000 in funding over the 2023–24 financial year to our state sporting association. This funding has been instrumental in fuelling initiatives and programs that benefit our Western Australian netball community.

Our KidSport program continues to support our netballers of the future, with more than 2 800 vouchers distributed, benefiting around 2 600 young athletes. This totals a funded amount of nearly \$600 000 across 249 engaged clubs. I would like to express my gratitude to everyone involved with community netball in Western Australia for their support and enthusiasm towards the growth and success of netball. Together, we are making a real difference in the lives of our players, clubs and communities. May it continue for another 100 years.

WA DISABLED SPORTS ASSOCIATION

Statement by Minister for Sport and Recreation

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Minister for Sport and Recreation) [1.06 pm]: I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the WA Disabled Sports Association, known as WADSA, on its successful funding application to support the participation of people with disability in sport and recreation.

The Cook Labor government, through the Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries, delivers the strategic funding initiative program. The program aims to provide a flexible and responsive funding mechanism to support investment in strategic projects that contribute to a vibrant, inclusive and resilient sport and recreation sector in Western Australia. As the minister responsible for the sport and recreation portfolio, I am happy to share that WADSA has secured just over \$700 000 over the next three years.

WADSA is a key agency for disability sport and recreation in Western Australia, with over 40 years of experience. It provides advocacy, education and consultancy support for its 34 member organisations and for the broader sport and recreation sector. This new funding ensures the delivery of increased participation opportunities for people with disability, with more than 2 500 individuals engaged a year, including over 1 000 with profound or severe disability. The project will also focus on building the capacity of the sector and supporting over 200 individuals from member clubs, state sporting associations, local government and community sport and recreation providers. It aims to increase their knowledge, skills and capacity to deliver inclusive programs across the inclusion spectrum.

I sincerely thank and congratulate everyone at WADSA for their work and commitment to the sport and recreation sector. I can assure them that the Cook Labor government is committed to providing safe, inclusive and welcoming physical activity opportunities for people with disability in our state.

GENERAL COURT INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Statement by Attorney General

MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General) [1.09 pm]: I rise to inform the house of the excellent work of the general court intervention program. The program is designed to engage offenders who are on bail in rehabilitation programs prior to sentencing. The program commenced operations as a pilot program in the Perth Magistrates Court on 5 October 2020. The program provided services to 212 participants in the 2023–24 financial year, primarily catering to mental health and alcohol and other drug counselling. As we know, imprisonment should be a penalty of last resort. When a person can safely remain in the community, this should be supported. It not only reduces prisoner numbers and in turn the cost to the state, but also supports the rehabilitation of the person, which, again, is better for our community.

To be eligible to participate in the program individuals must be on bail, appearing at the Perth Magistrates Court, consent to participate on a voluntary basis and have one or more of these four areas of need: physical or mental health, alcohol or other drug use, social and economic needs, homelessness or the risk of homelessness. The program's participants engage in a person-centred intervention that focuses upon their individual needs rather than their behaviours. Their case management includes priority access to support services during the program and enhanced readiness to transition to community-based sanctions upon sentencing.

Palmerston Association, in partnership with Wungening Aboriginal Corporation, has been contracted to provide interventions through the joint venture known as Connect Wanju. Participants engage with Connect Wanju for approximately 12 weeks before being sentenced, with their program participation taken into account by the sentencing magistrate. Of those who successfully completed the program during that period, 90 per cent received non-custodial sentences. The program continues to receive an increasing number of referrals. In the 2023–24 financial year, it received a total of 621 referrals, representing an increase of 54.9 per cent from the previous year. Anecdotal feedback from participants remains positive, with indications that many participants remain engaged with their support services after completing the program.

The program forms a component of this government's broader justice reform program. It is currently subject to an outcome evaluation that will inform the government of its effectiveness and on decisions regarding ongoing funding beyond June 2025.

NEEDLE AND SYRINGE PROGRAM — BROOME

Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [1.11 pm]: I rise to inform members of the house of the state government's efforts to establish a needle and syringe exchange program in Broome and to support the Shire of Broome with increased waste management capacity. Our government continues to deliver the needle and syringe program in line with harm reduction principles to reduce the likelihood of people sharing and reusing needles, decreasing the spread of bloodborne disease.

Although all needles and syringes are provided with a safe disposal container and labelled with safe disposal information, it is acknowledged that some people are not disposing of needles correctly. We have been committed to addressing these issues. WA Country Health Service set up more bins in Broome to provide greater access to safe disposal and we are currently establishing a needle and syringe exchange program whereby people will be able to receive free sterile needles in exchange for used items. The program has been successfully operating in the Pilbara and has had strong uptake. The service will operate in Broome every weekday from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm.

Our government, through the Mental Health Commission, has also sent to the Shire of Broome a statement of intent to provide funding for extra resources to help clean up areas where needles have been incorrectly disposed of. I was pleased to meet with the Shire of Broome last week with the member for Kimberley, Divina D'Anna, and I am glad that it will be supporting the state government's harm reduction efforts in the community. We know that addressing alcohol and other drug issues requires a multifaceted approach including health and mental health interventions. It is why we are also investing \$28 million in alcohol and other drug services in the Kimberley region.

Finally, I want to thank the member for Kimberley for her advocacy on behalf of her community on this issue and for her compassion towards those who are supported by the state government's programs.

LAND RELEASE — EXMOUTH

Statement by Minister for Lands

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands) [1.13 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook Labor government has unlocked much-needed land for housing in the Western Australian tourism hotspot of Exmouth. Around 18 hectares of state-owned land is being sold to the Fowler Group and Celsius Property Group consortium for 150 new residential lots on the edge of Exmouth marina. Subject to approvals, stage 1 construction is set to commence in mid-2025, with the consortium considering fast-tracking at least 10 new homes to be delivered specifically for local council and service workers. The development will also feature public open space and commercial sites at the southern end of the marina. The broader estate delivery will include public consultation to ensure community involvement and feedback.

This land release follows other recent initiatives to address accommodation and housing in Exmouth, including creating greater powers for local governments to approve temporary accommodation arrangements on private land and incentives for owners of short-stay accommodation or vacant homes to bring their property back into the rental market.

SOCIAL HOUSING — SMITH STREET BUILD-TO-RENT PROJECT

Statement by Minister for Housing

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Housing) [1.14 pm]: The last one was really quick. The timer was wrong, can I say. It was a minute!

I rise to inform the house that a development application to build new social and affordable housing at the former Stirling Towers site in Highgate has been approved, paving the way for the Cook Labor government to deliver WA's first government-led build-to-rent project. The development application for the built form project was lodged by a community housing-led consortium comprising Community Housing Ltd and Tetris Capital Pty Ltd.

The Smith Street build-to-rent project will see the former public housing site transformed into 109 new apartments, across a four-storey development with a mix of one and two-bedroom social, affordable and specialist disability rental units. The Smith Street project will be undertaken in a staged approach including demolition and preparation of the site, construction of the development and a ground lease for management of the complex. Demolition work is currently being undertaken and is expected to be completed in 2025. Tetris Capital is managing the site readiness works on behalf of the state government. It is anticipated that construction of the new dwellings will also commence in 2025.

The Smith Street build-to-rent project is part of our government's housing diversity pipeline, unlocking lazy government land to deliver more social and affordable housing options

IMPROVEMENT SCHEME — MANDOGALUP*Statement by Minister for Planning*

MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Planning) [1.16 pm]: I rise to inform the house that the Cook Labor government has approved an improvement scheme for Mandogalup, bringing surety to local landowners and laying the groundwork for future development of the area. The new scheme will lead to opportunities for a range of industrial and urban land uses to be realised while also providing for an appropriate transition between industrial and sensitive land uses.

Development of improvement scheme 1 has involved more than five years of extensive consultation with local residents and key stakeholders including the City of Kwinana, Alcoa, Westport and, critically, the Kwinana Industries Council. Key considerations included the extent of the Kwinana air quality buffer zone, land supply and demand, and the interface between future industrial and urban land requirements. The new scheme will also support the delivery of Westport and the Global Advanced Industries Hub and will ensure that the Kwinana industrial area is afforded an appropriate level of protection and primacy into the future. The new improvement scheme provides a clear understanding of the planning aims and intentions for the area, paving the way for balanced and orderly planning outcomes for Mandogalup. It will provide that much-needed certainty for both landowners and industry through a balanced, sensible and workable land use response, particularly on issues including zoning and permitted land uses.

Industry supports our planning reforms, with the Kwinana Industries Council welcoming this significant step towards supporting the future growth, prosperity and investment in the state's premier industrial area.

RONALD DICK — ICONYX*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

MS S.E. WINTON (Wanneroo — Minister for Child Protection) [1.18 pm]: I rise to inform the house about Ronald Dick, an incredible young person with a care experience. Ronald is a Yamatji Noongar man who was born and raised in Perth, WA. Ronald's unwavering passion for theatre and the stage became evident at a young age. As a gifted performer, the stage became his happy place where he could truly be himself. Captivated by opera and musical theatre since the age of seven, Ronald has dedicated the past 16 years to honing his craft. He pursued formal training at the Australian Performing Arts Network Academy, now known as HAMA Productions, and the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts.

Ronald recently performed at the Department of Communities Achiever Awards, which recognise young people leaving care for their academic pursuits. After witnessing a breathtaking performance at the awards, Ronald was invited to meet the Premier and me, alongside child in care and fellow outstanding performer, Iconyx, both of whom credited their care team and child protection caseworkers for the support they received to succeed.

Ronald made a notable performance in *Wundig Wer Wilura*, a new opera by award-winning songwriters Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse. He also recently collaborated with Deborah Cheetham Fraillon in Sydney at the Short Black Opera Company. A true triple treat excelling in singing, dancing and acting, Ronald has gained recognition around Perth through his involvement in the 2024 Perth Festival and participating in a recent tour across Western Australia. He has received numerous award nominations. His ultimate aspiration is to make it to Broadway, a testament to his ambitious spirit and commitment. At 22 years old—22 years young—having experienced the care system, Ronald shares a heartfelt message: make the most of your life, enjoy yourselves, be happy, do not give up on your dreams and be yourself.

Today I want to highlight Ronald's and Iconyx's success and their recent performance at the 2024 Telethon Ball and thank Seven West for providing such a wonderful opportunity for two truly inspiring young people. Iconyx warmed up the room with a series of moving songs, including one by Archie Roach. Midway through the evening, after having a brief encounter with the Premier and Prime Minister, Ronald came on stage to belt out *River Deep—Mountain High*. Ronald's journey and achievements highlight his remarkable talent and the bright future that lies ahead of him and other care leavers.

INTERNATIONAL MINING AND RESOURCES CONFERENCE*Statement by Minister for Mines and Petroleum*

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Mines and Petroleum) [1.21 pm]: I would like to update the house on the Western Australian government's recent participation at the recent International Mining and Resources Conference in Sydney. As the Minister for Mines and Petroleum of this great state, I was invited to deliver a keynote address on day two of the conference, which was attended by more than 1 000 people from 115 countries. I had the pleasure of meeting many delegates on the exhibition floor, including a "meet the minister drop-in session", and participating in meaningful engagements with high-ranking government officials from our friends overseas.

Of course, they all recognise Western Australia as one of the leading resources jurisdictions in the world. I was pleased to inform them that Western Australia's resources sector delivered record levels of employment in 2023–24, with 134 871 full-time equivalent positions supported by strong mineral and petroleum sales of \$238 billion. This

marks the seventh consecutive calendar year of jobs growth, with the past five years setting record highs. Western Australia also remained the leading destination for exploration investment in Australia, with the \$2.58 billion spent in 2023–24 accounting for 62 per cent of the national spend. Key exploration targets included critical minerals such as lithium, rare earths—which achieved record spending levels—nickel/cobalt and copper.

With these numbers, it was no surprise that following IMARC, some international delegations made the trip west to visit some mines and facilities that underpin not only the state’s economy but the national accounts. It was timely to meet with the travelling parties, as I was able to share some key announcements that are shaping our state’s future in the resources sector, including the first grant recipients of the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia’s METS—mining, equipment, technology and services—innovation program; the first release of waveform data under the WA array program, which is now freely available to the public on the Australian Passive Seismic Server, AusPass; and a further \$1.49 million to extend operations of the cathode precursor production pilot plant.

Initiatives and programs such as these will play a key role in contributing to the Western Australian government’s decarbonisation efforts, with our success going some way to help the energy transition to renewables both nationally and globally. The globe’s net zero targets will be achieved only through long-lasting partnerships and collaborative efforts, and I look forward to continuing the dialogue with our international friends. I thank everyone whom I met with and would also like to extend a special thanks to the Department of Energy, Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety and especially the rockstars at the Geological Survey of Western Australia for flying the flag for Western Australia at IMARC.

RESERVES BILL 2024

Second Reading

Resumed from 7 November.

MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean) [1.24 pm]: I rise to speak in support of this important Reserves Bills 2024, which is part of the government’s plan to increase park reserves in Western Australia by some five million hectares. The government believes it will meet this target by the end of 2024, which is quite remarkable. In that context, there is often a debate about the contest, if you like, between the need for development, the need for jobs and the need to preserve the natural environment. I am proud to be part of the Labor Party because it is a political party that really understands that contest. The Labor Party understands the importance of providing jobs and economic growth to our community. Without that, we cannot do the things that we want to do, but it also understands that one has to balance the need for jobs against the need to protect the natural environment.

Some people think it is a zero-sum game in which you either choose jobs or protect the natural environment. In my view, that is a very shortsighted way of seeing this issue. There are many opportunities in which protecting the natural environment can actually create jobs. I cannot say that in every circumstance in which the environment is protected, there is not some opportunity cost in respect of jobs, but often certainly there is an opportunity to create jobs and protect the environment at the same time. The Labor Party understands that in a way that parties opposite often do not.

One reason we need this Reserves Bill is to put in place some measures that resulted from our decision to cease logging in native forest. That decision was taken when I was the Minister for Forestry, and it is a decision that I am very proud to have been a part of. For people who are familiar with the recent history of Western Australia, when the Gallop government was elected in 2001, it made the decision to end logging in old-growth forest. That decision was on the back of a very large shift in community sentiment about the need to protect our old-growth native forest. Some people at the time opposed that decision, and some people employed in the timber industry saw that as a bad decision because of the impact that it had on their businesses and jobs. But, overwhelmingly, the people of Western Australia have embraced that decision over time. The tourism opportunities and the hospitality jobs that have been created in the south west because of the decision to protect our old-growth native forests by the Gallop government have been quite significant. It is to the point now that I do not think that anyone, not even the Nationals WA or the Liberal Party, would seriously say that they want to go back to a position in which we log our old-growth native forests.

Ms C.M. Rowe: I think the Nats would.

Mr D.J. KELLY: We can hear from them. That position is so overwhelmingly supported by the people of Western Australia that it would be a brave decision by any political party to say that it would essentially start logging virgin forest in Western Australia.

When the Labor Party came to government in 2017, and I was lucky and privileged enough to be the Minister for Forestry, we looked at the future of the industry. At that point, the forest management plan was up for renewal pretty soon. It was clear to me—this was based on science, not opinion—that, amongst other things, climate change was having an enormous impact on the native forests that we were still logging.

The south west of Western Australia is one of the places on the planet most impacted by declining rainfall due to climate change. The level of rainfall in the south west has reduced by 15 to 20 per cent since the 1980s due to climate change. That is a massive change in rainfall patterns. It has a big impact on a lot of areas, including run-off into

our dams. As the Minister for Water, I was painfully aware of that impact. It also had a significant impact on the ability of forests to regenerate after logging. The advice we received based on the science was that that regeneration was simply not occurring. The yield from logging was simply not there; it was not sustainable. People were saying that we had a completely sustainable timber industry and it could go on forever, but that view was simply not based on science. Most people I spoke to in the industry accepted that the industry would have to wind-down significantly in the long run.

There was a time when there were dozens of timber mills in the south west; it was the mainstay of many communities. When we came to government in 2017, something like 10 or 11 per cent of the timber industry in WA was based around the logging of native timber. The rest of it was sandalwood and plantations. The decision that we made to end commercial logging of native forests was based on science and on the view of many in the south west that from an economic point of view the area's future was, firstly, in protecting our native forests and, secondly, selling their beauty as an economic asset rather than a timber asset. People also held the view that the future of the timber industry in the south west should be based around plantations, not logging our native forests. We made that decision, and a package went with it. Something like \$300 million was put aside to expand the plantation industry. That decision was criticised by members opposite—members of the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA. Remarkably, it was the biggest investment in the timber industry in living memory as far as I am aware but for some reason it was criticised by the Liberals and the Nationals. They criticised landholders in the south west who wanted to sell their land to the Forest Products Commission. The Nationals say that they are in favour of private property rights but when people wanted to sell their land to the Forest Products Commission for plantations and to create jobs and provide timber for the building industry, for some reason the Nationals criticised those landholders.

We had a package to develop the plantation aspect of the timber industry. We also had a package to support the workers engaged in that industry. We were particularly proud of the fact that we managed to reach agreement with the Australian Workers' Union on a suitable package for those workers. These sorts of decisions put a considerable amount of pressure on union leaders who represent workforces that are in a process of change. When decisions like this are made, governments quite often try to drag out the negotiations and almost make the workforce beg for everything it gets. I was pleased that we were able to reach agreement with the AWU in a fairly short period on a package that went both to severance and retraining for those workers. We also introduced a range of small business grants to provide small businesses in the south west with opportunities to grow their businesses and create employment. A range of grants were also available for larger new enterprises to start in the south west. I watched the new Minister for Forestry, Minister Jarvis, take hold of that transition plan and make it work.

We on this side of the house will always support economic growth and jobs growth, but we will also make responsible decisions to protect the natural environment. When we do that, we often create jobs as well. The future of the south west is as a food-producing area. Its natural beauty is also something to celebrate and view as an economic asset. Everything that we have done on this side of the house recognises that.

I mentioned the impacts of climate change. It is appropriate for me to mention that one of the things we are committed to as a government is reaching net zero by 2050. By doing that, we hope to be part of an international commitment that will limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. It is worth noting that 2024 is on track to be the hottest year ever—not the hottest year in the last 10 years, but the hottest ever. The measurement is that the planet has warmed by 1.5 degrees. The first threshold set at the Paris Agreement was that we needed to limit global warming to below 1.5 degrees. It is predicted that we will reach that 1.5 degrees global warming this year. We will see whether that becomes a permanent arrangement or just a point in time. The fact is that the first threshold level set by the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees is actually here; it is not something that others will have to worry about in the distant future. It just reinforces the decisions we have made.

We can stop logging our native forests, but if global warming continues unabated, the forests in the south west will die anyway. That is the tragedy of global warming. As I said, in the lead-up to the election of the Gallop government in 2001, there was a massive community campaign to protect those forests. I was a small part of that campaign. When the Gallop government made the decision to end logging of native forests, at various times I thought that if I achieved nothing in my political life, I would have been part of the campaign that protected our old-growth forests in the south west and could chalk that up as an achievement. The tragedy is that if climate change continues unabated, those forests will die anyway. The things that we thought we achieved are now in question because of the impacts of climate change. The efforts on this side of the house to limit climate change and support getting to net zero by 2050 are really what needs to happen or else not generations to come but our generation, and certainly our children's generations, will face significant impacts. There are already catastrophic impacts around the world due to climate change, whether it be in the Pacific Ocean, hurricanes in the northern hemisphere or flooding in Europe. These impacts are not in the future, they are very much now.

As I said, this bill is part of increasing the natural estate here in Western Australia—five million hectares of protected reserves. It is an amazing commitment by this government. I want to mention some of the local groups in my electorate. People want action at a state, national and international level, but so many people in our electorates take action at the local level.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.M. Quirk: You're the Whip's best friend!

Mr D.J. KELLY: That is right, I am the Whip's best friend! You can take that out of context, can't you?

I turn to some of the local groups I want to mention. I start with Ashfield Community Action Network, which is a great local group in Ashfield. It has done a lot of projects in the local area, and one I supported was turning a bit of wasteland into a lookout overlooking Ashfield Flats. For those people who do not know, Ashfield Flats is not a block of residential towers, it is 64 hectares of wetlands on the Swan River. Overlooking Ashfield Flats there was a bit of wasteland left over from when some housing was redeveloped, with some waste dumped there.

Dr A.D. Buti: There's a kingmaker sitting over there, look, in that chair!

Mr D.J. KELLY: The kingmaker? Has Hon Nick Goiran entered the chamber? Maybe he has not.

AshfieldCAN came to me with a proposal to get some funding to replant that bit of waste area with some native plants and turn it into a lookout over Ashfield Flats. It was an amazing project. It brought a lot of local skill to that job. It worked through the issues of the site being contaminated, because previously it had been used as a dumping ground. Now we have a fabulous lookout over the Swan River and the Ashfield Flats. AshfieldCAN holds a variety of community events up there, such as an Anzac Day dawn service. It is now a brilliant piece of community infrastructure that would have been left a wasteland had it not been for AshfieldCAN and the enthusiasm it brought to that project. I will give a special mention to Bob Brown, who is the current president of AshfieldCAN. I give him a special mention not just because he is the president of AshfieldCAN but because he was the Liberal Party candidate who ran against me in 2013.

Mr R.S. Love: What a pity he didn't win.

Mr D.J. KELLY: What a pity he did not win, said the member for—where is he the member for?

Ms M.M. Quirk: Moore.

Mr D.J. KELLY: Less from the member for Moore, please.

We all know who we will barrack for at the next election, member for Moore—as useless as a two-legged stool. I do not know, a whole a lot of things come to mind when I think of the member for Moore's contribution in this place.

I give a particular shout-out to Bob Brown, who was the Liberal Party candidate who ran against me in 2013, not just because of the fine work he does for AshfieldCAN, but because we have become quite good friends over the last decade. It just goes to show that we can find common ground across the aisle when we try.

The other group I want to mention is the Bassendean Preservation Group. A couple of decades ago there was a proposal to turn Ashfield Flats into a canal development, believe it or not. Some bright spark wanted to turn the wetlands into a residential canal development, and a local group, the Bassendean Preservation Group, was started to oppose that development. It won that argument and Ashfield Flats is still a very valuable wetlands on the Swan River. That group has grown; it did not celebrate its win and move on. Some 20-odd—probably 30-odd years—later it is a very active group propagating and replanting in various areas in Bassendean, and in particular Ashfield Flats. It has a grow centre in Ascot; I think it is in the member for Belmont's electorate. It is a great example of a community group propagating native seeds. It is brilliant, and I am very pleased that at the last election I was able to secure Bassendean Preservation Group some funding to develop the grow centre. Steve McFarland has been running that organisation. I think he has stepped down as president, but he is still active. The group has just done a power of work in the community. It has propagated and replanted thousands of native plants in Bassendean. What it has done is incredible.

I also mention the Friends of Bindaring Wetland. Bindaring is another wetland in Bassendean. That group also does an incredible amount of work. Bindaring is a wetland on the Swan River that, again, has been significantly degraded by the encroachment of residential development. It really is quite amazing to see the areas that developers seek to develop. We look at an area and think it is a wetland and wonder why anyone would try to build a house there, but people do. Friends of Bindaring Wetland have done a lot of work to try to protect what is left of that wetland. At the last election I was able to get the group some funding for signage that tells people that they are not just on a bit of unimportant land and that when the residential development ends they are entering an area that is important, that people care about and that needs to be protected. That is the importance of that land.

This bill will protect the terrestrial nature reserve. There has been debate with members opposite about the marine park proposed on the south coast. It is incredibly disappointing whenever these things are proposed that members take the opportunity to try to score political points rather than do the right thing, either by the natural environment or their local communities. One comment from a member opposite was really nonsense. I think the member for Roe made a comment that the oceans in that area are self-regulating. I refer to the management of oceans. Competing interests, like recreational and commercial fishing and the need to preserve the natural environment, have to be managed. Oceans are not self-regulating. In no way are they self-regulating. When there are no regulations, fisheries around the world are overfished to the point of collapse. Fishers here in WA know that too well. There

are many examples of fisheries being over-exploited to the point at which they collapse. That is not a beneficial outcome for fishers who rely on the oceans for their livelihood. For someone to come into this place and say that oceans are self-regulating is a nonsense and shows their disregard for science and the future of commercial and recreational fishing.

I will also make a comment about terms that are often used in these debates. We often hear: “What do traditional owners and locals think?” Those terms have been used about the marine park. I remember hearing a report on the ABC about the reaction to a proposal from traditional owners to have some heritage protections in Broome. The report on the ABC stated: “Traditional owners think X, Y and Z, but Broome locals think A, B and C—something opposite.” I thought that being considered a local could often give someone a bit of standing and credibility, but the ultimate local is a traditional owner. A traditional owner has to have been there and had a continuing connection to the land for thousands and thousands of years, yet in this debate the media and politicians often say, “The traditional owners think this, but the locals think that.” It is a bit of a nonsense that someone might have lived in a location for a decade, or two generations, and claims to be a “local”, thinking that gives them more credibility or more of a right to be heard than traditional owners who have lived in that area for thousands of years. As an observation, whether it is a politician in this place or someone in the media, I think it is unhelpful to pit groups against each other by using terms like that. We should be trying to find common ground on these issues rather than divide people by using some of these terms.

Members, I might conclude there. This is a very important bit of legislation. This side of the house is very proud of the Plan for Our Parks initiative. It will add five million hectares, which is something like a 20 per cent increase in the reserves that are protected here in Western Australia. I congratulate the Minister for Environment and the environment ministers who have gone before him. I am sure he is happy to take the credit for it; he has been excellent in his pursuit of this matter. I recommend this bill to the house.

MRS M.R. MARSHALL (Rockingham) [1.53 pm]: It will be a tough act to follow the member for Bassendean due to his wealth of knowledge, experience and legacy in forestry, but I rise today to contribute to the second reading debate on the Reserves Bill 2024. I thank the parliamentary secretary, the member for Cockburn, for introducing this legislation to the house.

This bill is a further demonstration of our government’s commitment to protecting and conserving the precious biodiversity of our south west native forests so that they can be enjoyed long into the future. It also highlights our commitment to preserving our natural landscapes right across the state. The bill will implement amendments to 10 class A reserves and seven other reserves across the metropolitan, south west, great southern, wheatbelt and Kimberley regions of Western Australia. The changes to the listed reserves through this bill are modest and will better reflect the land use and management objectives of the communities that they are based in. Importantly, these amendments will allow local governments and communities to better manage these reserves through the ability to deliver services and amenities with certainty.

Class A reserves are the highest form of protection under the Land Administration Act 1997. Any changes of purpose or excisions of more than five per cent of an existing class A reserves require the approval of both houses of Parliament. Through this bill, the Cook Labor government will continue to value and protect our native south west forests with the addition of a new conservation park in the Shire of Wandering. This conservation park, based in the wheatbelt region, will be an important addition to our conservation estate, and will protect 3 211 hectares of northern jarrah and wandoo forest. The new conservation park is halfway between the Dwellingup State Forest to the west and the Dryandra National Park to the east. This establishment will help ensure the protection of precious biodiversity within the estate, including forest types that are underrepresented in our conservation reserve system; species and ecosystems at the edge of their distributions; two species of threatened birds—the Baudin’s black-cockatoo and the Carnaby’s black-cockatoo; and, of course, the adorable chuditch, which is a threatened mammal species that is being targeted for conservation. This massive addition to our conservation estate is another demonstration of our government’s commitment to protecting our south west forests.

Earlier this year, we passed legislation in this place to end the practice of native logging, with millions of hectares of forest to be protected for future generations to enjoy—an incredible legacy. We are one of the first states in Australia to end large-scale commercial timber harvesting in our native forests. This decision will protect nearly two million hectares of native karri, jarrah and wandoo forests. These forests are beautiful and unique, and they are particularly important in the fight against climate change. This is why the Cook Labor government is committed to the Plan for Our Parks initiative, which is the largest and most comprehensive conservation estate expansion program in the state’s history. It is a commitment to add an additional five million hectares of land and sea to Western Australia’s conservation estate over five years, which is an increase of over 20 per cent to our conservation estate. Under the initiative, a total of 28 proposals have been identified, and to date, a total of 4.7 million hectares of new conservation reserves, or 94 per cent of the total target, has been created. This includes the Reserves Act 2023, which we passed in November last year to elevate part of Lane Poole Reserve in Dwellingup to national park status. We are on track to achieve our commitment by the end of the year, as the Minister for Environment announced last year. In fact, we may even go beyond that, so it is a really amazing achievement. Through this initiative, we have established a new era of working with traditional owners. The reserves that have been created are intended

to be jointly vested and jointly managed with traditional owners because, of course, no-one understands how to care for country better than First Nations people. This also allows for greater on-country employment for traditional owners as well as the opportunity to engage with the government and private sector to pursue tourism and other economic development opportunities such as carbon farming.

Aboriginal culture is an important part of Western Australia's history that should be celebrated and accessible to all those who visit Western Australia. In fact, research conducted by Tourism Western Australia over the 2023–24 financial year showed that 87 per cent of visitors to WA have an interest in experiencing Aboriginal tourism. There is definitely a market for this kind of business. As I said earlier, this bill further demonstrates our government's commitment to value and protect our south west native forests as well as the natural environment of our great state.

The class A category is the highest level of protection that can be afforded to an area. It serves as a protection of the natural landscape, but in some cases it also serves as a recognition of the opportunities for sustainable tourism to an area. Speaking of class A reserves, I take this opportunity to talk about Cape Peron in my electorate of Rockingham, or Point Peron as it is known by the locals, or Boya Kaarla in the traditional Noongar language. Just over a year ago, our government, under Minister Whitby and Minister Carey, announced that more than 60 per cent of the Cape Peron Reserve would be given the top conservation status of class A. This has meant that approximately 120 hectares of land were reclassified from class C to class A reserve, with some land potentially being added to the class A section later, following further plans and upgrades to the road network that services HMAS *Stirling*. For those who are not familiar, Point Peron features a slender limestone headland that separates Mangles Bay from Shoalwater Bay. The reserve features several beautiful beaches, walking trails and remnants of World War II artefacts and emplacements that were built to protect the southern approach to the Port of Fremantle. To the east of the cape, there is a natural parkland area that consists predominantly of coastal shrublands, acacia shrublands and pockets of Tuart and peppermint woodlands. Land use in this section of the reserve is a mix of relatively untouched vegetation and long-term lease areas with shacks for holiday accommodation. There is a lot to do and see at Point Peron.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 6113.]

**DISTINGUISHED VISITOR — YASUSHI NAITO
VISITORS — ROTARY JAPAN,
MULLALOO BEACH PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HARVEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

Statement by Speaker

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) [2.00 pm]: I have a couple of acknowledgements to make. I would particularly like to welcome Mr Yasushi Naito, the Consul-General of Japan, and representatives from Rotary Japan. Thank you.

On behalf of the member for Hillarys, I acknowledge the Mullaloo Beach Primary School year 6 leaders, and on behalf of the member for Murray–Wellington, I welcome the Harvey Primary School student leaders. Welcome to Parliament this afternoon.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

STATE GENERAL ELECTION — DATE

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

I refer to recent revelations that the Premier's government sought legal advice about moving Western Australia's March state election.

- (1) Has the Prime Minister indicated to the Premier that the federal election will be in March; and, if so, what date has he suggested?
- (2) Has he warned the Prime Minister of the significant distraction and disruption such a change in date would cause?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I hesitate to thank the member for the question, but I thank him nevertheless. This should not be a matter of politics; this is simply a matter of good administration. Since 2011, the date of our elections has been fixed ever thus following the passage of a bill introduced by the Barnett Liberal–National government relating to the timing of elections—that is, fixed terms. In 2025, there is the potentiality, not even an indication, that there will be some proximity of the timing of the federal election to 8 March, the date of our election. Because of that, the government has done what all competent governments do; that is, it has considered the potential scenarios, what those scenarios might mean and how issues may be ameliorated. Of course, we continue to seek all kinds of advice on these matters to make sure that as much as possible we do not inconvenience the people of Western Australia or the Western Australian Electoral Commission, which has the responsibility of conducting the election. That is what any responsible and competent government would do.

STATE GENERAL ELECTION — DATE

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

I have a supplementary question. Will the Premier call on the Prime Minister to do the right thing by Western Australia and avoid such an election clash?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I will do no such thing. The Prime Minister is the only person in this country who can tell you when the next federal election will be. When he makes that decision, which will be in the national interest, we will obviously consider that situation, and we will continue to make sure that we do everything we should about any possibility that may occur in relation to the timing of the next election. I will say that the next election for Western Australia will be on 8 March. That is the date, pending a whole range of different issues. In this case, we are contemplating the date of the federal election.

At the federal election, the people of Western Australia will have the opportunity to ask Peter Dutton once and for all whether he supports our fair share of the GST. Will he stand by and protect our fair share of the GST, and will he protect production tax credits and other policies that are in the interests of the people of Western Australia? It is time that he stands up. The question from the Leader of the Nationals WA was about whether I had asked the Prime Minister a particular question; perhaps the Leader of the Nationals WA should ask the Leader of the Liberal Party. I know they do not talk much nowadays.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: Perhaps the Leader of the Opposition should ask the Leader of the Liberal Party to ask the national Leader of the Liberal Party: will they stand by the people of Western Australia and stand by our fair share of the GST?

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: We know that the only risk to WA's fair share of the GST is Peter Dutton.

WESTPORT — CONTAINER TRADE

808. Mrs M.R. MARSHALL to the Premier:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's decision to build a new container port in Kwinana.

- (1) Can the Premier outline to the house how the decision to build this generational economic project will position Western Australia for the next century?
- (2) Can the Premier advise the house of any risks to the state if this significant project is not delivered?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. It is an important one. Yesterday, Western Australia was offered a pathway forward for long-term growth. The WA Labor government will build a new port in the Kwinana industrial area. The business case has been completed for Westport.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, could you try to not interject on every single question?

Mr R.H. COOK: Yesterday, I joined the Deputy Premier; Minister for Transport and other cabinet colleagues to announce that the business case for Westport has been completed. I want to thank the Westport team and the Deputy Premier for their incredible work on this. We know that the port of Fremantle is getting full. The new port will be needed by the late 2030s. We know that as Fremantle reaches its capacity, its efficiency will drop away. We know that it cannot handle the next generation of large container ships. Once it is full, we will then be relying on eastern states' ports in relation to these goods.

We know from the business case that failing to act on a new port in Kwinana will actually lead to a \$5 billion hit to our economy year in, year out. More importantly, we know who will be paying for the inefficiencies there; it will be in the household goods that Western Australian families buy because those goods have had to be shipped over from the east coast. Not only is this an important piece of work for our economic future; it is also about making things affordable for Western Australian families. To get the project moving, we are investing \$273 million to move through the project definition planning phase and other works associated with the early stages of construction. After that, we can appoint contracts and get on with the job.

There will be naysayers and critics; we know that. When we make big decisions on behalf of Western Australians to set up the state for the future, there will always be those who will seek to criticise and drag us down and to try to stop Western Australia from going on a pathway forward. In fact, the Leader of the Liberal Party claimed yesterday that the port of Fremantle is at only 30 per cent capacity.

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: It is interesting; I have been getting constant interjections all question time from the Leader of the Liberal Party, but she is silent on this particular point.

The SPEAKER: That is a very good thing, but, yes.

Mr R.H. COOK: We know that the Fremantle port is significantly above 860 000 container movements and has a capacity of around 1.4 million, and those 860 000 container movements are about 50 000 more than last year. We know that the growth of the port is continuing, and we need to act now if Western Australia will continue to move forward. The Liberal Party's position on this is to ignore it the way it ignores all infrastructure. It is incapable of making tough decisions on behalf of the people of Western Australia, such as big infrastructure projects like Metronet, the women's and babies' hospital and now Westport. It does not stand for anything, and it has no plans. It is a blank canvas when it comes to infrastructure, and it is a risk to the future economy of Western Australia.

We know that we need to act now to secure the future of Western Australia tomorrow. If it is left to members opposite, we will simply see more dithering; more congestion on our roads, particularly in Fremantle and the surrounding suburbs; and we will continue to see a mighty brake put on the economy. As I said yesterday, if we do not act now on Westport, it will be a brake on our economy. The Liberal Party is another thing that will be a brake on the economy. If the Liberal Party is allowed to get into government—if we risk having the Liberals in government—Western Australia will not be able to progress. We will not see the infrastructure that we need. Madam Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr R.H. COOK: Madam Speaker —

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe, you did not ask this question. You have also been continuously interjecting. The Premier is concluding his answer and I suggest you do not keep interjecting.

Mr R.H. COOK: I am trying to conclude but the interruptions are incessant, Madam Speaker. It provides me with an opportunity to remind the chamber once more that when the Liberal Party was last in government, it tried to sell the port. It tried to privatise the port.

Liberal members oppose Metronet. They oppose the 72 kilometres of rail line out to Ellenbrook. We remind the Ellenbrook community of that. They opposed the extension of the rail line to Yanchep. We will be reminding that community too that the Liberal Party opposed it. They opposed the extension of the line to Byford. We will be reminding the community about that. Now the Liberal Party oppose this economy-building infrastructure project called Westport. We will be reminding the community about that as well.

Once again, I want to take the opportunity to commend the Deputy Premier, who, as shadow Minister for Transport in 2016, put a Fremantle outer harbour in our *WA Labor plan for jobs*, which is about providing long-term economic benefit to the people of Western Australia. Under her stewardship, this is now coming to pass. Under the Liberals and Nationals, there is no long-term economic plan. There is no long-term economic future.

Visitors

The SPEAKER: Before I give the next call, on behalf of the member for Bateman, I would like to recognise Hannah from year 6 at Brentwood Primary School and her family and friends who are here in the public gallery today. I give the call to the Leader of the Liberal Party.

COOK GOVERNMENT — INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

809. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I refer to the Premier's misguided announcement yesterday regarding yet another multibillion-dollar investment in a transport project. With Western Australia being the most dangerous state to be a woman, our housing market facing a 10 000-home shortfall every year —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms L. METTAM: — and ambulance ramping at record highs, is another \$7 billion transport port project, due in two decades, really the Premier's solution to the rolling crises that have happened under his watch in Western Australia?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please! There is quite a lot to unpack there.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Can I ask the Premier to try to keep his answer brief?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Since we were elected, over 320 000 jobs have been created. Since the pandemic, the economy has grown by 24 per cent. We know where our priorities lie, which is in making sure Western Australians have jobs. We know that housing is important, which is why we have invested \$3.2 billion in social and affordable housing alone.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: We know that community safety is important.

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Premier. Before the Premier continues, I want to give some advice to the Leader of the Liberal Party. If you continue to interject in the way that you have been by asking lots more questions whilst the Premier is trying to answer your question, you will not get a supplementary question.

Mr R.H. COOK: We now have an extra 322 cops on the beat in the last 12 months alone. There has been a decrease in overall criminal offences compared with 2016, when crime peaked under the Liberal–National government. The annual budget for health is up 33 per cent since 2017. In 2024–25 alone, we are investing \$12.8 billion in health care. We have spent nearly \$50 billion since 2021–22. Our priorities speak for themselves. We want Western Australians to continue to live in the strongest economy in the nation. We want to make stuff here. We want to set up the state for the future and that requires long-term economic plans and long-term economic infrastructure so that we can continue to make sure Western Australians live in the strongest state in the country.

COOK GOVERNMENT — INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

810. Ms L. METTAM to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier explain to the people of Western Australia why billions of dollars are available for long-term infrastructure projects, yet still we see a lack of sufficient investment in frontline services that directly impact their lives every day, including in hospital corridors —

The SPEAKER: That concludes the question.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I think I dispatched the Leader of the Liberal Party in my first answer, but she persisted with the supplementary question nevertheless. A total of \$50 billion has been spent on health care since 2021–22 and \$12.8 billion this year alone. We have seen a significant improvement in the way health care is recovering post the COVID pandemic—in fact, it is the best in the nation. We know that the cost of living is a concern to Western Australians. We have put \$1 billion back in the pockets of Western Australians through over 20 different programs and initiatives the length and breadth of this state. We will continue to make sure that we improve the situation for housing, which is the reason I am delighted that today, property listings for October are the highest property listings for October in a decade, including almost a 28 per cent increase on October last year. We are seeing more housing stock come into the market. We are seeing kernels of success—small, green shoots of success starting to occur in the housing sector as well. Of course, we invest heavily in our policing services with over 320 extra cops on the beat in the last 12 months alone. We are supporting people on the front line. We are creating jobs for Western Australians. We are setting the economy up for the future through long-term, important, job-creating and economy-building transport infrastructure.

TRANSPORT — INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT

811. Mr W.J. JOHNSTON to the Minister for Transport:

I refer to the Cook Labor government's effort to create a strong, sustainable economy for future generations of Western Australians.

- (1) Can the minister outline how economic infrastructure like Metronet and Westport will drive jobs and opportunities for Western Australians into the future?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether she is aware of any alternative visions for the state of Western Australia?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for Cannington for that question. Already in question time, we have seen the Liberal and National Parties oppose economic infrastructure for the state. They oppose new rail lines and now they are opposing a new port. The extent of the previous government's infrastructure plan was—remember this?—"Honk for Roe 8 and 9!" That was the extent of its vision, honking for Roe 8 and Roe 9. Under its government, this is what they did. Debt spiralled out of control. It broke election commitments like the

Metro Area Express light rail and the Ellenbrook rail line and it wanted to sell everything—Western Power and Fremantle port. That was its plan when it was last in government. What have we done? We have cut debt and invested a record amount in infrastructure. We are delivering projects like Metronet. On the weekend, I had the ability to unveil, with the member for Victoria Park, the seven-kilometre park that will be created. It will improve liveability for people around there and facilitate new housing options in that corridor, revitalising some of these suburbs by allowing new housing and amenity.

Of course, in relation to Westport, as the Premier outlined, we have a plan for the future. Without a new port, we will have more congestion on our roads. Members opposite have no plan for the outer harbour. The member for Riverton can tell all his constituents that the Liberal Party has no plan to build and rejects an outer harbour, so under a Liberal Party government, they will see more congestion on Leach Highway and an increase in the price of goods and services in this state because we will have to rely on ships that go east and have goods transported across the state.

The Liberal Party has the view that a government cannot build infrastructure and deliver services in this state. That is its view. Liberal Party members do not believe a government can actually build infrastructure and deliver services. They are so simple and so pathetic that they cannot do both. We have been out there delivering record infrastructure, and that means jobs, members.

When I go doorknocking, people come up to me. In Brabham the other day, I spoke to someone mowing their lawn. He works as a subcontractor doing a lot of the pipework for one of the Metronet stations. He asked, “What’s the next pipeline of infrastructure work?” There are thousands upon thousands of people in WA who rely on the infrastructure pipeline, and that is why a new port and the associated infrastructure has got the city talking. It has got the state talking. It has got the contractors talking because they can see that pipeline of work.

The Liberal Party and Nationals WA cannot do two things at the same time. We know that they cannot talk to each other. They cannot think about building some infrastructure and delivering some services. It is beyond their capacity. Despite all the evidence and information—the business case—supplied, the Leader of the Liberal Party went out and said that Fremantle port is operating at 30 per cent capacity. Even her predecessor back in 2011 talked about the outer harbour being necessary in 10 years’ time. In 2011, a press release stated —

Mr Buswell said the inner harbour was expected to reach its capacity to manage container trade in about 10 years ...

We have a Liberal Party that cannot bring a coherent sense to infrastructure. The feedback I am getting from the people who are out there building and delivering this infrastructure is that the leaders of the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA have no plan; they just want to say no to everything because they cannot figure out how to run a police service and deliver some infrastructure at the same time. That is what government is; it is about making sure that we have a plan for the future while delivering services.

Honestly, I was not here for the last two days of last week, but I heard that there was a little bit of tension between the Liberal Party and the National Party. There was a little bit of tension and an unravelling of what is already a crazy mess in the opposition. Again, members opposite should ask questions. Let us have a matter of public interest motion on Westport because I would like to hear what their plan is. I cannot wait. When I heard there was going to be an MPI on Westport, I was so excited. I cancelled everything and said, “This is the best day.” Honestly! There I was thinking I was going to have a boring afternoon. An MPI on Westport—I cannot wait to hear the opposition’s plans! If the extent of the Liberal Party’s plan is to have the leader of “The Clan” up the back who holds the puppet strings saying, “Honk for Roe 8 and 9”, bring it on! Let us have a one-hour, two-hour or three-hour debate on infrastructure in this state, because I know that the people of WA appreciate that we are the government that is delivering for them.

Government members: Hear, hear!

WESTPORT — BUSINESS CASE

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

Was that applause for me?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Let us just wait. Thanks, members.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I refer to the staggering \$2.5 billion blowout on the Westport infrastructure project before it even begins that now brings the total cost to an astronomical \$7.2 billion, a completion date in the later part of the next decade and the government’s freshly minted glossy purporting to be a business case summary.

When will the government do the right thing and release the full business case for this project considering its massive scale and the extensive amount of Western Australian taxpayers’ money being spent?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I thank the member for the question. I love talking about Westport, so we are just going to keep going. As the member knows, a lot of work has been put into this. The team at Westport has been working on a range of different options, configurations and contingencies in relation to the development of the harbour. For instance, one of the issues is the development of a breakwater that will allow the port to be much more resilient and have greater ability to take on cargo during inclement weather. Obviously, construction costs have escalated and there is greater clarity in terms of the overall costs. As part of our \$273 million investment announced yesterday, there will be further work around costings, risk analysis and options available in relation to this. Madam Speaker, the business case has produced a plethora of information that will be important to make sure we inform both Infrastructure Western Australia and Infrastructure Australia on, which we wish to engage on the development of this, quite frankly, nation-building economic infrastructure.

Yesterday, we released an extensive summary of the business case for Westport of over 45 pages. It gives opposition members an important opportunity to educate themselves on the importance of this piece of economic infrastructure, including the number of jobs that will be created; the efficiency it will provide for the import and export of our goods, which is a very important consideration for a major trading state; what we took into account in relation to the final positioning; and what other works need to be undertaken in relation to road and rail infrastructure and other elements of what will be a massive and complex project.

It will open in the late 2030s. Let us not forget that the money we are talking about investing in this project, which in today's dollars is \$7.2 billion, will be invested over a period as we develop this significant piece of infrastructure. To put it into context, in dollar terms, this will be the biggest economic infrastructure project ever undertaken in this state. That is why it is important we continue to do the work.

The business case is obviously an extensive document and involves a range of commercially sensitive data, so it would not be appropriate to release it publicly because of those things. I remind this place of the Forrestfield–Airport Link for which the previous government did a lot of work on a business case. When we came into office, as is the protocol under the Westminster system, we sought access to documents from the previous government in relation to considerations that had been put to cabinet. In this particular incidence, the Liberal and National Parties refused access to the business case for the FAL even though we were the ones who actually ended up building it. Not only were we in this context not allowed to see where all the dollars were to go out everywhere, but also in the context of the previous government, it would not even let it be known to the incoming government. Madam Speaker, I will take criticism from all kinds of places on this. We know there will be naysayers and critics because this is a big decision that only a competent WA Labor government can take on behalf the people of Western Australia, but I will not be lectured by members opposite on the information disclosed in a business case.

WESTPORT — BUSINESS CASE

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

I have a supplementary question. Why does the Premier believe that Western Australians do not deserve to have all the information about this massive project?

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

The SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please do not interject when the question is being asked.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

Why did the member not even share it for the FAL project with the incoming government? In that regard, we were not even looking to divulge commercially sensitive information to the whole community. The previous government would not even share that with the incoming government that had to build it. Madam Speaker, I think the accusation from the member opposite is extraordinary and smacks of double standards and hypocrisy.

TAFE FEE-FREE COURSES

814. Mr M.J. FOLKARD to the Minister for Training and Workforce Development

I refer to the Cook Labor government's ongoing commitment to delivering quality vocational training in WA.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the extension of fee-free TAFE will benefit Western Australians?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house how this expansion will complement the government's efforts to boost the pipeline of skilled workers and get more homes built here for Western Australians?

Ms S.F. McGURK replied:

- (1)–(2) It gives me great pleasure to talk about the issues that the member has outlined. The Cook government is joining with the Albanese federal Labor government to lay the foundations—lay the foundations, members—for tomorrow's construction workforce. It is a bad joke when you have to explain it a few times for people to pick it up!

The SPEAKER: Not even the member for Landsdale looked up!

Ms S.F. McGURK: This morning I was with the member for Burns Beach, along with the Premier, the federal Minister for Skills and Training and the local federal member, Tracey Roberts, at the Clarkson campus of North Metro TAFE to announce the federal government's commitment to another \$9.4 million in fee-free training for Western Australian construction workers. It is fantastic. This will deliver 2 149 fee-free places, all in building and construction. That will include 540 pre-apprenticeship places in seven new skill areas. They will be completely free for people; largely, it will be young people, but it could be anyone wanting to do their certificate II and try out what those construction trades mean for them. It is really great to see.

We met a couple of young people, Jasmine and Jordan, who are a couple; they were doing some of that early skilled work there. The Premier did a good job of laying a brick and working with a trowel. It was good that I ended up with some concrete on my pants. I was standing a little way back. They were doing some bricklaying and the Premier tried it out. It was really good to hear that both Jasmine and Jordan have picked up apprenticeships. They are going to be tilers. That is one of the areas in demand now in housing supply, so it is great to see and we wish them all the best. They are a great young couple.

I want to draw the house's attention to what people would have paid under the previous government for training in some of these skill areas. A certificate II or a pre-apprenticeship in electrotechnology would have cost \$1 800 and under us and under this current announcement by the federal government it is free. A plumbing pre-apprenticeship would have cost \$1 542 under the previous government. Now it is free. Bricklaying and blocklaying would have cost \$1 200; painting and decorating, \$1 200; and wall and floor tiling, \$1 200. All those are now completely free because of this announcement by the Albanese Government. Importantly, it is through the federal government's partnership with our government that we have the five-year skills agreement, fee-free TAFE across many different skill areas and, of course, Lower Fees, Local Skills, to the point that last year we had a record number of people in government-subsidised vocational training courses. It really is fantastic to see.

There is huge demand for building and construction trades because of not only housing, but also commercial and infrastructure work that is being done across the board. We know that defence skills are going to be in big demand. We know with the energy transition, there is such a long horizon of work for which we will need skilled employees that people can have confidence that if they take up these trades, they will not only get interesting and well-paid work, but also have work for many, many years to come. As I said today at the announcement, we could not send a clearer message to the WA community that we want them to do this sort of work than by offering fee-free training. I am very pleased to be part of a Cook Labor government that is investing in our future and our present and in young people and people who want a career change. Building and construction is very important, as are many other skill areas as well, so I am glad to be partnering with the Albanese government to that end.

WESTPORT — CAPACITY

815. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Premier:

I refer to the announcement yesterday that the government is committing over \$7 billion to establish the Fremantle outer harbour at Kwinana by the end of next decade.

- (1) Given that the government's own studies have shown that the Fremantle inner harbour is at only 40 per cent capacity —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Mr T. Healy interjected.

The SPEAKER: Including the member for Southern River, please do not interject while the question is being asked.

Dr D.J. HONEY: — could be expanded significantly beyond this level, why is the government committing billions of dollars of limited taxpayer money to the new outer harbour in such a relatively short timeframe?

- (2) Did the government genuinely explore options to prolong the life of the Fremantle inner harbour as has been done with the port rail transformation project, which has substantially extended the life of the port of Melbourne?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for the question. It gives me an opportunity to continue to talk about Westport—love it. Yesterday the Leader of the Liberal Party said the port was at 30 per cent capacity. Today I hear from the member for Cottesloe that it is at 40 per cent. If we sit around much longer, by the end of the day, we might be at capacity. To put it clearly on the record, this year alone we have had 857 000 containers go through Fremantle port, which is 50 000 more than last year. It is expected to reach its capacity of 1.4 million containers a year by 2040. It is already at 60 per cent capacity, which is six per cent more than last year. We know that the closer we get to capacity the greater the inefficiency and the lower the productivity that will occur there. Plus, we will see untold congestion take hold of the communities around Fremantle. I remember that when we were looking at Roe 8 and Roe 9, it involved dualling Curtin Avenue,

which goes straight through the member for Cottesloe's electorate. The member for Cottesloe should be crystal clear with his community on this in that he wants to expand and dual Curtin Avenue, which will see either homes or trees lost, right through the middle of his beautiful electorate.

Ms R. Saffioti: There goes the bike path I built.

Mr R.H. COOK: The bike path would be no longer. That is the reality. This is not politics. This is the reality of our expanding economy. This is simply what we have to do to make sure that we set up the state for the future. The fact of the matter is that we will have a constrained port into the future; for a major trading state like ours, that is a problem. We have to act today to save tomorrow. The \$7.2 billion in today's money will be spent between now and right through to 2038. It is sustainable expenditure on one of the most important pieces of economic infrastructure we will undertake this century. We will continue to make sure that we develop this project. The other element of Fremantle port, which is constrained, of course, is that it cannot take larger ships. Currently, it can take cargo and container ships of a maximum of only 12 000 containers. We know that by 2030, ships will be as large as 14 000 containers. This means that already Fremantle will not be able to receive some ships. These are the basics of economics. We need this piece of economic infrastructure to continue to grow the economy and set up the state for the future.

WESTPORT — CAPACITY

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

I have a supplementary question. Given the government's proven incapacity to manage major capital projects, how can the Premier expect the public to have any faith in his cost estimate for this project?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

The WA Labor government is a government of big economy building, community connected projects.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Mr R.H. COOK: Metronet is a great example of the work that we have done to ensure that we set Western Australia up for the future, that we continue to make sure people are connected and that our economy is connected through world-class public transport infrastructure. Yes, it costs money. Yes, it takes courage—courage that we on this side of the house have. We have the courage to do the hard work, the courage of our convictions and the courage to do things. We know that if we left it up to those opposite, they would do nothing. They have no plan. Infrastructure did not get a mention in the policy document that they released recently. The Liberal leader has herself said in Q&As at different functions that it is not part of their thinking. But it is fundamental to our economy and it is absolutely fundamental to jobs. I think about the young couple we met at a TAFE today, Jasmine and Jordan, who are just starting out on their life and their careers working in construction. If we are to provide a future for Jasmine and Jordan, we need to make sure that we make decisions today for the economic infrastructure of the future. That is a no-brainer. This is above politics. It should be above politics. We are going to get on and set the state up for the future by getting on, and we, the WA Labor government, will build Metronet—sorry, Westport!

Several members interjected.

Mr R.H. COOK: We have already built Metronet! We will build Westport.

FIREARMS — BUYBACK PROGRAM

817. **Ms M.J. HAMMAT to the Minister for Police:**

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

- (1) Can the minister update the house on the implementation of this government's strong firearms laws and voluntary buyback program?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether there are any risks to Western Australia's sensible, strong and safe firearm laws?

Mr P. PAPALIA replied:

- (1) I thank the member for her question. I can provide her with an update on how the laws are going. The Firearms Act 2024 was passed in Parliament, received royal assent and regulations will be published in December. The act will commence in March. The buyback scheme was an enormous and incredible success. The buyback scheme from individual licence owners took more than 38 000 firearms out of Western Australian suburbs and towns. We announced a dealer buyback that will be open until 17 January. With luck, that will take more firearms out of the community.
- (2) As far as risks are concerned, yes, there are risks. At first glance, someone might say that the Nationals WA are a risk to the Firearms Act. Having been fully bought and owned by the gun lobby for the princely sum of \$50 000, they have committed to revoking the laws and allowing American-style gun ownership and

unlimited guns for anybody, including family and domestic violence offenders. That is a potential risk. I think any rational individual would understand that the Nationals forming government on their own is not really a risk. If we talk in terms of risk, there is another risk. The Liberal Party and the National Party forming government is the only real alternative were it ever to occur. A little over a week ago, the Nationals stated that they would not form government with the Liberals unless they undertook to revoke the laws. Then we had the unedifying and entertaining situation in which the Leader of the Liberal Party and one of the leaders of “The Clan” stood next to each other at a press conference and contradicted each other. The Leader of the Liberal Party suggested that the Liberals would support the laws. The leader of “The Clan” indicated that they would somehow revoke bits of it. I am not sure. Will that mean that FDV offenders get to keep guns? Is that what they are saying? That is the sort of question that could have been put to either of those two alternative leaders.

There is a third alternative leader of the Liberal Party out there. I have said before in this place that we know where the member for Churchlands stands on guns. She is foursquare behind the government’s gun laws. She wants tougher gun laws. She wants to protect the community from the threat of people who might do harm with firearms. There is an aspirant leader of the Liberal Party out there who is a candidate for the seat of Churchlands. It took a few days, but I have to give it to the ABC; it tracked down this person and asked him for his view on guns.

Ms R. Saffioti: Did they track him down or did he volunteer?

Mr P. PAPANIA: The ABC tracked him down. It asked the Liberal candidate for Churchlands for his view on guns. He managed to answer without doing two things—first, without telling anyone his view; and, second, without saying the name of the actual Leader of the Liberal Party. I will quote the seven o’clock ABC news from 9 November last week. The candidate for the Liberal Party for the seat of Churchlands said —

“The leader represents the party’s position so if you’re in any doubt as to who to believe or who to listen to, my advice, listen to the leader.

That was interesting advice, without saying who the leader is! Which leader are we to look for? Which leader are we to ask or listen to? One can only imagine that that is either a suggestion that he is assiduously avoiding saying the leader’s name in the same way she assiduously avoided his campaign office opening or he is thinking that maybe the Leader of the Liberal Party might be someone else very soon—and maybe he has a position. In the event that it is the latter, Liberal candidate for Churchlands, you have a platform. It is not like you are voiceless. We get the 10 commandments every Friday. Please, leader of the Liberal Party— aspirant, the person who is running for the Liberal Party for the seat of Churchlands, let us hear on Friday, in the 10 commandments: firstly, that you support Libby Mettam, the member for Vasse, the Leader of the Liberal Party; and, secondly, that you support the gun laws, the Firearms Act 2024, and you will not water them down. You can swap the order around if you want; I do not mind. One or two out of 10 should include those two points. I look forward to reading Friday’s paper.

WESTPORT — DEVELOPERS

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

I refer to the recent Westport announcement to replace the port of Fremantle as it reaches its projected capacity in 2040 and the redevelopment of much of the land comprising the current Fremantle port. Can the Premier confirm that no developers with a vested interest in the Westport project and associated redevelopments have attended his WA Labor business round tables?

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

I do not think that relates to my portfolio —

The SPEAKER: No.

Mr R.H. COOK: — but the answer is that I have not spoken to any property developers about any redevelopment of Fremantle port.

The SPEAKER: I will caution you, Leader of the Opposition. I do not think your first question was in order because it did not pertain to the Premier’s portfolio areas, nor did it pertain to policy matters for the party of which he is the leader. If you believe your supplementary question is in order, you may ask it. Otherwise, we will move on to the next question.

WESTPORT — DEVELOPERS

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

Supplementary question: what parameters will the Premier put around to ensure that there are no cash-for-access deals with anyone who might be associated with the development of the port?

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Please wait for the ministers to stop interjecting.

Mr R.H. COOK replied:

There has been a range of consultations by the Future of Fremantle group, he says, looking at the member for Fremantle to nod. Yes, the Future of Fremantle group is visualising what an incredible future might exist for Fremantle. When we develop Westport, we will free up around 270 hectares of developable land that could provide an iconic destination for not only tens of thousands of Perth residents, but also many people in the hospitality and tourism industry. I can imagine some of the most staggeringly beautiful views from what we currently consider to be the North Quay. It would be an incredibly exciting opportunity for people in the future. This will come at a time when we move the container port operations from the inner harbour to the outer harbour. We are talking the mid to late 2030s before we start to see any of these things take place.

As I said in my speech yesterday, I do not think I will be the Premier who opens Westport. I want to be the Premier who starts it. The fact of the matter remains that the Future of Fremantle group has a long-term vision of what that may look like. I will leave it up to younger people to govern and discuss how that project develops.

FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDERS — GPS TRACKING

820. Ms E.L. HAMILTON to the Attorney General:

I refer to the Cook Labor government commitment to tackling family and domestic violence in the state.

- (1) Can the Attorney General update the house on the implementation of this government's tough new laws to track repeat and high-risk family violence offenders?
- (2) Can the Attorney General advise the house how these laws complement other reforms delivered by this government to support victim-survivors of family and domestic violence and hold perpetrators to account?

Mr J.R. QUIGLEY replied:

- (1)–(2) I thank the member for her question. It is relevant that she asks this question just before the 16 Days in WA campaign will commence as a program against domestic violence on 25 November.

In 2020, the Labor government introduced the largest family violence reform package in the state's history. These included enabling the courts to apply GPS tracking to all offenders, not just domestic violence offenders. To be clear, before we introduced that law, the Liberals had no GPS tracking at all. But we have not stopped there. We have reviewed the effectiveness of GPS tracking, and, in March of this year, laws came into effect to target those who damage, remove or interfere with an electronic monitoring device. These laws have increased the maximum penalty and introduced a minimum mandatory penalty of six months' imprisonment for those who damage the electronic devices.

In September this year, as members will recall, we passed this government's legislation that expands and mandates the imposition of GPS monitoring on family violence perpetrators at all touchpoints in the criminal justice system—that is, at bail, sentencing, parole and post sentence supervision orders. Since this legislation passed, the Western Australia Police Force and the Department of Justice have been working tirelessly to implement this reform to ensure all eligible offenders are identified prior to their court or parole hearing and that the new mandatory GPS tracking requirement is imposed. This work includes drafting new regulations and court rules, recruiting and training additional staff, developing IT infrastructure to ensure information sharing between agencies, and updating operational manuals to include the management of the new cohort of offenders. These new laws will come into operation before the end of this year and, most importantly, before the Christmas period.

That act was the ninth piece of legislation assisting victims of family and domestic violence passed by the Labor government since 2017. Since 2017, we have facilitated WA's participation in the national domestic violence order scheme, allowing orders to operate automatically across Australia. We have criminalised the non-consensual distribution of intimate images, which is punishable by up to 18 months' imprisonment. We have established a process to terminate tenancy quickly and legally directly with a landlord in situations of family violence to remove an alleged perpetrator from a tenancy agreement, and to change the locks of a rented house to prevent a perpetrator regaining access. We have also introduced the serial family violence offender declaration, subjecting offenders to a presumption against bail and enabling authorities to monitor their interactions with the justice system.

Since we passed this reform, we have seen 625 offenders declared serial family violence offenders and we have created new offences for suffocation and strangulation, with a maximum penalty of seven years on indictment or three years summarily. We have seen more than 652 convictions since the law commenced. We are now working towards the criminalisation of coercive control. We have legislated to make it easier for victim-survivors to obtain a restraining order based on coercive control. We are listening to the experts, including the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime, following extensive stakeholder engagement and successful approaches to legislating against coercive control elsewhere.

The evidence from overseas and the eastern states shows us that it is crucial to improve community understanding of coercive control before introducing a standalone offence. Improving community attitudes

and understanding ensures that first responders ask the right questions, victim-survivors are supported when they report abusive behaviours and police gather persuasive evidence for the court system to respond appropriately.

We are on track to introduce a standalone offence in the next term of government.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — SEVERITY ASSESSMENT CODE 1 EVENTS

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

I refer to the Child and Adolescent Health Service annual report that highlights that Perth Children's Hospital has reviewed, or is still reviewing, 12 SAC-1 incidents, five of which have resulted in death, and another four in serious harm, and reports that a three-year-old girl was given unprescribed medication before death after a flu diagnosis.

- (1) How can the minister justify the parents discovering this information through the release of the coroner's preliminary report and the note on her medical files that stated that her parents were never notified of the error?

Point of Order

Dr A.D. BUTI: I refer to standing order 77, which states —

- (1) Questions should not contain —
 - (a) preambles, opinions, statements of facts or names of persons unless they are necessary to render the question intelligible, extracts from newspapers or books, or quotations; or
 - (b) argument, allegations, inference, imputation ...

The SPEAKER: The Minister for Education is obviously quite right in quoting the standing order. A little latitude is often given. The member is clearly pushing the envelope because there is way too much information and imputation in her question. I will allow you to just repeat question one and question two without any preamble.

Questions without Notice Resumed

- (1) How can the minister justify the parents discovering this information through the release of the coroner's preliminary report and a note on her medical files that stated her parents were never notified of the error?
- (2) Can the minister confirm a lack of adequate—that is part 2 —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please. I will determine whether the questions stand or not. I do not appreciate anyone interrupting.

Ms L. METTAM: Can the minister confirm whether the lack of adequate resourcing at Perth Children's Hospital contributed to this tragic outcome?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

- (1)–(2) The Leader of the Liberal Party has plumbed some serious depths, and this is a new low. This terrible circumstance is not fodder for question time. It is not fodder for question time! If the member has —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: There are three current investigations underway across three different sites—a private site, the public site and the ambulance site. A coroner's investigation is underway. There have been no formal findings from the coroner. I have not been notified of formal findings from the coroner. I have not been authorised to get information from the coroner. CAHS has not been authorised to get information from the coroner. This is not appropriate question time fodder. This is purely seeking to politicise a terrible event.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please.

Ms A. SANDERSON: It is a grubby attempt by the Leader of the Opposition. Let us allow all those investigations to be completed—the coroner and the SAC-1s across the three sites—and allow the family to understand the results of those investigations before the Leader of the Liberal Party seeks to gain some kind of political advantage out of the most appalling circumstances.

Several members interjected.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — SEVERITY ASSESSMENT CODE 1 EVENTS

822. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:

Madam Speaker —

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Members, I would like the supplementary question to be heard in silence.

Ms L. METTAM: I have a supplementary question. Will the minister commit to revising hospital policies to ensure that parents are promptly informed of any incidents involving their child’s treatment regardless of the timing or circumstances?

Ms A. SANDERSON replied:

I know that there has been a range of meetings and circumstances in which the Child and Adolescent Health Service has tried to engage with the family and, quite rightly and understandably, they have not been in a position to engage. It is appropriate that they are given the time and space to process what is the most awful and devastating experience that they will probably ever experience. If the Leader of the Liberal Party would like a briefing on the processes and the status of the investigation, should she ever be sensible enough to ask me for one behind the chair or approach me on one of the many times she sees me in this building —

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order, please!

Ms A. SANDERSON: — and say, “I just want to get an update on behalf of this family”, I would happily offer her that update, but instead she chooses the grubby route of trying to seek some kind of political advantage out of a devastating circumstance.

The SPEAKER: Members, that concludes question time.

WESTPORT — DEVELOPMENT

Matter of Public Interest

THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts) informed the Assembly that she was in receipt within the prescribed time of a letter from the Leader of the Opposition seeking to debate a matter of public interest.

[In compliance with standing orders, at least five members rose in their places.]

MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Leader of the Opposition) [3.01 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Cook Labor government for its approach to port infrastructure development in Western Australia and for withholding the business case for Westport, shrouding the project in secrecy.

We know from the announcements made by the Premier yesterday that a glossy brochure has been released purporting to be an explanation of the business case for Westport. It has very little to no detail in it, so to say that it is anything other than a piece of publicity for the project would be disingenuous.

Point of Order

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: The former minister is right in front of the Leader of the Opposition.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Roe. Yes, members, as always when there is a transition after question time, there is too much chattering going on in the background. If you want to have a conversation, there is plenty of room outside. I could not hear what the Leader of the Opposition was saying either, so please keep it down. Carry on, Leader of the Opposition.

Debate Resumed

Mr R.S. LOVE: Thank you very much, Deputy Speaker.

This government came into power on the back of some planning on the port at Fremantle that had been done by the previous government. Over the years, there has been some development of a port in Kwinana, and a fair bit of growth has occurred in that area. I point out the demurrage costs currently being incurred by vessels as they wait for the infrastructure there to be repaired and note that it is a very expensive matter for traders, shipping companies and others that is being brought about by that ongoing situation in the Kwinana port area. The planning I just spoke about was all set aside, and maybe as an aside we will say a bit about Roe 8 and Roe 9 later on. Eight years since this government took office, work has been slowly undertaken on the Westport project, and we now have an announcement and a glossy brochure. We do not have access to the full business case, and it appears we will not be able to have access to it.

I look at what has been expended thus far. The Westport special purpose account was established in 2020–21, with \$400 million added to it at that point. I think there were appropriations for the Westport project of \$503 000 and \$3.7 million for staff. There was also \$10 million for the acquisition of land and the port and environs strategy. In 2022–23, the Westport program was carried on, with allocations in the vicinity of \$5 million. In 2023–24, there were appropriations of around \$1 million for the commercial framework and the Westport program, \$9.647 million for further initiatives in the business case, \$7.38 million for enabling works and \$150 000 for feasibility studies. Considerable funding has been spent. At one point, there was a little bit of money set aside—I think \$2 million—

to look at alternatives to live export from the Fremantle port. I wonder whatever happened to that work and that money. If the decisions of the Albanese Labor government are carried out, they will make that a moot point. That will end the live export of sheep by sea, which will feed into cattle export, because most cattle leaving the south west leave on mixed boats due to their lower numbers and fewer destinations.

A lot of money has been spent thus far. We have the Treasurer here, and no doubt she will be able to update us on just how much money has been spent to get to this point, because we know she does some things very well, such as spend money. We only have to look at the Metronet program to see how well the money—I mean, how quickly the money is being spent. I am not sure it has been well spent. It has not been anywhere near the amounts that were promised, and we know now that that project —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr R.S. LOVE: — which was supposed to be —

Ms R. Saffioti: We are spending well and quickly!

Mr R.S. LOVE: The Treasurer will have a chance. I am really interested in her figures, so she can tell me about the Metronet program, which was basically supposed to be self-funding from the uplift on the price of land—\$1 billion here and \$1 billion there and it will all be done! We are at \$13 billion and still counting. The Treasurer does something very well: she spends money very well and in very large amounts. No doubt we will see some more of that in the coming years if we have the disastrous situation of a Labor government being returned in 2025—something I think is becoming increasingly unlikely. Of course, we know that the state Labor government is desperate to have the state election date shifted so it can come along after the Albanese government has faced the music. I think that the Premier secretly hopes that the Prime Minister might pick an election date in March so that the wrath of the people of Western Australia will be taken out on the Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, for his lack of concern for Western Australia.

Mr P.J. Rundle interjected.

Mr R.S. LOVE: Yes, indeed.

Interestingly, there is a lot of industry in the south west metropolitan region of Western Australia—at Kwinana and the like—but in other ways it seems to be something of an infrastructure desert. If anyone ventures out to the district and looks at the condition of some of the roads and the scale of the road infrastructure, they will see that the government is trying to service major pieces of infrastructure like Garden Island and the Henderson area from what are essentially just suburban roads. There is nothing like appropriate road infrastructure in the area, and very little has been done over the eight years of this government to correct that situation. For the first decade of the Kwinana port's enhanced operations, it is expected that Kwinana Freeway will continue to be the only major freight corridor for access north. I think that everybody would acknowledge that Kwinana Freeway is already highly constrained. It is a parking bay; even on weekends, traffic is almost at a standstill. That seems to be playing a very major part of the initial access to the new facilities down there that will come with AUKUS and the Westport proposal. The Minister for Transport might be able to comment on whether she feels that using the already congested Kwinana Freeway as a major north–south connector into the future is a suitable outcome. We know from Senate estimates hearings last week that the Department of Infrastructure had not at that stage been in discussions with the Western Australian government around these other matters. I know that the Premier's response was that the Department of Defence is leading all that, but the other ancillary infrastructure such as the connecting infrastructure to AUKUS and Westport is the issue that I think has not been discussed in any great detail up until now.

Members should think back to what happened when the government took office. It stopped the Roe 8 project, and eventually Roe 9. We are left in a situation where even page 11 of the glossy describes how there is already traffic congestion to the port, which is costing an estimated \$31 million per year in lost time and productivity simply because of that decision to stop the further development of that road network. At the time, we were told that it was too environmentally damaging and had to be stopped. In the estimates area, we have seen the proclamation recently of a large marine park to purportedly protect an area, that is said to be pristine, from the people who have been leaving it in a pristine condition for the last X number of years, decades, or hundreds of years—people who have been using that area since European settlement and many more years of Aboriginal interaction. That needs to be protected, but Cockburn Sound is apparently not so important. Cockburn Sound is one of the most important —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Ministers!

Mr R.S. LOVE: Cockburn Sound is one of the most important marine nurseries in the state.

Mr T. Healy interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member!

Mr R.S. LOVE: We have already seen it heavily impacted by industrial development since the 1950s and get ready for the coming of the AUKUS arrangements. We will see significant impacts on habitats and coastal processes from that permanent infrastructure of the big land-backed wharf that will be built. They tend to move things around, and there will also be a lot of extra vessel movements, flora infestation and terrestrial fauna. We will see the flow-on to the fisheries in areas like the marine park that the government is talking about. That is actually the nursery from which all fisheries that go up and down the Perth waters come from; it is tremendously important. We have very large areas of seagrass, which is one of the great carbon sinks and is hugely important for fish habitat, water quality and the like. Losing that type of environment will have a very heavy environmental impact. The south coast has to be protected, but not Cockburn Sound! There does seem to be a disconnect between what the government believes to be or not to be important. Anketell Road is to be widened. Conservationists say that that is as damaging as Roe 8. I do not think that the government will be protecting it. The whole Roe 8 thing was just a farce and a political ploy.

I have to wrap-up because I think I have used my time. I have much more that I could say. However, I again point out this government's inability to keep to budget. It has announced a \$7.2 million project after announcing the \$5 million project. There will be further announcements: \$20 million, \$30 million—who knows? This is just the beginning of a huge investment by the state government.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [3.14 pm]: What a desperate attempt at a headline grabber by this government in its dying days! Let us go back to the original motivation of the Minister for Ports, as the minister was in the past, who is now the Minister for Planning. The original motivation was that the government was going to save 0.19 hectares of bushland in an area bound by an existing road on one side and a clear powerline easement on the other side, on a hill between two wetlands, purely to play to the green left because it thought that it was an election winner. There was no thought about state priorities then! What did the government decide to do? It decided to salt the field.

Ms K.E. Giddens interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I am not taking interjections; we have very little time.

The government decided that it would salt the field for Roe 8, so it created an A-class reserve. It is now building houses on the proposed route and knocking down trees to do it. It put a massive roundabout on Leach Highway, and demolished homes during the housing crisis to do that. Moreover, for the environmentally concerned on that side, of which I am sure there is at least one or two, it removed over 70 giant mature tuart trees that were nesting and feeding habitats for protected cockatoos and other birds. Then the Westport Taskforce was appointed. What was its job? Its job was really clear. It was to justify the new outer harbour, and that is what it delivered. It delivered the justification for the new outer harbour. We had this farcical business case in which every single road upgrade in the southern corridor was ascribed to any road upgrade required to maintain the inner harbour when in fact port transport is only eight per cent of that transport. We know that ordinary traffic was going to increase by 50 per cent, but none of the funding for road upgrades, 92 per cent of which was for ordinary road transport, ordinary commercial transport and ordinary commuters, was ascribed to that. It was a farcical business case.

However, that business case revealed the information that Fremantle port has a ready capacity of 2.1 million twenty-foot equivalent units, but we hear that traffic is currently at about 800. We are actually at about 38 per cent of the port's capacity, which is in this taskforce report. I will provide this to any member here who wants to go through it. Even if there is a business case, we are only at a bit more than one-third of capacity. The truth is that the government has not looked at anything to reasonably increase the capacity. The study comes up with a scenario. It states that it is uneconomic—but who would trust anything out of that report?—to go to 3.8 million TFEUs, which is the identified capacity of the new port.

Then we look at the cost. So far, it has been \$234 million on top of \$100 million spent, and we still do not have a business case that can be used. Another \$234 million will be spent. That \$7 billion cost estimate is a joke! We know about this government's incapacity to manage capital projects. Even giving a bit of latitude to some scope changes on the Metronet project—let us say that it is underestimated by two-thirds—we know the truth is that this is not a \$7 billion project. This is the government's pre-election promise like it was in 2017; it is its pre-election estimate. We know that this is a \$20-plus billion project. That is what it is because this government has an utter and total incapacity to manage capital projects. We know this government's form. It has underestimated the number coming in. Instead of spending that money on port projects in the midwest and Gascoyne regions that are ready to go and waiting for government approval, which in fact do not involve any government money, and creating thousands and thousands of new jobs that do not replace existing jobs, the government ignores all that. There is nothing on Oakajee and nothing as we go further north of any meaning in relation to ports. There is nothing about real jobs going in there.

Let us talk about the environmental impact. As I said, at least one or two people on the other side care about the environment. There is considerable history to this. This is the third time the Labor Party has announced this project since the mid-2000s.

Mr D.A.E. Scaife interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: I have the press releases here, so I will give them to the member to educate him.

Let us have a look at the Environmental Protection Authority report commissioned in 2006 that looked at the four options. This is what the caucus of this state Labor Party signed up to. There is some variation, but it looked at four options. There will not be a substantially different outcome from the option that the government has landed on here. I will look at the benthic primary producer habitat for options 1, 2, 3 and 4. That is a critical breeding ground for pink snapper and a whole range of fish species in Cockburn Sound, which has already lost 80 per cent of its seagrass—it has gone. It is a critical breeding ground for pink snapper, which apparently the Minister for Fisheries cares about and he says that we must create other reserves. I will tell members what the impact of those options are on the seagrass in the area. The benthic primary producer habitat raises from 330 hectares to 387 hectares. The simple fact is that this project is going to demolish over 300 hectares of benthic primary producer habitat in Cockburn Sound. Did members opposite discuss that in their party room or in caucus when they agreed to this decision?

The trouble is that we see utter hypocrisy here. The government goes to the wall on 0.19 hectares of bushland in Beeliar on an elevated area between two wetlands that is already highly degraded, but it is happy to commit to a project that is going to destroy over 300 hectares of seagrass in Cockburn Sound. Let us see where the green activists sit on this one because we saw plenty of them before the election in 2017. Let us see whether they are hypocrites or whether they care about the environment. Anyone on that side who cares about the environment will be utterly appalled at what their government has just announced and the impact it will have on the state.

Unfortunately, there is too much to go through on this matter. But I want to go back to the government's former announcements. Here we have a media statement from 21 February 2004 from Hon Alannah MacTiernan, the then Minister for Planning and Infrastructure. She announced —

The development of a new container terminal in Kwinana is on the agenda at a community workshop ... She then made an assessment of how port capacity is growing at a pace. She continued —

“This is at the upper level of predictions, and if the trend continues, the additional facilities will be needed in approximately 10 years —

That is, 2014 —

to take the overflow.

Apparently, under that minister, we were going to have it delivered in 2014. Clearly the port managed quite ably to cope with the increased capacity. As we have always seen, there was a massive underestimation of the port to take the capacity.

Then we have an announcement from 10 August 2020. A raft of ministers appeared on the statement such as the then Premier and the then Minister for Regional Development, Hon Alannah MacTiernan. What do we see in this press statement? It reads —

Work will now proceed to determine the timetable of transforming freight from Fremantle Port to Kwinana. The transition will occur either in one step by 2032 or over a phased period ...

What do we see now? The government is now saying, “We’ve come up with this great idea that we’re going to now commit to this port!” It cannot be held accountable for it, and it cannot be delivered on that date, but it is a great headline grabber. The simple fact is that the government cannot be trusted to deliver any capital project within even a modicum of the original estimate. Moreover, it is misleading the public of Western Australia. On the one hand, 0.19 hectares of bushland is an environmental crisis, but the government is not concerned about 300 hectares of premium fish habitat in Cockburn Sound. It will be fascinating to see the government's business case. We will be fascinated to see the detail!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Member for Burns Beach!

Dr D.J. HONEY: The government has an obsession with Perth; it has an obsession with the metropolitan area!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Ministers!

Dr D.J. HONEY: You are ignoring the rest of Western Australia. Containers have to travel —

Several members interjected.

Dr D.J. HONEY: Please.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: Point of order.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members! Thank you. Leader of the Opposition, it is all right; I have got it.

Mr R.S. LOVE: I think you know what the point of order will be, Deputy Speaker. I cannot hear the member for Cottesloe give his speech. Can you please ensure that there is order in the chamber.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. Members, do not worry about us; feel for poor old Hansard trying to capture this. Members, just keep the interjections down. The government will get an opportunity to respond in seven minutes and 22 seconds.

Debate Resumed

Dr D.J. HONEY: The government would rather jam in all the ports through Fremantle and have containers travel 2 000 kilometres to Broome or 1 500 kilometres to Port Hedland instead of doing what it should do, which is to make a proper commitment to a container terminal in the Gascoyne and midwest regions. That would dramatically improve container freight into the north of the state at a cost that would be one-fifth of the cost of them coming from the metropolitan area. At the moment, they have to come all the way from Asia and all around the east coast of Australia to the port of Fremantle to then be trucked to the north. I will pass over to my colleague.

MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Leader of the Liberal Party) [3.25 pm]: I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and will highlight a number of the issues that have been raised so far. As has been highlighted already, this project has not even started yet and it is —

Ms R. Saffioti interjected.

Point of Order

Dr D.J. HONEY: The Leader of the Liberal Party has barely uttered a word; there have been more interjections from the other side than words that the Leader of the Liberal Party has been able to actually say.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Cottesloe. I will not uphold that point of order, but, members, if you keep interjections out of it, that would be great. Thank you. Carry on, Leader of the Liberal Party.

Debate Resumed

Ms L. METTAM: As I have stated, this project has not even started yet and it is already \$2.5 billion more than what was originally slated as the cost in 2020. The completion date is also now closer to 2040. We know that this government has form when it comes to delivering major projects.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms L. METTAM: The form is significant budget blowouts, which we have seen with Metronet. That project has blown out from \$3 billion to over \$13 billion. The Minister for Transport, who is not coincidentally also the Treasurer, and the Premier made a point in question time today about being able to deliver in other key areas. The truth is that this government simply has not. It has simply failed to deliver on priorities that matter to Western Australians. I will talk about that a bit further as well.

Ms K.E. Giddens: Tell us about keeping women safe!

Ms L. METTAM: Well, it is the most dangerous state to be a woman.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms S. Winton interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister! Members!

Ms S. Winton interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: I look forward to the contribution of the failed Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence.

Several members interjected.

Point of Order

Mr R.S. LOVE: This is descending into the most unseemly display. Could you please ask the ministers to remain silent so that the Leader of the Liberal Party can give her speech. They can then have their response.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the Opposition. I have two things to say. Ministers and members of the government, please keep it down. Leader of the Liberal Party, you are straying away from what this matter of public interest is about. You need to drag your debate contribution back to what this MPI is about. It is not about general policy failures and other areas; this MPI specifically talks about Westport and port infrastructure planning.

Debate Resumed

Ms L. METTAM: As I have stated and as has been highlighted, the Westport outer harbour has been announced by Labor three times already. In the first term of this Labor government, we heard former Treasurer Ben Wyatt

talking about how action would start on the outer harbour, yet what we hear now is just a promise for planning into the future. There are already significant budget blowouts on a project that is yet to start. We have also heard others speak about the south metro transport congestion issues and the fact that the Cook Labor government has failed to address those issues, which were meant to have been addressed within these eight years. The government has failed to deliver what has been promised for this project. Government members have form when it comes to an outer harbour. As I stated yesterday and as has been highlighted in reports, with a 1.2 million twenty-foot equivalent unit capacity, which could grow even further, there is significant capacity at Fremantle port at this time. In the arguments in support of this outer harbour, we have also heard the great hypocrisy over the last eight years under Labor about environmental issues. The member for Cottesloe highlighted that serious concerns raised about Cockburn Sound have yet to be addressed.

This is also about this government's priorities. Although it is willing to commit over \$7 billion, given its form in the largest budget blowout in the state's history, we can expect this project to cost over \$20 billion at least. That raises the question of why this government is failing so badly on the issues that really matter to Western Australians. There has been an 833 per cent increase in ambulance ramping since this government came to office. We have a health system that is on its knees. This points to the priorities —

Several members interjected.

Ms L. METTAM: It also points to the fact that this government cannot deliver —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Ms L. METTAM: — and has failed to deliver and address the congestion. It has failed to deliver —

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leader of the Liberal Party, hold on for two seconds. Members, I have already asked for no more interjections. I will start calling people. Anyone who interjects from now until the end, consider yourself called. Carry on, leader.

Ms L. METTAM: The government has failed to deliver what has been promised for the south metro area. It has failed in those road transport corridors and has failed to deliver in terms of this report as well. We know that Fremantle already has capacity, and has significant capacity. It has 2.1 million TEU capacity, as previous reports have stated. This government clearly has its priorities all wrong. Quite clearly as well, it is focused on one portfolio and one portfolio only. It is clear the government cannot walk and chew gum at the same time. It is clear that it is not listening to the people of Western Australia. It is clear, when it comes to this project and its commitments the third time round, that it is failing the people of Western Australia and cannot be trusted. It is no wonder a business case has not been produced to provide the transparency that Western Australians deserve, given the multibillion-dollar commitment that this government is setting up taxpayers for, for generations to come, while the health system is on its knees.

MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport) [3.34 pm]: Well, well, well; 116 days from an election and what is the Liberal and National Parties' plan for trade in this state? The opposition had 30 minutes to articulate a plan; there was zero. There was no plan for the economy of the state. This is how the opposition runs policy. The opposition goes to a focus group, which says something, and then the opposition comes in and says that. That is how simple the opposition is. If the Leader of the Liberal Party wants to talk about women, let us talk about the Liberal Party. We have a candidate for Churchlands about to oust the woman Leader of the Liberal Party. That is what the Liberal Party thinks of women in this place.

The election is 116 days out and they have no plan. Leader of the Liberal Party, are you building Roe 8 and 9?

Ms L. Mettam: We've got our blueprint.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Their blueprint!

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: The blueprint does not mention infrastructure. Are you building Roe 8 and 9?

Ms L. Mettam: Yes, it does mention infrastructure.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Are you building Roe 8 and 9?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members.

Ms L. Mettam: You should read it, minister.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I did read it. Are you building Roe 8 and 9?

Ms L. Mettam interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Are you building Roe 8 and 9? Are you not building any roads or rail lines?

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members.

Mr W.J. Johnston: The Leader of the Liberal Party has promised no Roe 8.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: No Roe 8 and no Roe 9?

Mr W.J. Johnston interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: There is no plan, 116 days out, for an issue that has been on the agenda for a long time. I will talk about the Liberal Party's work on that too. The Leader of the Liberal Party stands up 116 days out and cannot articulate what the Liberal Party will do about the most important bit of infrastructure in the state. They have no plan. They stand up and say, "These are our priorities." We are investing record amounts in health, as I said. Let us say that they win; that will be it. They will stop. They do not know what to do. They have no economic plan. Do members know what the people of Western Australia want? They want good jobs; secure jobs. They want a plan for our economy. That is what we are delivering.

Mr W.J. Johnston: What's their budget surplus going to be?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: I have no idea what their economic and financial plan is. I have no idea. It is 116 days out. Members opposite cannot agree on buybacks of guns. They cannot agree on guns. They do not have a coherent plan for this state, 116 days out. Then the Leader of the Liberal Party says, "Check our blueprint". I did; there is nothing. The idea that the opposition thinks, 116 days out—they do not even look up. It is disrespectful.

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It is disrespectful. One member is looking up. She stood there, yelling at us for 15 minutes. Sit down and take it now. Sit down and take it; keep eye contact! She does that all the time. She stands up—look at the member for Cottesloe. What is he doing? Is it Minecraft? What is he playing? Is it Candy Crush, member? I know he does not have a plan for the next term because his own party kicked him out. The member opposite cannot control himself so he cannot look up. He cannot control his anger, so he cannot look up. He has no plan 116 days out.

Dr D.J. Honey interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Cottesloe.

Ms K.E. Giddens interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bateman.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Let me go through the previous government's record. I want to refer to a cracker media statement from 29 June 2012, "Planning assessment for container port options." It states —

The State Government —

That is, the Liberal–National government —

is proceeding with a comprehensive assessment of the planning, environmental, transport and community issues associated with container port options in ... Cockburn Sound.

It says, "Container handling facilities at Cockburn Sound would benefit WA". That is what the Liberal Party said in 2012. It had a plan to build a new port in Cockburn. I will tell members about the dysfunctionality of the previous government. Then Treasurer Mike Nahan said, "Let's sell Fremantle port". The Liberal Party had a plan to deliver Roe 8 and 9 but, in eight and a half years, could never deliver it. In eight and a half years, it could not deliver Roe 8 and 9, and then, at the death knell, it signed a contract two months before an election. In eight and a half years, it had a plan to deliver —

Several members interjected.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Is the Leader of the Liberal Party listening? It is no wonder the Leader of the Liberal Party is going to be ousted; she cannot even sit there and listen to the response. You guys said a few things but you cannot even listen. They are so embarrassed about their lack of position, they cannot even listen to this contribution. This is what happened. The former government had a plan to deliver Roe 8 and 9, but it could not do it in eight and a half years. In the meantime, it did the planning for an outer harbour. Then, Mike Nahan and Colin Barnett got together and said, "Let's sell Fremantle port." That is what they did. It was a cabinet decision. The National Party and the Liberal Party agreed to sell Fremantle port. I refer to the media release titled "Our State Budget 2015–16—Securing our economic future: Fremantle Port sale to pay for major projects". The former state government, through a long-term lease of 99 years, was going to use the proceeds to retire debt and fund major new projects. Asset sales were to be the key for debt reduction. The asset sales that the Liberal and National Parties had agreed to

included Fremantle port, Kwinana Bulk Terminal, the TAB, the Forest Products Commission, the portfolio of the Government Regional Officers' Housing, the Keystart loan book, the state fleet, office buildings, individual generation assets and Western Power.

Dr A.D. Buti: It was a fire sale.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: It was a fire sale—exactly!

The former government wanted to sell Fremantle port. It was going to sell not only Fremantle port but also the new outer harbour. That government brushed aside concerns raised by the competition watchdog, confirming a buyer of the Fremantle port would be given the right to develop the outer harbour. The former government was going to sell not only the existing port but also the new port. The ABC reported —

Treasurer Mike Nahan confirmed the Government's plan, under the Fremantle Port sale proposal, was to give the Fremantle buyer the first right to build a second overflow port in Kwinana.

The former government had a plan and it had the legislation. It brought in legislation to sell the port. That is what it did.

Mr R.S. Love: What happened to the legislation?

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We voted against it and you voted for it. That is what happened to it.

This is what happened. The former government had promised to build Roe 8 and 9 for eight and a half years. We were opposed to it, but the former government was so incompetent that it could not deliver it in eight and a half years and signed a contract two months before the election. We committed to scrap that project and deliver our plan, and that is what we are doing. In the meantime, the former government had developed a plan for the outer harbour and was going to sell Fremantle port, the outer harbour and Utah Point. That is what it was doing—talk about chaos! That example demonstrates the chaos of that government.

I listened to the member for Cottesloe when he stood and talked about plans for the duplication of Curtin Avenue and the Stirling Bridge. We will not be do that because we will move the port, but the Liberal Party plan needed the Curtin Avenue and Stirling Highway bridge duplications. I will tell members the story about the Curtin Avenue bike path. When we won government, everyone said that we had to build the Curtin Avenue bike path. I thought, "Jeez, why hasn't it been done already given it would go through Liberal Party heartland." You would think they could deliver a bike path! I asked why the bike path had not been delivered. I was told the land had been reserved for the Curtin Avenue duplication. I said, "Do you know what? We're not going do that, so go and build the bike path." That is how the Curtin Avenue bike path was built; we rejected the previous government's Curtin Avenue duplication.

Basically, there was chaos and dysfunction for eight and a half years. There was a plan to sell Fremantle port, a plan for a new port and plans for Roe 8 and 9. As I said, the former government was not even competent enough to build a road in 8.5 years because there was too much dysfunction, with many Ministers for Transport in combat with the then Premier. It was completely dysfunctional. I would pick up *The Sunday Times* every weekend to find out which member of cabinet had spoken to Joe Spagnolo about the transport plans for the state. It was just chaotic. That was the former government's approach.

We won government, and what did we do? We delivered our election commitment. We stopped Roe 8 and 9, and redistributed the money to other projects.

Ms S.E. Winton: Two overpasses in Wanneroo.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Yes, and to projects in the southern corridor.

I know members of the Liberal Party do not drive much along Kwinana Freeway and members of the Nationals WA almost never do, but they might know that we have done a bit of work around there, including the new Armadale Road duplication and bridge and widening of Kwinana Freeway. We are now planning the next stage of road widening. We have been working and spending a record amount on Kwinana Freeway. That is what we have been doing. We have completely de-bottlenecked the Cockburn area. It is a key area that had become bottlenecked. There are traffic issues further south that we are addressing through further planning. There will be works along Kwinana Freeway and we are looking at Thomas Road in Anketell. They are part of the wider project area. That is what we have been doing.

Of course, the Westport team has consulted with over 400 stakeholders and more than 1 500 hours of consultation has been undertaken over just the past three years. We consulted with program partners, traditional owners, community and environment groups, neighbouring landowners, further government including the federal government, operators along the infrastructure supply chain, and experts such as the Western Australian Marine Science Institution, which we work with very well and pay to monitor Cockburn Sound.

I have to say that the director of Westport, Patrick Seares, in assessing and understanding how to deliver this very complex project and his interaction with other agencies is probably one of the most thorough public servants I have ever come across. Again, he and Peter Woronzow, the director general of the Department of Transport, have set up a team and a process whereby we consult across the board to ensure we can deliver an excellent project.

Members opposite want to criticise Metronet. I do not really care because, frankly, the feedback I get from the community is pretty good. It is there for everyone to see. The opposition's costings are wrong. I have said that about 10 times. Members opposite are not smart enough to understand or absorb it, or they do not care. The Liberal Party always tells lies when it comes to infrastructure; we know that is what it does.

Anyway, yesterday we announced that the Westport business case has been completed. This is a proper process. Initially, we did a feasibility study. We have been doing the business case and key consultation. We released a summary business case that is over 40 pages. Those more than 40 pages have a lot of detail. As I said, as the incoming Minister for Transport, I inherited a contract to deliver the Forrestfield–Airport Link. A lot of geo-tech work had been undertaken. Initially while we were delivering the project, there were some geo-tech problems, as the Deputy Speaker would know. On multiple occasions I wrote to the opposition asking, “Can I please have a copy of the business case?” It was because I was being asked what the patronage was compared with the business case. I would say, “I don’t really know what the case had”, because I was never given the business case. We were in government and delivering a contract, but the opposition would not release the business case for the Forrestfield–Airport Link. It was the same with the Perth Freight Link. The PFL was cancelled, so ultimately we did not really need it, but it might have been helpful during contract negotiations when we were cancelling the project. We as a government inherited a contract for the Forrestfield–Airport Link and we were trying to deliver it, but the opposition would not release the business case.

We are going through proper processes with the business case. We are working with Infrastructure WA and Infrastructure Australia. We are submitting to Infrastructure Australia; the former government never did that or had to. This is a clear and proper process. People are talking about the \$7.2 billion cost. Let us assume that we will spend about \$11 billion a year on infrastructure from 2028 to 2038. It represents about six per cent of that 10-year funding profile. Of course we need a new port; the debate should be over. Members opposite talk about the capacity of Fremantle port at 2.1, but that is if we spend billions of dollars on additional infrastructure. Is that your plan? If the plan is to widen Fremantle port, more roads will have to be built. It will cost billions and billions, and it will still be constrained on the land side.

The choice is to spend billions of dollars on further dredging to basically widen the inner harbour and build new berths, new road and new rail projects. Then there are the Curtin Avenue and Stirling Highway duplications, which would cost billions of dollars and would be sunk costs because we will still need to move the port at some time in the future. That is the Liberal and National Parties’ plan. They have no idea where to go on this. They cannot even agree on keeping the community safe with the gun buyback, so how can they agree on a sophisticated and contentious policy issue? They cannot agree. Members opposite sit there with either no policy or a plan to spend billions of dollars to expand Fremantle port. The member for Bicton can now tell her electorate that the Liberal Party and Nationals WA have no plans to support the outer harbour. It is very clear for the people of Bicton that the Liberal and National Parties do not support an outer harbour. For the people of Riverton, the Liberal and National Parties do not support an outer harbour. They want to keep trucks on local roads. For the people of Bateman, the Liberal and National Parties today stood and opposed the outer harbour.

Mr W.J. Johnston: They will not build Roe 8.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: We are waiting to hear, but currently their plan is no Roe 8 or 9. This is a quick snapshot of the history of this project. I could have taken two hours, and maybe we can speak about it tomorrow in private members’ business. I would like to do three hours on this.

Dr D.J. Honey: You have 45 minutes tomorrow.

Ms R. SAFFIOTI: Honestly, no shame! The member got kicked out of the party. The member got deselected from a very safe Liberal seat. He was one of the two people who won their seat last election year, and they kicked the member out. It is mind-blowing that the member is even here. Good luck to him. He has got more front than Myers.

Members have not been able to agree on this issue internally within the Liberal Party. Today demonstrates that it has no plan for the state or jobs or the economy. If it were up to the Liberal Party, we would be trucking containers from over east. We would put more trucks on local roads and we would jeopardise the cost of products into the future and the jobs of Western Australians.

MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Minister for Ports) [3.52 pm]: I spent four years in the seat behind me as a Whip and then after I became a minister I was in the chamber, less often, for three years. I used to see these matters of public interest come through every week and the private members’ business motions, and they get worse and worse. This is one of the worst ones. I suspect that behind it is an ideological hatred that the National and Liberal Parties have for publicly owned monopoly assets. This is what is behind this. The Minister for Transport just went through a bit of that.

When I first became the Minister for Ports, I had to go to a local government ministers meeting in Adelaide and they said, “New minister, what are you minister for?” I said, “I am Minister for Ports; Local Government; Road Safety and the Minister Assisting the Minister for Transport.” They asked why WA has a Minister for Ports. I said it is because we never sold them. There was a look of envy in the eyes of other ministers around Australia, Liberal and

Labor, because we never sold our ports. We have retained control of the investment in our ports and looking after customers, big and small—especially the small ones. We have retained the ownership, and that, of course, returns a dividend to Western Australians. That does not happen anywhere else. There are different models here and there; every state is a bit different. Some have done long-term leases with international buyers and owners of port facilities. That is why it is important that the privatisation of our ports can never, ever go ahead.

The Minister for Transport just went through a few issues. I looked at some media releases from the former government. Colin Barnett and Mike Nahan basically spruiked the fact that they got legislation through to sell our ports. The first one is Fremantle port, which is what we are talking about today. It states —

The State Government today introduced enabling legislation to State Parliament for the long-term lease of Fremantle Port to the private sector.

It goes on —

“Analysis of capacity and trade growth has confirmed the Outer Harbour, which would be additional to the Inner Harbour operations, will not be required for at least 15 years —

That was 2016, which takes it to 2031 —

“Importantly, this creates the framework for the Outer Harbour development to be undertaken by the new lessee of Fremantle Port as and when the expanded capacity is required. Should the new lessee choose not to take up the development opportunity, —

At that point I expected the government to step in like we will with Westport, but no —

the Government may elect for this to be undertaken by another party,” ...

You lot are addicted to privatisation. I found a release from Paul Brown, MP, an upper house member at the time. It states —

... speaking on local radio this week, clearly stated that he would not support any future sale of the Geraldton Port.

That never came to Parliament. I do not know what was behind that. When the opposition was last in government, it was flogging off the place to make the budget look better.

Several members interjected.

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: I am not taking interjections.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members!

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: From looking through the record, I can see that National Party members were always quick to say that they did not support the privatisation of Fremantle port, yet on 18 May 2016, the member for Moore, the member for Central Wheatbelt and the member for Vasse all voted to support the first reading of the legislation to privatise Fremantle port. The bill never went through Parliament, but members opposite voted for it. I can go and get the green book and look at the voting record.

Then we get to Utah Point. The Utah Point legislation went through. The media release states —

Treasurer Mike Nahan said the Pilbara Port Assets (Disposal) Bill 2015 provided the legal framework for the Liberal National Government’s plans to transition the Utah Point facility, in Port Hedland, to the private sector via a long-term lease.

I do not know whether members have been up to Port Hedland recently, but it is one of the jewels in the state’s assets. Port Hedland is obviously an amazing industrial wonder of the world. Utah Point is state government run and owned and provides a dividend and supports smaller miners in the area. It exports around 22 million tonnes of iron ore and other minerals a year, generating \$2 billion of revenue to the WA economy every year and it is licensed to expand to 28 billion tonnes. At the time, it was mooted that we would sell it for about \$200 million. I reckon since then we have made more than that on the dividends, so it is absolutely ridiculous. A very good man, member of the Greens Hon Robin Chapple, put out a media statement. I will read the last quote of the media statement because it sums it up quite well —

“If the Nationals really wanted to protect regional jobs, as they claim, then they should have the fortitude to stand with smaller miners and not only support our amendments, but wholly oppose the privatisation of ...

Publicly owned asserts in Western Australia—but they did not. On 26 February 2016, those three members again voted in this place for the third reading to go through. Thankfully, we won government in 2017, and as well as stopping the sale of Western Power, we stopped the sale of Utah Point.

The Liberal and National Parties are ideologically opposed to Westport because it will be government owned and built, and members opposite do not like monopoly assets in public hands. I have just looked at the media statements that you guys have put out over the last few years and some of the language used. This is from the then shadow Minister for Transport, the member for Vasse —

... this whole exercise has been a waste of taxpayers' money because we have known for years that an Outer Harbour will not be required for decades.”

That was in 2020. Even before the information came forward, they were against it. Then again, the member for Vasse in August 2020 said —

... Labor has wasted \$10 million of taxpayers' money and three years to tell the public what it already knows—that an Outer Harbour is not required. “We have known since 1996 that we have needed a long-term plan,” ...

Yes. It is here. It came out yesterday. There we go.

Hon Colin de Grussa, the shadow ports minister, released a media statement in 2023 with the title “Labor admits Westport all at sea”. On 29 November, a media release states—

Highlighting the lack of a clear strategy, Mr de Grussa said Labor had no handle on the scale of the freight task or the investment required to sustain Fremantle port until the Westports project is delivered.

All the commentary was negative before members knew any of the information that came out yesterday.

The last one from Hon Colin de Grussa from 2021, states —

The Minister should understand that Australian ports such as Fremantle are being bypassed in preference to more lucrative shipping markets, which will have substantial impact on the Western Australian economy if it continues.

I look at the document from yesterday, page 11, which talks about the ships coming to Fremantle. It states that if we do not do it at Westport —

... those ships will need to bypass Perth as they are unable to berth and will reduce supply chain efficiency and/or competition, impacting costs.

The opposition was ideologically opposed before it had the information. That is why it has brought forward this stupid motion. It has its blinkers on, because if we look at the motion, it states —

This house condemns the —

Whatever —

... for its approach to port infrastructure development in Western Australia and for withholding the business case.

The opposition did not talk about any port other than Westport today.

Dr D.J. Honey: Yes, I did.

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: Which one?

Dr D.J. Honey: I mentioned ports in the midwest and Gascoyne.

Mr D.R. MICHAEL: We are spending record amounts on ports in Western Australia. In the last budget there was \$117 million for major rebuilding and upgrade of berths and mooring equipment at Fremantle, Kwinana and Esperance, and a \$101 million contribution to a major new cargo wharf project at the Port of Dampier. That project is amazing. It will support Perdaman, the Burra—it is amazing, and that work has started. There is \$84 million for sustaining capital works across all ports. I could go on; however, I know the member for Fremantle wants to have a say. The opposition is a disgrace. It wants to privatise our state down the drain, and we will never see it.

MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Training and Workforce Development) [4.01 pm]: I am keen to speak on this because never has an important public policy been so contested. In fact, I believe it is one of the reasons that people voted in favour of us and against the Liberal–National Parties in 2017. It was not only because of the chaotic way the opposition managed the Perth Freight Link—Roe 8, Roe 9—and its planned privatisation of Fremantle port, but because it was so bleedin' obvious that it had no plan. It had absolutely no substance to what it wanted to do with the inner harbour. On the question of privatisation, there is an inverse relationship between the amount that we will get for a monopoly asset like the port, and how much people pay later on. I think that was obvious to the public.

Fremantle port is a nineteenth-century sailing ship port. It was built in 1897—the same year as my house—and it is well past its use-by date in terms of dealing with modern container trade. I do not think this has been given proper consideration this afternoon—although I am sure we will debate it again at length—that it is not only the lay down area that is constrained in Fremantle. It is getting in and out of the port. The opposition said absolutely nothing

to deal with that issue. What does it mean when the members for Vasse and Cottesloe say the current port is at 30 per cent capacity? It means that under the opposition's scenario, twice as much truck and rail traffic would need to go in and out of Fremantle before it reaches capacity. That is twice as much.

Mr P. Papalia: In addition.

Ms S.F. McGURK: It is in addition, and two or three times more truck and rail traffic would go in and out of Fremantle. How would that be handled? The opposition has no credible way for that to occur. There are so many flaws in the opposition's criticism, and it is obvious that this side, under the Deputy Premier, has taken the time to carefully plan scenarios for not only containers and the implications for freight movement and the alternatives, but also what it means for the environment. There are important baseline studies—significant, credible, independent studies—that look at baseline information as well as mitigating any impacts to the environment, the outer harbour and Cockburn Sound.

Division

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mrs L. Munday) casting her vote with the noes, with the following result —

Ayes (6)

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

Noes (43)

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

Question thus negatived.

ROAD TRAFFIC (AUTHORISATION TO DRIVE) AMENDMENT (DRIVING RESTRICTIONS) BILL 2024

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

PROCEDURE AND PRIVILEGES COMMITTEE

Seventh Report — Changes that count:

Making temporary orders permanent and other procedural wins — Tabling

MR S.J. PRICE (Forrestfield) [4.08 pm]: I present for tabling the seventh report of the Procedure and Privileges Committee titled *Changes that count: Making temporary orders permanent and other procedural wins*.

[See paper [3376](#).]

Mr S.J. PRICE: Standing order 282 empowers the Procedure and Privileges Committee to, amongst other things, examine and report on the procedures of the Assembly. The seventh report fulfils this obligation of the committee through an examination of the temporary orders currently in place, and a recommendation that they all be adopted into the standing orders. The report also suggests some other straightforward changes to the standing orders to clarify language and to overcome some procedural obstacles that the Procedure and Privileges Committee has identified. I will now provide a brief explanation of each of the recommendations that the PPC has made.

The first recommendation concerns the walk-through divisions. The current practice of walk-through divisions originated from the recommendations in the second report of the Procedure and Privileges Committee that was presented on 15 February 2022. This approach was introduced during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure social distancing during formal votes. In the context of the forty-first Parliament, with a significant government majority, the traditional division process, which requires most members together on one side of the house, posed challenges when social distancing. This walk-through procedure was introduced in response to this. As members are aware, in the walk-through system when a division is called and the bells are rung, members exit the chamber and re-enter from behind the Speaker's chair, passing by the clerks' table, where the votes are recorded. This process has proven both effective and efficient. It simplifies the act of voting for members and recording votes for the clerks, while also providing the added benefit of preserving the privacy of members' documents left at their seats,

which the traditional division method could potentially have compromised. However, it is important to recognise that the traditional voting system has its merits. Steeped in parliamentary tradition, it carries a certain formality and the call to lock the doors brings clarity and decisiveness, especially when government and opposition numbers are more even. The committee has also contemplated whether, in a more balanced Parliament, the walk-through method might create congestion as members converge behind the Speaker's chair to enter the chamber. However, on balance the committee favours the walk-through division process as a practical method for conducting divisions. Looking to the future, it is possible that advancements in technology may introduce further improvements to this process such as electronic voting, although the Assembly is not yet at that stage. For now, the committee recommends that the walk-through division procedure continue with its formal incorporation to the standing orders.

The second recommendation is to make permanent the temporary order concerning members' statements. Members' statements are provided for in standing order 147. They are six 90-second statements that take place once in a sitting week at a time decided by the Speaker. The current practice is for these statements to be held prior to the lunch break on Thursdays. In the temporary order agreed on 29 November 2023, members' statements were expanded to eight two-minute statements. The previous 90-second statements resulted in a race call of members hurrying through their contributions. The additional 30 seconds has improved this. Further, the additional two statements a week over the course of a 19-week sitting year provides an additional 38 opportunities to raise constituency matters in the house. The committee is of the view that this was a positive change and that the temporary order concerning members' statements should be enshrined in standing orders.

The third recommendation concerns the family-friendly sitting hours. The temporary order on this was a continuation of the order introduced in the previous year, which was recommended in the fourth PPC report tabled on 22 June 2022. In that report, the PPC said —

Given the Parliament of Western Australia provides the most generous schedule of sitting days and times for the conduct of parliamentary business, the Committee considers there is scope to propose a slight adjustment to the sitting schedule which will promote the House to conclude its business at a reasonable hour on Tuesday nights, without necessarily resulting in a reduction in the overall time available to conduct business.

The 7.00 pm finish on Tuesdays has anecdotally been well received by members and staff. As the PPC pointed out in its fourth report, in a calendar year the Legislative Assembly still sits for several more weeks than the next state Parliament in Australia. Further, the PPC notes that there is a general move in Australian Parliaments away from the legislation-by-exhaustion approach. Parliaments around the country and further afield are acknowledging that late nights do not necessarily have to be a feature of parliamentary life. The temporary order in place provides a presumption that the house will rise at 7.00 pm on a Tuesday, but it is framed in such a way that the house can sit later if more time is required for business. If this is the case, the Speaker notifies the house of an extended sitting before question time. The committee is aware that as the composition of the house changes over time, the sitting hours may also vary—the patterns of sitting hours will differ from Parliament to Parliament. However, in light of the changing nature of legislative activity and the general movement towards a more family-friendly approach to parliamentary business, the presumed 7.00 pm finish is a sensible approach and should be incorporated into the standing orders.

The fourth recommendation of the PPC in this report concerns the length of time that temporary orders last. At the moment, they can only last for 12 calendar months. That means that if they have been working well, motions must be moved in the house to continue them. This takes up time the house could be spending on other business. The committee suggests that this standing order be changed so that temporary orders last for the session of the Parliament. If shorter trial periods are desired, those can be built into the wording of the temporary order. However, the starting point will be that each temporary order will last for as long as the Parliament.

The fifth change recommended is that the list of tabled papers, which the standing order requires must be read out by the Clerk, simply be published by the Clerk. This would formalise the current practice of the house and cut down significant amounts of time reading out the list of tabled papers, which can get quite long, particularly after a recess and during annual report season.

The sixth recommendation is a fix for committees. Standing order 267(3) provides that “A videoconferencing facility may be used by a committee to examine a witness.” This has resulted in some difficulties for committees in circumstances in which videoconferencing technology might not be available. Committees have also experienced instances of technical difficulties occurring and a video link dropping out mid-hearing but an audio link being able to be maintained. If this part of the standing order were reframed as using the term “electronic facility”, consistent with the language employed by the Legislative Council, this broader expression would allow more flexibility for committees to examine witnesses remotely. There are no changes to the requirements about in camera evidence. That will still have to be taken in person.

The seventh change is a small one to remove the awkward phrase “thanks nature” from the standing orders. Standing order 117(5) currently reads, “Motion of a laudatory, valedictory, congratulatory or thanks nature”. The PPC recommends making a simple change from “thanks nature” to “commendatory nature” to tighten up the language in

the standing orders. In a similar vein, the PPC also recommends getting rid of the term “en bloc” from standing order 176. This term is arcane and modern readers might not understand its meaning or know how to pronounce it correctly. Thus the PPC recommends changing “en bloc” to “together” for moving multiple clauses and amendments.

Last but not least, the PPC recommends that a standing order be added for supplementary questions. Although supplementary questions are an established practice of the house, they are not in the standing orders. The proposed addition to standing order 82 would give supplementary questions a home in the standing orders and would confirm the discretion of the Speaker regarding their application. The proposed standing order would also require that supplementary questions be direct and related to the substantive question.

In closing, the recommended changes to the standing orders in this report are designed to enhance the efficiency, accessibility and overall effectiveness of the Legislative Assembly’s procedures. By incorporating successful temporary orders such as the walk-through division method and extended members’ statements, the Assembly can lock in these beneficial practices. Confirming arrangements for the finish time on Tuesdays also reflects the Assembly’s recognition of the importance of work–life balance for members, aligning with broader trends in Australian Parliaments. Addressing procedural hurdles like the yearly renewal of temporary orders, simplifying the handling of tabled papers and updating the rules for remote witness examinations, the proposed revisions will save time, and the minor changes to language will make the standing orders clearer and more accessible. Codifying supplementary questions is an important recommendation that acknowledges that this practice is fully established in the house, and it deserves to be reflected in the standing orders. The changes recommended in this report are by no means an exhaustive list of enhancements to the standing orders. There are doubtless other matters that a future PPC could turn its mind to. However, what is recommended by the current PPC is sensible and will make a positive impact on the business of the Assembly. I commend the report to the house.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.19 pm]: As Deputy Chair of the Procedure and Privileges Committee, I will add a few words. Obviously, I support the changes that were outlined by the member for Forrestfield, our Deputy Speaker. We have been talking about them for quite a while. Some of these changes developed during some extraordinary circumstances in the previous Parliament. Just briefly, I think the way that we go about divisions is better. It is based on the current Westminster system in the United Kingdom, as I understand it, in which members go past and put the vote in the postbox and so forth because there are so many more members than here. The other part of it is that it helps to maintain the privacy of material, as the Deputy Speaker mentioned. A member might have stuff all over their desk and would not want someone to cross the chamber during a division and sit at their desk, so I think it is more appropriate to do it this way. The logjam was mentioned. Unfortunately, the logjam is mainly on one side at the moment. Hopefully, things will be a little more evenly spread behind the chair after March 2025. I am certainly supportive of that scenario.

In terms of the two-minute statements, I have noticed that everyone has moderated their tone slightly in the past year or so as they have not had to try to jam as much information as possible into 90 seconds. That is a better result. It allows members to put out information about their constituents or an event in their electorate in a moderate way. From my perspective, everyone has generally agreed with that.

I think the amended sitting hours are very sensible. From my perspective, being a regional member, we often travel to Perth late on Monday nights. We might have been to Esperance or somewhere else on the weekend and driven many hours, so having a 10 o’clock wrap-up on Tuesday night added to our fatigue. I also think it helps from a family perspective. I imagine that members like the member for Rockingham appreciate the new sitting hours. For members with small children or even with older children, it is nice to be able to catch up with their family after 7.00 pm on Tuesday nights. Overcoming the fatigue element is something that I appreciate from a work health and safety angle, as I am sure do many other members. We certainly considered the family side of it and I think that will be greeted positively by members on both sides. I will not go into the other changes that the Deputy Speaker referred to, but I am certainly supportive of the PPC report.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah — Leader of the House) [4.23 pm] — by leave: I obviously will not be in this place after the next election; however, these matters are very important. Having been in this place for nearly 24 years, I have seen the machinations, if you like, of the previous standing orders and the amended standing orders that we have been operating under for this Parliament. It is important that we consider the efficiency of the procedures of this place; there is no doubt about that. It is important that we acknowledge that and that we also acknowledge the changes in technology and influences that prevail.

One thing that all members need to be conscious of is that this place is still a theatre. Now, I do not mean that in the context that members might think; I mean that our workplace is essentially on display. Not many workplaces are televised, recorded and, indeed, available to the general public. It is important that that is considered as part of any consideration of procedural matters. I am all for efficiency but I was never a fan of the walk-through for divisions, only because of heritage reasons. I actually think part of the excitement of votes is in fact the anticipation of what the numbers will look like visually. Historically, there have been some very interesting circumstances in which votes have been very close. Indeed, that has been important with regard to the visual aspect of what this place is here for.

The proposed recommendations are very sound and I think reflect the modern approach that we should take. However, I temper that with a reminder that, unlike any other workplace that I know of, Parliament is in fact a live, recorded workplace. That does not happen in many other workplaces that I am aware of. Therefore, our procedures and practices are important both visually and historically. Things will occur in Parliament and speeches will be given that may not seem as important now, but they will be important in the history of our state. Issues come before this place from time to time that evoke strong emotions amongst both the public and members. One of those issues was of course the passing of the voluntary assisted dying legislation. I think people will look back at the history of those sorts of debates in time. Indeed, the historic nature and significance of that should not be lost in those considerations.

I am all for the modernisation aspect. I mean, we have modernised the way that Hansard operates in this place. I think the modernisation of procedures and practices to make them more family friendly is admirable. I do think, though, that as time goes on and numbers change, we can expect debate on bills to take longer. If the principle of everyone having a right to have their say prevails, that is something that will need to be considered.

The number of sitting weeks is very interesting. I do not think a lot of people realise that, as the Deputy Speaker highlighted, Western Australia has one of the highest numbers of sitting weeks or sitting days allocated. It is important that a future Parliament and government consider what that means, because the value of our members being continually in their community is as important as the time that they spend in here. Indeed, I think that is an important consideration.

I commend the committee for its practice. What I am hearing from the committee is that the recommendations in this report may need to be considered before we rise. We will perhaps have a discussion with the Speaker and then the manager of opposition business about what we need to do to consider and respond to the recommendations. Given that we have only five and a half days sitting days in which to do that, if it is appropriate, I will set up a meeting with the relevant members to progress that.

MS M.M. QUIRK (Landsdale) [4.30 pm]: As a member of the committee, I wanted to make a couple of brief remarks.

Mr D.A. Templeman interjected.

Ms M.M. QUIRK: That is all right. I know that the Leader of the House, who is also a former Whip, has strong views about the colour, movement and theatre of the Parliament. One of the recommendations of the Procedure and Privileges Committee will eliminate some of that theatrical flourish, but be that as it may.

It is usually customary during the tabling of reports to thank staff. I particularly thank the Sergeant-at-Arms, Thomas Moorhead; the Clerk, Mathew Bates; the Deputy Clerk, Liz Kerr, and their predecessors for their contribution to the committee. If anyone looks at the reports—I cannot say that is probably that likely—they will see that they are very well researched and well written. I also thank the other members of the committee. As is the case with most parliamentary committees, it comprised members of both government and the opposition. However, by and large, there was fierce consensus and bipartisanship on these issues. I acknowledge that the issues that we were asked to consider were approached with goodwill. I look forward in my retirement to sitting down and looking at the revised standing orders because there is certainly the need for some changes. That said, this Parliament is run extremely well in a streamlined fashion in terms of the actual conduct of the house. I will not say whether that is true about the debate in the house, but the adherence to standing orders and the fact that over almost four years no-one has been ejected from this chamber is testament to the fact that the fundamentals of the standing orders stand the test of time.

DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe) [4.32 pm]: I apologise for not being in the chamber earlier. I was enjoying my cup of tea.

I will make a brief contribution to the tabling of this report. At the outset, I indicate a strong support for the recommendations that have been put forward by the Deputy Speaker, as is the proper procedure under standing orders. I echo the comments of the member for Landsdale about staff and other committee members. Given that the Speaker will not recontest her seat at the next election, I recognise the key role that she played as the chair of that committee in constantly thinking about ways to improve Parliament. Like every single member in this place, I hold the Speaker in enormously high regard. She has been really cognisant of the need to modernise our standing orders to make them more family friendly. I will say that I think making the standing orders more family friendly is an area where we could go further in the future. For a parent responsible for a child, Parliament is not a very flexible workplace whilst it is sitting. Whilst Parliament is not sitting, maybe a member can organise their day, but I know that our latest member is a new parent with a child, if you like, in the chamber, so I am certain that it is really tough to fit that in with Parliament. I think that we could do more to have more civilised hours.

To be frank, the history of Parliament is that it was almost a gentlemen's club and the hours were based to suit gentlemen who had other roles and businesses. They would sort of come up to Parliament as an afterthought—perhaps not an afterthought, but they fitted Parliament in around that, which gave us the late hours. I am a big supporter of mums being able to breastfeed their bubs in the chamber. I think that is a fantastic move forward. There are too many workplaces that exclude children for no good reason, so I was very keen to see that progress in this place as well. Otherwise, what we do here is important to the whole state. I will talk about that a bit more in my valedictory address. I certainly commend these recommendations because I think continuing to do these will improve

the operation of the house. I know that members love the theatre of the walk-through rather than sitting in their seat and voting. I think it makes it easier for the Whip as well. Other than that, I commend the recommendation of the Deputy Speaker to the house.

RESERVES BILL 2024

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MRS M.R. MARSHALL (Rockingham) [4.35 pm]: Before we were interrupted for question time, I was talking about the wonderful Point Peron, or Cape Peron, region in my electorate of Rockingham. I was talking through the various activities and things to do and see there. For me, it is a really important and historic local attraction, with my mum having grown up fishing there with her brothers and sisters. My childhood was spent walking the trails along the shore looking for crabs in the rocks and snorkelling in the shallows. Like many people in Rockingham, Point Peron is a really beloved local asset. It is still popular for visitors from our region and beyond, with the majority of visitors coming down to enjoy the reserve for fishing, walking and nature appreciation, including dolphin and seal spotting, swimming, snorkelling, paddling, recreational camps, and fitness—which I can attest to having previously coordinated a Point Peron run club that went up and down the stairs to the old World War II lookout.

Following the class A reserve announcement last year, Cape Peron Reserve will be managed and developed to provide high quality recreation facilities within the urban bushland while also respecting its natural environment and heritage values. Giving Point Peron this status highlights its importance from an environmental conservation perspective, but also serves as an opportunity for tourism. Other class A reserves in Western Australia include Kings Park and Rottnest Island. I know the Minister for Environment, Minister Whitby, refers to Cape Peron as “Kings Park of the South” or “Kings Park by the Sea”. We are really committed to making sure that it is treated as such. Our local community highly values Point Peron and the granting of the highest level of protection to the area was a big win for Rockingham, especially following the scrapping of previous plans to build a marina in Mangles Bay.

I thank the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Environment for listening to my community and acting in our best interests. Having granted the reserve the class A status, we are now working on the master plan—members can tell I wrote these notes last week! We actually released master plan last Friday, which was been produced by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and involved extensive stakeholder consultation, including a session that I hosted in my office with the various groups involved in the reserve, as well as other important tourism stakeholders in Rockingham. Although the master plan is aspirational, it sets out the future management objectives of the reserve by providing clear direction for balancing the demands for use and development in the reserve with the cultural and environmental sensitivities of the region. The implementation of the master plan will enhance visitors’ experience to Point Peron in a way that is culturally and environmentally appropriate.

The traditional owners of Cape Peron Reserve are the Bindjareb people and there are several registered Aboriginal heritage sites within Cape Peron. An objective of the master plan is for DBCA to continue working with the traditional owners to foster opportunities to connect to country, retain cultural heritage sites within the reserve and develop further Aboriginal tourism opportunities, such as yarning, tours and art.

I also take this opportunity to shout out to our local elder from Rockingham, Steve Jacobs, who coordinates In Culture Tours. He is a Whadjuk man who recently launched a new tour along the Rockingham foreshore called the Moordiboordip Cultural Walking Tour. He generously shares his culture through storytelling, including with a tour of Boya Karla in Cape Peron that shares the Dreamtime stories of the Derbarl Nara. He recently partnered with Monique from Hidden deTours to create a walking tour along the foreshore that combines both First Nations and European settlement stories as an act of truth-telling and reconciliation. I highly recommend that for anyone who wants to come down to the Rockingham region.

Back to Boya Karla. By granting class A reserve status, we have committed to continue protecting and rehabilitating the Bush Forever sites within the reserve, with any future impact to be managed in accordance with the *State planning policy 2.8: Bushland policy for the Perth metropolitan region*. The master plan sets out many opportunities to boost the amenity of Point Peron that will encourage sustainable tourism in Rockingham. This will include improved lighting and surveillance at the western cape car park to deter antisocial behaviour, and additional car parking, picnic facilities and a small vendor stall and, most importantly, toilets. Three different sites that were previously cleared for development are to be made available for the provision of short-stay accommodation, dual-use pathways will be installed to connect the reserve with both the Rockingham foreshore and Shoalwater Bay, and the former Swan Brewery site will be rehabilitated, and a visitor node and wayfinding signs will be provided throughout the reserve.

Again, the master plan is aspirational and requires commensurate funding for staffing and operational costs. However, I am really proud to have secured \$1 million in the 2024–25 state budget to deliver some of these amenity upgrades with a priority focus on toilets. They are long called for, and the upgrades to Cape Peron will enhance the visitor experience for people coming to our region, but also for locals who travel there and make use of what we have on our beautiful shoreline.

In conclusion, I am really proud of our government's commitment to growing our conservation estate and protecting our natural environment. Whether it is metropolitan reserves like Cape Peron or natural parks and bushlands across our vast regions, our government is acting to preserve our state's biodiversity and ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy what our natural environment has to offer.

I commend the bill to the house.

MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston — Parliamentary Secretary) [4.41 pm]: I rise today to also make a contribution on the very important Reserves Bill 2024, and I thank the parliamentary secretary for bringing it to the house. From the outset, I want to say that the member for Rockingham has brought back some nostalgic memories for me, and I think I will take a trip to Point Peron again, which I have not done for some time. I look forward to some of the new opportunities that she spoke about.

I commence my contribution on this particular bill by providing a little bit of a snapshot of the history around the Labor government's increased protection of south west native forests. I grew up in Yarloop. I am not a sea change person; I am absolutely a tree change person. I love forests. I love the smell of the forests. I was a geography teacher, and we did dry sclerophyll forests as our study area because I was so interested in the biodiversity of the south west native forests.

The Gallop Labor government had in 2001 a policy to protect our old-growth forest, and the historical move was made in 2021 by the McGowan Labor government to end large-scale commercial logging under the *Forest management plan 2024–2033*. It is really important to highlight and place on the record that this government is absolutely committed to preserving and conserving our environment. This decision will protect nearly two million hectares of native karri, jarrah and wandoo forest for future generations. I briefly pause here to speak about the amazing jarrah trees that sit within my electorate of Collie–Preston. I am going to briefly stray into the territory of Warren–Blackwood as well today. We have an amazing specimen of jarrah in the Ferguson Valley region, which is at the back of the Wellington National Park. It is colloquially known as “King Jarrah.” This particular specimen in this area is somewhere between 300 and 500 years old. I took the Minister for Environment down to have a look at that during a recent visit to Collie–Preston, and he was equally as impressed as I was at the majesty of how old those trees are and the ability to conserve those specimens for future generations to enjoy and wonder at the beauty of native species.

King Jarrah is also present in Manjimup; I think it must have been a popular naming convention at some point. There is a really incredible story around King Jarrah in Manjimup. The species in the Collie–Preston region—I was going to say my one—is 36 metres in height. The Manjimup one is 45 metres tall and is estimated to be 500 years old. It is a very impressive jarrah tree. The Parks and Wildlife Service website has an anecdote about this tree; I quote —

He's lucky to still be here. In the early 1900's, two sleeper cutters had plans to fall this giant. Fortunately for King Jarrah, this dastardly plan reached the ears of Fred Brockman of the Lands and Surveys Department just in time. He raced out to the tree and blazed a broad arrow on it which signified that it was the property of the crown and couldn't be cut down. When the sleeper cutters arrived at the tree early the next morning, they realised that their plan had been foiled.

King Jarrah is listed on the Significant Tree Register.

I give a shout-out to Fred Brockman. He is probably one of the ultimate conservationists of his time. Because of his work, the King Jarrah in Manjimup has been preserved and there are a number of other amazing specimens around the south west forests.

Under the Cook Labor government's approved forest management plan, the south west native forest will be managed for its health and resilience. I think that is really important to highlight this year in particular because my electorate office received a number of complaints over the previous summer 2023–24 about the health of the forests across Collie–Preston. People were contacting me concerned that a number of trees were dying and that the tree canopies were suffering and showing signs of being susceptible to drought. In a drying climate, the health and resilience of the forest is even more important.

I will touch very briefly on the logging activities that occur in and around my electorate. Whenever a section of native forest is logged under current plans, it triggers a spate of people ringing my office to complain about the fact that we are losing precious jarrah forest in the region that we just cannot afford to lose. I obviously want to say thank you to the people who raised that very important issue with me. It speaks again to the nature of this bill more broadly.

I am obviously going to particularly talk about the expanded Wellington National Park in Collie–Preston. Collie–Preston has been a beneficiary of this bill in relation to protecting our natural environment. The expanded Wellington National Park now covers 25 000 hectares, protecting high-quality jarrah and marri forest and important habitat for a range of threatened and priority species. The park attracts over 273 000 visitors annually, and its expansion will provide additional opportunities for recreation including mountain biking, bushwalking, camping, cultural education and adventure activities. The investments in the park provide the opportunity for Collie and surrounds because it backs onto Ferguson Valley in the Shire of Dardanup. The Wellington National Park expansion will also provide exceptional opportunities for that community to tap into.

Collie was recently recognised as a trail town offering quality trails, outdoor experiences, facilities and services, such as accommodation, hospitality, visitor information and more. It has transformed my community. I want to speak very briefly on each of those sections that I mentioned just then. I would like to obviously talk a little bit about the expansion of the Wellington National Park and some of the other initiatives that link back to the just transition policy that the Cook Labor government is delivering for the community of Collie.

Part of the initial diversification of Collie's economy was around looking at tourism opportunities. As a town, Collie is surrounded by national park to the north, east and south. I am not biased, but it is the most beautiful part of the state. We can have an argument about that later, but it is my turn to speak and I will not be taking interjections on that point! I am incredibly lucky to call this part of the world my home. Wellington National Park, as I said, has been expanded. That has delivered amazing opportunities. I mentioned the mountain bike trails network, and I will go into more detail. Back in November 2021, not long after I was elected to this place, I was with former Premier Mark McGowan and my friend Hon Mick Murray for the opening of the Kaniyang Wiilman suspension bridge over the Collie River. This is so much fun. I am very easily entertained—or maybe not. A number of the most amazing days I have spent with my family have been walking that bridge and we are in fits of laughter because if one person jumps, the person at the other end of the bridge span will just about fall off the side. It is so much fun. It provides a fun and unique way of linking the bike trail and the walk trail networks from one side of the Collie River to the other.

Another important point is that a tiger can be seen from the Kaniyang Wiilman suspension bridge. That will remain a secret. Members will have to go to the Kaniyang Wiilman bridge to see the tiger. It is an incredible place to spend a wonderful afternoon with family. The tourism sector has really expanded with the start of the bike trail and the art trail networks back into the Collie town site. I will also talk about the mega mural on the dam wall. I want to say a very big thank you to the members of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions for the incredible work they have been doing with their team to create the Wambenger trails initiative. They should be so proud of what they have been able to develop. I know that they are and I spoke to them at the most recent opening of some of the trails. What they have created along with the community and the Shire of Collie, funded by the state government, is something we should all be very proud of.

Going back to the Kaniyang Wiilman bridge, I said it provided a link between the north and south part of the Collie River. That link forms part of the 87-kilometre, five-day, four-night Wiilman Bilya walk trail. People can do an overnight camping experience, or over multiple nights, with family and friends. It is an incredible experience and I highly recommend it, even to the member for Rockingham. If I go to visit Point Peron, she might need to return the favour and come and have a look in Collie. That takes me to the walkway across Wellington Dam. The mega mural, *Reflections*, was painted by Guido van Helten. I love the image so much that it is on the birthday cards I send to people across my electorate. *Reflections* is just the most beautiful design. I am very glad that it won the design competition. At one stage, somebody told me—I think it was former Premier Mark McGowan—they had considered a reclining nude of Hon Mick Murray on the wall of Wellington Dam. For prosperity, we can all say thank you that it was not the reclining nude of Hon Mick Murray, as much of a tourist attraction as that may have been because what we have delivered there is incredible.

Mr T.J. Healy: That would be worse than a nuclear power plant.

Ms J.L. HANNS: I am coming to the nuclear power plant, member for Southern River; do not worry about that.

The walkway across the top of the Wellington Dam wall again provides a link to much of the trail network. I want to mention the fact that, yes, Collie has become a trails town but they are world-class trails and they are attracting international and interstate visitors to Western Australia. That just adds to not only Collie's diversification of the economy but also more broadly to the state's economy around tourism. The walkway is open to the public, obviously, and gates allow the walkway to be closed overnight and then opened in the daytime to provide safe access for walkers and cyclists. I now turn to the fact that Collie is home to Western Australia's largest mountain bike trail network. In October this year, the Premier and the Minister for Environment were down in Wellington National Park to make the announcement and cut the ribbon on the Wambenger trails. As I said, the trails have been funded through a \$10 million initiative from the Cook Labor government to support Collie's diversification of the economy and particularly to support the tourism industry. Riders now have almost 100 kilometres of national park trails to explore in Collie's Wambenger trails network, which links Wellington Dam, Honeymoon Pool, Mt Lennard and the spectacular Collie River valley. The newly expanded trails cater for experienced and competition riders, complementing the previously completed beginner trails near Wellington Dam. The beginner trails are more my style, let me tell members. I would not be contemplating some of those more complicated trails, having seen the calibre of the riders at the recent Australian and Oceania championships. I will leave that to the experts.

Another exciting part of this is that the Wambenger trails are helping to transform Collie into a world-class trail destination. A new bike hire outlet has opened up in Wellington National Park to support those trails with a range of tour options also available to introduce new riders to the fun of mountain biking. That bike hire is run by Adventure Connections. Kym has done a fabulous job of setting up that business as a sub-outlet of her business. I think I said previously in the chamber during a contribution to another bill that I was particularly upset with Kym

because she had hosted Daniel Ricciardo in Collie on the mountain bike trails and the local member had no knowledge of this prior to the event. I was very disappointed. I know Kym quite well and I said to her we needed to have words about that because the heads-up and an opportunity to meet one of my favourite all-time motorsports heroes has been and gone. However, even Daniel Ricciardo rates the trails in Collie incredibly highly.

A really important part of this project is obviously around diversifying Collie's economy. As I said, some of the initial planning was done around moving to a just transition for Collie, creating new opportunities and capitalising on the amazing natural wonders and natural beauty of Collie and its surrounding areas. We can look at what this has done for the community. I met somebody yesterday who had been to Collie and enjoyed the trails and the Collie motorplex. He was incredibly impressed with the sorts of opportunities there are for people to come and recreate in Collie. He was quite staggered at the difference because he had not visited Collie for about six years and had returned recently. He said the town was buzzing and it absolutely is, on any given day; it does not even need to be a weekend anymore. There are rows and rows of cars on the main street, with mountain bikes or kayaks on the back and loads of caravans all hitched-up and restocking at local businesses. That is what this project was trying to achieve and it has delivered in spades for the community. Locals are so proud that we get to showcase our amazing town to visitors. I will talk a little bit more about that in a minute.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms J.L. HANNS: I also want to highlight a couple of things that people might not know about the environmentally friendly options around exploring Wellington National Park. In the initial stages of the just transition and diversifying the economy, back when Hon Mick Murray was the member for Collie–Preston, he started a range of programs to diversify and attract new industries to Collie. One of them is very little known, but I think it might be of interest to members in this chamber today. It is called a Living Legacy Forest. The Living Legacy Forest exists within the boundary of Wellington National Park. There are two Living Legacy Forest sites in Australia. One is in, I think, the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria and the other one is in Collie. The Living Legacy Forest allows people to purchase a memorial tree as a personal and fitting tribute for family, friends and future generations on the passing of a loved one.

Obviously, scattering the ashes is a common practice after a cremation. I am not sure whether members are aware that scattering ashes can be toxic to the environment depending on where they are dispersed. A word of warning: in their untreated form, ashes have extremely high levels of salt and phosphorus and are harmful to ecosystems, and to be scattered alongside living plants, ashes need to be treated. The Living Legacy formula, which is the magic formula used to treat ashes, transforms them into nutrients to help trees grow. People can actually look after the environment even after they have passed away. After detoxifying the harmful nature of ashes, they can be used to restore soil biology. Obviously, if a tree is planted in conjunction with a person's ashes, it is a living legacy and a memorial for their family and it gives people a fabulous reason to return to Wellington National Park in future times with other generations of their family. The Living Legacy formula is proven to work on a wide range of soil types. This is straight from the website. Living Legacy offers a broad range of Australian native, exotic and European trees. My favourite is the flowering plum. This little-known project has been part of diversifying Collie's local economy and demonstrates an environmentally friendly use of Wellington National Park for sustainability across a range of different things. I am really proud to highlight the Living Legacy Forest today because not many people know about it.

I am going to stray into the territory of Labor governments being environmentally conscious in their decision-making. They do two things. They balance the availability of jobs in industries in Western Australia with making sure that we look after our environment because as legislators we have a responsibility to do that. I am going to very briefly touch on an important local issue. We have climate change deniers on the other side of the chamber and, in fact, on the other side of the country. Members of the Liberal Party and Nationals WA deny that climate change exists. This points to one of my earlier points around the fact that many people contacted my electorate office last summer due to a severe lack of rainfall and the drying climate we experienced that saw trees suffering and the canopy of jarrah and marri trees dying off in my electorate. I highlight that because it shows us that Liberal–National governments make reckless decisions on our environment in stark contrast to this state Labor government.

I will touch on a reckless and contentious decision on a topic that is up for discussion in my community at the moment—that is, a proposal for a nuclear power station at the Muja power station site. The Minister for Energy and I have spoken at length in Parliament about this issue. I want to update the minister that the grievance on this issue has now been viewed, I think, 25 000 times. People are really interested in the topic. I highlight this for a particular reason. Firstly, the thought of nuclear power horrifies us for a number of reasons. It does not fit our energy system and will not meet our needs in the short-to-medium term. Nuclear power stations are risky and reckless and at this point in time the proposals are uncostered. For those reasons, we cannot pursue a nuclear future for Western Australia, and certainly not in my electorate of Collie. What we do with nuclear waste and the processing of nuclear waste would jeopardise the natural environment.

Another of my concerns about nuclear power was highlighted yesterday morning while I was lying in bed in Collie. I was catching up on what was happening in the world when I heard a crack of thunder that was unlike anything I had ever heard before and my house started to rumble. My kids on the other side of the house woke up. My whole

house rumbled. My bed, the windows and everything else was shaking. It was the first of two earthquakes that hit Collie yesterday. The first one was 2.7 in magnitude. It was followed by an earthquake of magnitude 2 about three minutes later. It is not the first time I have felt an earthquake in Collie; others have woken me in the middle of the night. In fact, this one was probably less severe than previous ones. Guess what people were saying straightaway on the community notice board? They were saying it is madness to even consider a nuclear reactor in Collie when there are known fault lines and it experiences earthquakes, with two yesterday. We talk about Liberal–National governments being reckless on the environment. Here we have another reckless, stupid decision that Mr Dutton, his party and friends are considering at the federal level.

I am going to wrap up my contribution shortly, but I have a couple of final remarks returning to focus on Wellington National Park, which will benefit from the Reserves Bill. I will mention a photo I have of me, my daughter, my husband and my son. My daughter was maybe three years old. She is now 20, so we will call the photo 17 years old. We had travelled to Wellington National Park to see the dam overflowing. It has happened in only two of the 20 years that I have lived in Collie. The only time people used to visit the dam wall was to see it overflowing. As it got close to overflowing, we would drive out to the dam. People could see the water just going over; it would peek over the top. It was the spectacle of the year to watch the dam overflowing.

Ms S.E. Winton: It's a dangerous time.

Ms J.L. HANNS: We were not in the downstream flow.

Now, nearly 300 000 people visit the dam wall every year in response to the tourism opportunities that this government has activated in Wellington National Park. That was highlighted to me the other day while I was at the hairdressers; I was getting the greys covered up! I got talking to the lady sitting next to me, as you do. She was visiting Perth from Newcastle. It was her first visit to Perth. They had flown over and hired a car to tour around and stay at different places in Western Australia. I asked her where she had been. She said Rottnest, Margaret River and Collie, and I just about fell off my chair. She said that Collie is being spoken about in her Newcastle community as a must-visit destination, and she had been told about it by friends who had visited previously. They added my home town to their itinerary based on the word of mouth of people living in the eastern states.

In summary, the Wellington National Park expansion has absolutely helped to create opportunities for Collie. It is a must-see destination. I guess the government's vision is that we can do that right across the state wherever these reserves exist, whether it is the Kimberley, the Pilbara, the great southern or any part of the coastline that we have talked about today. Reverses can absolutely do two things: one is to diversify local economies and the second is to lock in protections for really important environmental reserves for future generations to enjoy.

I commend the bill to the house.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): The question is that the bill be read a second time. I give the call to the member for Mirrabooka—still the member for Mirrabooka.

MS M.J. HAMMAT (Mirrabooka — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.08 pm]: Thank you, Acting Speaker. I am still the member for Mirrabooka, at least until the next election, when I will try to follow in your esteemed footsteps as the member for Girrawheen, with some good luck.

I rise today to make a contribution to the second reading debate of the Reserves Bill 2024. I want to begin by acknowledging the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Lands, who has carriage of the bill. It is the first bill that he is seeing through the house. I congratulate him for doing that. It is a really important piece of legislation. A number of other members have spoken very well before me on the importance of preserving our natural heritage in reserves so that it not only can be enjoyed today, but also so that it can be enjoyed by future generations.

During my contribution today, I also wanted to talk about some of the bushland in my electorate in particular and some of the other natural parks and reserves around the state. As other speakers before me have said, this bill specifically deals with adding some conservation areas, most notably the one in the Shire of Wandering, to the list of A-class conservation reserves. A number of other smaller reserves are included in this bill as a way of efficiently ensuring that they are all protected. I did not propose to speak at length about the intent of this bill; it has been well covered by others, along with the fact that certain species, trees and ecosystems will be protected as a result of the passage of this bill. I note that the bushland that will be preserved is near Dryandra Woodland, one of the really great conservation reserves in the great southern region. Sadly, I have not had the opportunity to visit that reserve, although I intend to do so. I am sure the member for Roe has been there. It is a good piece of conservation. People can interact with it at night and enjoy observing the marsupial animals.

During my contribution today, I wanted to talk a little about the Koondoola Regional Bushland, a not very well known section of bush in my electorate of Mirrabooka. Some members may be aware of it but the majority may not. If they have not been there, I encourage them to do so. It is a significant piece of remnant bushland. It used to be wetlands. It covers 137 hectares in the suburb of Koondoola. When we look at it on a map, we see that it takes up roughly half the suburb. It is a significant reserve of bush in our urban area. We have heard members talk about Kings Park. The member for Rockingham talked about "Kings Park by the sea". A number of members have been working to ensure that Yellagonga Regional Park is recognised as significant regional bushland.

While I am on my feet, I will give a bit of a plug to Koondoola bushland. For those who know the area, it is bordered by Marangaroo Drive, Alexander Drive, Koondoola Avenue and Beach Road. A Water Corporation water treatment plant on the eastern side has been there for some time. It also used to be a former wetlands; it was not historically bushland. I will provide some history of the area, which is widely used by the community for recreation purposes. When the suburb was established around 1969, the land was originally intended to be used for social housing, and potentially for Perth's second airport. However, the land was obviously not used for an airport. It was also not used for a large social housing development.

Since 1995, the area has been included on the national estate as an A-class reserve. In 2000, it was listed as a Bushland Forever site—site 201, for those who might be interested. That kind of speaks to what this bill seeks to do. Today that bit of bush in my community is widely used. People come from outside the immediate area to take advantage of it. It is substantially remnant natural bushland. It has a number of important conservation elements to it, which I will talk about in a minute. People use it for exercising, walking their dogs and cycling. Different decisions that might have been made in 1969 or before the area was listed as an A-class reserve in 1995 could have seen it turned into housing or potentially an airport, according to the history books. Today we are fortunate to have such a large and significant bushland area in Koondoola. It is a great attribute for the suburb generally. It provides for so much wildlife in that suburb. Birds, in particular, use the area to live and nest and what have you. We also see them out and about in the suburbs. The foresight of reserving bushland is very important for the generations that will come after us. I want to acknowledge the people who had the foresight to reserve that piece of bush so that we are able to enjoy it today.

The area is also conservationally important. Friends groups and councils also take an interest in these bushland areas. Some 274 native plant species have been recorded at the site and three of those are considered significant. That is quite remarkable for a suburban piece of bushland. It has many different trees that people can enjoy, such as banksias, jarrah, flooded gums and paperbark trees. During spring, a large number of wildflowers can be seen, including 28 species of orchids and red and green kangaroo paws. It is quite a significant piece of bush. Most people who go there may not take into account the conservation values of the area, but many people enjoy that aspect. A number of species that are either endangered or threatened live there, including the Carnaby's black-cockatoo, the western jewel butterfly, which I believe is threatened, the graceful sun-moth, which is rare, as well as quendas, western brush wallabies, the western thornbill and the rainbow bee-eater, which is a migratory bird. When walking through the area, it is not unusual to come across kangaroos. Of course, there are also many reptiles, birds, beetles and snakes, which we can find in all suburban bushlands. Indeed, they do not restrict themselves to bushland; they are in the suburbs too. The area provides a really important habitat for preserving a number of plant and animal species so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

We now have a really good understanding of the importance of bushlands providing corridors for animals and birds to move through green corridors over larger areas. We have developed a better appreciation of that. It is not just about the preservation of the bushland; it is about making sure that the natural landscapes of reserves are joined up so that when animals and birds need to, they can move across much larger areas.

I mentioned earlier that there were once wetlands in this bushland. I enjoyed the contribution from the member for Bassendean about the wetlands in his area—the Ashfield Flats. There were also wetlands in the part of the world I am referring to but they have substantially become dry. Unfortunately, some of the frogs and other animals that may have once lived there and relied on the water cannot be found. The reserve includes about nine kilometres of pathways, which is a substantial distance. Some of them are sealed and some are unsealed. They make the bushland accessible to the public. In particular, the sealed pathways have a number of signs on them, so they can be appreciated by people in wheelchairs or what have you. It is a really important piece of bush.

I wanted to give my thanks to Jennie Villiers, who leads Friends of Koondoola Bushland, a very important community group. I want to recognise the work that she does. She has explained to me many of the great values of this bit of bushland. She also does an incredible job bringing community members together to care for the bushland and provides people with the opportunity to go on guided walks through the area, thereby building their understanding of the value of that bushland area. These friends groups are usually pretty small. The people who run them take on quite a lot of work. They are not remunerated for it; they do it on a volunteer basis. I want to give a shout-out to Jennie for the work she does, and all members of the Friends of Koondoola Bushland group, because I think they do an excellent job.

With the Minister for Environment, I conducted a community walk through the bushland. About 20 or 30 people came to that. Obviously, all these people live in the electorate of Mirrabooka, so they live locally. When I advertised that event, many people responded that they wanted to come and be a part of it. Some of them had never been to that bushland before. It provided them with their first opportunity to enter that bushland, even though they lived or worked in that local area. I thank the Minister for Environment for coming and doing that; I thought it was a really great day. It was in the middle of June and it unfortunately did not rain, but it was a very good way to not just get a firsthand account from Jenny and the friends group, but also ensure that people in the community had the opportunity to experience that bushland and learn more about it.

One thing that I think is great about Koondoola Regional Bushland is the size of it. Having remnant bushland is incredibly valuable, but having large tracts of bushland is fantastic. I think it would be possible to get lost in there as the tracks weave and wind around. As someone who grew up in the country, getting lost in a bit of natural bush like Koondoola bushland is a safe experience, but I would not recommend that people get lost in very large tracts of national parks. Koondoola bushland is a great place for people to lose themselves in the natural environment and enjoy some of the fantastic things that come from spending time in nature. As I said, that bushland provides a lot of benefits to the suburb of Koondoola. It enables people to see birds and other wildlife, contributes significantly to our tree canopy and encourages people to get out and about to take advantage of the outdoors and the benefits that come from having a connection to nature.

I also want to reflect on some of the challenges that come with urban bushland, which I know other members of this place will be mindful of. Perhaps one of the most significant challenges with Koondoola bushland is the potential fire risk from having a large amount of bush there. There have been fires there at different times. Fortunately, they have not caused problems in the remainder of the suburb, but that potential certainly exists. Having active bushfire management for these areas is incredibly important.

The other challenge with this bushland and other remnant bushland is the need to rehabilitate the land to overcome the impacts of earlier uses. There is definitely a need to rehabilitate parts of Koondoola bushland. As I mentioned, it has a water treatment plant on it. There is also the impact of weeds and other introduced species. Having programs to manage weeds or introduced species so that they do not overtake the natural vegetation is incredibly important. As we are seeing in some areas, it is really important that we manage dieback spread as a result of increased human activity to ensure that we preserve and protect bushland so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. Preserving bushland is important in the first instance, and this bill is an incredibly important part of that. However, there is an ongoing need for us to make sure that we manage our natural resources in a way that protects and preserves them for future generations. We need to ensure that they are not degraded over time and that we repair previous degradation and return these areas to their natural state.

In the time that I have remaining, I want to talk a bit more broadly. A number of other speakers have spoken about the work that we have done through the Plan for Our Parks. I want to acknowledge that, although I do not plan to spend a lot of time on it today. The vision and foresight to ensure that large parts of Western Australia will be available for future generations to enjoy is one of the great success stories of this government. I take this opportunity to commend the minister and all caucus members who supported this far-reaching decision to ensure that our state's natural heritage is preserved so that it can be enjoyed by future generations. In saying that, I want to reflect a little on the decision to preserve Ningaloo and Exmouth as a World Heritage-listed site. I had the opportunity to go there on a family holiday earlier this year and it was an incredible experience. Members have spoken in this house before about what an incredible experience it is to swim with whale sharks, visit the beautiful Cape Range National Park and snorkel off the coast at places like Turquoise Bay, with its incredible marine life, such as turtles. It is a really fantastic experience. The only time that I had been to Exmouth before was when I was about five years old—I was a very young child. I do not have strong memories, but I definitely have some memories of it. We travelled up there to see some friends of my mum and dad and we stayed for a period of time. At that time, the natural heritage values of that area were not acknowledged, enjoyed or celebrated, as far as I can recall. The biggest thing about Exmouth at the time was the US base, so we went to the base and had all those experiences. We did not go fishing, we did not go out on a boat, we did not go snorkelling—we did not do a whole range of things that are now the main attraction for people to go to that area. In my mind, I thought of Exmouth as “whatever”, but it has been transformed. We now recognise the natural heritage of that area and celebrate the incredible natural environment of both the ocean and the land.

[Member's time extended.]

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: That incredible natural landscape has been preserved. We recognise its tourism potential. It is a world-class destination that people from all over the world are coming here to enjoy. I think that underscores how important the work to preserve the beautiful uniqueness of Western Australia really is. We might think that some bushland is commonplace and not that important, but I think it is all incredibly valuable and beautiful. We live in one of the most beautiful places on Earth. We are very lucky to live in Western Australia. Ensuring that we are able to protect our natural beauty and heritage for future generations to enjoy is important. However, it is not just about future generations; it is also about the potential economic development that can come from managing these assets in a way that showcases them to the world. The member for Collie-Preston spoke very well about the transition into having tourist assets that can bring people from far afield to enjoy the incredible natural beauty that we have.

The final thing that I want to reflect on—there is a lot and I could go on for ages —

Mr D.A.E. Scaife: Take your time, member.

Ms M.J. HAMMAT: I do not think the member for Cockburn wants to hear it all. It would rapidly descend into a less useful contribution.

Obviously, Ningaloo is an incredibly important natural asset—everyone knows about it and it brings tourists from all over—but it is not just about those big, iconic destinations. I actually think that what regional, local reserves deliver is incredibly valuable. I have already reflected on the incredible benefits Koondoola bushland provides to the people who live in that suburb. In writing my contribution, I reflected on my childhood. As I have said before, I grew up in the country, so I had access to plenty of wide, open spaces and nature. We lived just down the road from a big A-class reserve—that is, remnant bushland that had been preserved. We spent a huge amount of time there as kids. We had lots of opportunities to do lots of outdoor things—playing in creeks and all the other stuff that kids do on farms—but that natural reserve was like a magnet for us because of the opportunity to interact with bushland that had not been altered or affected in a substantial way. It is really valuable to think about bushland areas and other natural assets in terms of the preservation of both iconic destinations and iconic natural environments and what might be considered to be more suburban or pedestrian reserves, because they also provide amazing opportunities for the people who live near them to recreate and interact with the natural environment.

The reserve I grew up near had an incredible array of wildflowers, and people often travelled from neighbouring towns to hunt and photograph the various orchids and other wildflowers that flowered there. A lot of wildlife is able to live in that area as well. All these areas had their own histories. It is quite interesting to reflect on that. This bit of bushland was reserved because it originally had a dam to provide water to assist with trains. The member for Roe might be familiar with the Nookanellup railway line, which was quite close. The origins of that reserve were the area's industrial purpose and that is why it had not been converted into farmland, but things moved on over time. Again, once the land was no longer needed for that purpose, the foresight to ensure it was retained as a reserve meant we were able to enjoy it.

This government has done a great deal of work to preserve our natural environment—stop the logging of old-growth forests, make sure we preserve parkland through our Plan for Our Parks and preserve our reserve land for future generations to enjoy. I take the opportunity to reflect on that. I conclude my contribution by saying how important that work is. It is not just about doing it today, it is about having the foresight to understand what that will look like in future years. It is about recognising that many of these areas bring renewed opportunities through tourism. This government has a great track record of investing in those opportunities to convert places into tourism experiences. Again, Collie is a terrific example of that—namely, how the preservation of bushland and some iconic tourist attractions can generate other industries. We are doing really valuable work. This bill is one part of that overall piece of work. I close by commending the parliamentary secretary for his work, and conclude my contribution.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary) [5.31 pm] — in reply: I start by thanking all members for their contributions to the second reading debate on the Reserves Bill 2024. It has been a privilege to carry the bill through this chamber. I give my thanks to the Minister for Planning; Plans; Housing; Homelessness, to whom I am fortunate to be parliamentary secretary. I thank the minister because he delegated carriage of this bill to me early in the year, and it has been a great opportunity to work with the advisers and staff on its coming together and introduction to Parliament. I thank the minister for that opportunity. I thank members for participating in the debate in a really constructive, if wideranging, manner. I will go through each member's contribution, acknowledge them and highlights the points they made.

The Reserves Bill 2024 has a number of different elements. At its core, it is relatively technical in nature as it is focused on tidying up land tenure arrangements for various reserves throughout Western Australia. I will come back later to the establishment of the conservation park in the Shire of Wandering, which is probably the most significant development in this bill.

On the whole, this bill will effect a series of administrative changes to the boundaries, size and purposes of reserves throughout Western Australia. In that sense, although it is a technical bill, it also presents a great opportunity for members to reflect on conservation and the importance of bushland and our nature reserves in regional WA and, as the member of the Mirrabooka spoke to just then, our metropolitan area. I really acknowledge that, and I acknowledge that in the context of what many members have said about the Cook government's and the McGowan government's contribution to preserving our natural world, in particular our Plan for Our Parks.

I firstly thank the member for Thornlie for his contribution to debate on this bill. The member for Thornlie reflected in his contribution that that speech may be his final contribution to a second reading debate in the Parliament. I acknowledge that and acknowledge him for his dedicated service to the Parliament of Western Australia, the people of Western Australia and particularly his constituents in the electorate of Thornlie. The member was elected as the member for Gosnells in 2008. As a quite young member of the Labor Party, I had the privilege to work with the member for Thornlie in his capacity as shadow Minister for Environment, because I was the convener of the Labor Party's environment and climate change policy committee. The member for Thornlie and I spent many nights in the Labor Party's central office going over the policy platform, speaking to members and trying to design a policy offering of the Labor Party that struck the balance between our commitment to conservation, which I think is represented in this bill today, and to ensuring that working in this state people enjoy economic prosperity. I often think the Labor Party has the toughest job when it comes to conservation because we are always outflanked on the left by the Greens political party and on the right by the Liberal Party and Nationals WA, which are implacably

opposed to any sensible measures of conservation. The member for Thornlie has been a principled voice in this chamber on the environment, climate and decarbonisation. I thank him for his friendship and mentorship over the years, and I wish him the very best. If this does turn out to be the last second reading debate he contributes to, I think it is a very fitting bill for him to go out on.

In his contribution, the member for Thornlie reflected on the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park. The establishment of the South Coast Marine Park is obviously not touched on in the clauses of this bill, but it has led to some heat and might in the debate. The member for Roe is passionate about this issue as well. Given the issue was raised, I will go it at some point in my contribution. I have become obliged to do so because it was raised by a number of members. I note, coming off my comments about the member for Thornlie being a principled voice who has always tried to strike the right balance, that he made the point that marine parks have historically come up against opposition. He made the point that the sort of opposition we have seen to the South Coast Marine Park is very similar to the opposition there was to the Ningaloo Marine Park. The member for Thornlie pointed out that fishing and recreational boating around Ningaloo is better now than before the establishment of that marine park. He also made the point that that is why sensible decisions must be made about marine conservation because it has environmental value and leads to long-term value for people involved in recreational activities like fishing.

I move on to the member for Roe. I acknowledge him for his contribution and I acknowledge that the opposition will support the bill. I appreciate that indication from the member. As I said, he responded to the member for Thornlie on the South Coast Marine Park, which is obviously a matter of concern to him as a local member. I appreciate the role the member for Roe has to play as a local member on that issue. Local members' obligations to the political party they represent, the government or the opposition to which they belong, the procedures of the Parliament and the ultimate obligation they have to their constituents are something of a balancing act that they all have to do. I recognise that although the member for Roe was making his contribution to this bill as the opposition spokesperson, he was also speaking as the local member for Roe, an area that is affected by the South Coast Marine Park proposal. I welcome the member's contribution on the creation of the conservation reserve in Wandering. I have to admit that I am a boy of the south west, but not so much of the great southern or the wheatbelt. I think I have probably driven past the Shire of Wandering and maybe briefly through it on Albany Highway, but I cannot claim any particular personal knowledge of it. I have heard these great stories about the Dryandra Woodland. I have certainly had plenty of experience with the northern jarrah forest around the Dwellingup area. I think the observation was made by a number of members that the establishment of this Wandering conservation park will in some ways help to knit together those two significant ecosystems in Western Australia in the middle. I hope at some point in the near future to go out there. Perhaps I will celebrate the passing of this bill at some point by visiting the conservation reserve when it is established.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I think you should.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes; I think that deserves doing. I was a little disappointed by the member for Roe, though, taking the opportunity to veer into the issue of native forestry. I will come back to that issue later on because it has attracted attention from a number of members. The member also raised the issue of the federal government banning the live export industry, which, again, I thought was perhaps a draw of the longbow, but I understand that the member wanted to make a point about various industries that are in transition. I will return to that point in my substantive remarks.

I note that the member for Roe referred to the changes in this bill as being modest, sensible changes that have been made in consultation with local governments. He mentioned that Hon Steve Martin, who I believe is the shadow minister on this bill, had contacted the affected shires and received from those shires no opposition to the creation of the reserves under this bill and the various measures tidying up reserves. That is really great to hear. I think it is a good example of the Cook government proceeding in a sensible way with consultation with affected stakeholders like local governments, as we do in other areas with industry stakeholders or community groups. It was really pleasing to get that feedback. One point I made in the second reading speech for this bill was that by pulling together all the various clauses that deal with different reserves and tidying up their boundaries and purposes, we are expediting parliamentary business. I thank the member for Roe for noting that.

Next, we heard from the member for Southern River. He referred to his good fortune in living next door to a beautiful part of the Southern River and the Canning River. My sister and brother-in-law are very lucky to live in the member for Southern River's electorate and to have him as their local member. I think we can all agree that there is no more enthusiastic a local member than the member for Southern River. I agree with him that that area around Southern River is a real gem. The Canning River system is small—it is not like the Swan River—but it is a really precious ecosystem, which is beloved by people in that community. There are conservation parks around that area as well that I know are really significant to families in Perth. For example, Ellis Brook Valley Reserve in the City of Gosnells is really quite an incredible reserve, and I encourage members to go there because it is in the City of Gosnells, but people really feel like they are out in the middle of the country when they are there. It has a beautiful walk trail up the brook and a waterfall, and it is very close to the member for Southern River's electorate, if not in it.

The member for Southern River also reflected on his history as a cub, a scout, a venturer and a rover. I have to admit that I was a cub at one point and a sea scout as well, but I never made it as far as —

Mr D.A. Templeman: Sea scout?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: A sea scout, member for Mandurah.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): As in “Hello, sailor!”.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: My father was a Navy man, Acting Speaker. He would be better able to engage in some banter with you on that particular topic, but I am not experienced in these matters. My dad would also want me to add that he was an Air Force man, and that he ended up a Navy man only because he got tricked by the recruiters who told him that that would be the fastest way for him to fly planes following World War II because he was an Air Force cadet in the lead-up to the end of World War II. My dad, as members know, had me very late in life. He was 18 in 1945.

Mr D.A. Templeman: Really?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: He was. My dad was born in 1927. He was 18 in 1945 and was a keen young air cadet, ready to fly fighter planes and to engage the Japanese in the Pacific theatre of World War II. The war ended, and he often said that he was one of a few dozen blokes in Australia who was probably unhappy that the war ended because he was so gung-ho at 18 to get out there and serve his country. Anyway, after World War II, the RAF wound down as there was not much need for fighter pilots anymore, so there was not a pathway for dad to fly planes, which is what he wanted to do. Some clever recruiter said, “Don’t worry, son. If you join the Navy, you will be able to fly planes.”

Mr D.A. Templeman: Where was he a cadet? In WA?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: In Melbourne. He grew up in Preston, Melbourne. Some smart recruiter told him that going into the Navy would be the fastest way for him to fly planes, so he spent several years in the Navy before finally making it to the Air Force.

I digress, Acting Speaker, but I do not think I can be pulled up on a point of order because I was responding to you making those comments.

Back to the member for Southern River. He made the point that when he was a cub and a scout, he always earned his conservation badge. I think we can all agree that the member for Southern River still earns his badges in this chamber as well. He lives by the saying of “be prepared”. I thank him for his advocacy.

He is not in the chamber anymore, but I want to particularly acknowledge the contribution of the Minister for Environment. He reflected on the government’s signature policy in the area of conservation, which is our Plan for Our Parks. I was not aware of some of the things the minister said. I knew that Plan for Our Parks was a really ambitious policy, but I had not realised that, on its own, Plan for Our Parks has seen the largest increase in WA’s conservation estate in our history. That is really quite extraordinary. It is a legacy that I think every member of the Labor government should be proud of. We have delivered it in less than the full two terms of government. The minister made the point as well that we will beat our targets by quite a margin for Plan for Our Parks by the end of this year. He kept us in suspense about precisely how much we will beat our targets by. He said that all will be revealed shortly. I congratulate him on that. Governments are usually happy when they meet their targets, let alone exceed them, and so that is a credit to the Minister for Environment and a great legacy for him as a minister in this place. He said we have increased the conservation estate by something like 30 per cent, which is really extraordinary. The minister also reflected on the impact that Aboriginal ranger programs can have in allowing traditional owners to both care for their country and continue to nurture their cultural connection to country. Those Aboriginal ranger programs deliver employment and aspiration for Aboriginal communities, and the minister touched on how young people in those communities often look up to the rangers and see being a ranger as something to aspire to. Obviously, it is also an opportunity for people in those communities to work on country over a long period. Finally, the minister reflected on the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park and noted that that marine park is the largest reserve to be established under the Plan for Our Parks.

The member for Bassendean gave a contribution. He obviously gave that contribution with the history of being the previous Minister for Forestry—the minister who was able to make the announcement of the end of commercial logging in our south west forests. Again, similar to what I have just said about the Minister for Environment, that is a great legacy that the member for Bassendean will leave. Obviously, he remains in this place as a member of Parliament, but he is no longer the minister. I think that is a really significant achievement. He has completed work that we started more than 20 years ago, when the Gallop government announced the end of old growth logging in the south west. More than 20 years later, we have continued and, in many ways, completed that work by completely banning commercial logging in our native forests. That is a real credit to the member for Bassendean, the former Minister for Forestry.

The member for Bassendean also reflected on the seriousness of climate change and the role that our forests such as our south west forests play in combating climate change. He noted that there is some evidence that we are possibly

already reaching the threshold of 1.5 degrees of global warming, which is a red line that the United Nations and other experts have strongly cautioned us against going beyond. We are really in uncharted territory with climate change at the moment. There are important things that we can do at local, state, national and global levels. One thing we can do at the state level is preserve as much of our conservation estate as possible. Our native forests are incredible carbon sinks. They are places of great biodiversity that will be used and appreciated by future generations, so they have a role in not only the here and now, but also as part of the state's response to climate change. Of course, the member for Bassendean reflected on the importance of that local action. He acknowledged a couple of community groups in his electorate that are also taking action against climate change at a local level, and I acknowledge them as well.

We next heard from the member for Rockingham. She reflected on some of the great reserves in her electorate. She particularly pointed to—sorry, that is a bit of a pun—Point Peron in her electorate, and she made the claim, apparently supported by the Minister for Environment, that Point Peron is the “Kings Park of the South”, or “Kings Park by the Sea”. I think that the member will find that, actually, Woodman Point Regional Park in Cockburn is the Kings Park by the sea!

Mr M.J. Folkard: Will you take an interjection there?

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Certainly, member for Burns Beach.

Mr M.J. Folkard: I think that Joondalup and Lake Yellagonga up in the northern corridor could be seen as a competitive argument against that statement.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk): I believe, member, that is actually called the “Kings Park of the North”!

Mr M.J. Folkard: There you go. Thank you, Acting Speaker.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I was going to make two points on that, member for Burns Beach. It could not claim to be the Kings Park of the south. Also, I am not sure whether Yellagonga Regional Park is contiguous with the coastline, is it? Whereas Woodman Point Regional Park is, just like Peron Point.

Mr M.J. Folkard: But the botanical value is what I'm referring to.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I am saying that these are direct comparators. I am putting my hat on as the member for Cockburn and putting in a vote for Woodman Point Regional Park as being Kings Park by the sea, in contradistinction to the member for Rockingham's claims. But I acknowledge the great conservational and recreational value of Point Peron. I was impressed to hear that the member for Rockingham has coordinated a running club—the Point Peron run club. I can tell the member for Rockingham that the one thing she will never see me do is coordinate a run club for Woodman Point. Woodman Point is actually pretty flat, but, even then, I would not coordinate a run club for it. The member for Rockingham leaves me in awe of all the different activities she does as a new member of Parliament and a new mum, and also an incredible local member who is active inside and outside this chamber, and also a very fit person. People like the member for Rockingham and the Minister for Education make me exhausted when I hear about the things they do in their lives.

I recognise what the member for Rockingham said about Point Peron being announced as a class A reserve last year. That is a great announcement from the Cook government. It means that Point Peron will now have the same level of recognition and protection as Woodman Point, which is also a class A reserve. That is the highest level of protection that can be afforded to a reserve. I am really pleased to hear that the master plan has been released as of Friday last week. It is an example of the Cook government getting on with the job of preserving significant areas like Point Peron and doing so in a way that consults with the community and makes sure that we preserve environmental and social values.

I want to reflect on something that relates to the bill. One type of park arrangement that the bill refers to is a regional park. We are establishing a conservation park in Wandering, but another type of park that can be created is a regional park, which is what is at Woodman Point. I thought members might be interested to know that a regional park does not have any less protection than, say, a conservation park, but we designate something as a regional park—like Yellagonga, Beeliar and Woodman Point Regional Parks—if the park covers land that has lots of different land tenure arrangements. For example, some of the land at Woodman Point belongs to the City of Cockburn; some land down at the recreation camp belongs to the Department of Education; some belongs to the Department of Transport, particularly around the boat ramps; and there is also land that probably belongs to the Western Australian Planning Commission and Main Roads. We have all these different parcels of land, and the land tenures sit with various different government agencies and local governments. In those cases, if those areas together have combined significant conservational value, we can designate them as a regional park and they then get a particular governance framework put around them for their management going forward. The other great example in my neck of the woods is Beeliar Regional Park, which stretches all the way from the City of Melville around the Blue Gum Lake area all the way to the Spectacles in the City of Kwinana. It is a patchwork of parks for which the land tenure sits with different local governments and state government agencies, its overall conservational value has been recognised and it has been designated, protected and managed as a regional park.

I move on to the contribution of the member for Collie–Preston, who talked about preserving our south west forests. I thought that she talked in inspirational terms about the king jarrah and the history of the conservation of that significant tree in her electorate. I want to say this to the member for Collie–Preston. I have not done it for a couple of years—I need to get back to it—but I am a mad keen hiker, and I love to hike sections of the Bibbulmun. I have done lots of hikes overseas, as well, often on my own, and the first place I went hiking when I was at university was on the Bibbulmun Track around Collie. It is a really stunning part of the world. The member for Collie–Preston and I have a bit of banter, because I am a boy from Australind. I think they call us “flat landers” in the town of Collie. I will not tell members what people in Australind call people from the town of Collie!

Ms J.L. Hanns: Fine upstanding citizens, member for Cockburn!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: You keep telling yourself that, member for Collie–Preston! I actually call them “good Labor-voting people”!

Mrs L.A. Munday: As a young resident of Harvey, we had a few, too!

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes! I started hiking there; it is just a beautiful area. I, too, have fond childhood memories of driving out to Wellington Dam when it was overflowing. That was an event in my family. Everyone would jump in the car, we would take a picnic, go out to Wellington Dam and watch it overflow. I have really fond childhood memories of that. I think it speaks to the fact that Collie has obviously long been a coalmining and coal-fired power producing town, but around it are a lot of natural assets that have been unlocked and made the most of only because of the work of successive Labor governments and of people like the member for Collie–Preston and her predecessor, Mick Murray. Some of the diversification of Collie’s industry and the promotion of Collie as a tourist destination that has great natural assets is a credit to the member for Collie–Preston. It has really been a transformation in that town.

On the topic of childhood trips to Wellington Dam, it is really great to hear about Wellington National Park being expanded. Does Wellington National Park include Honeymoon Pool, member for Collie–Preston?

Ms J.L. Hanns: Yes.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Yes, it does. I have lots of good, fond childhood memories of going there. I had not realised that we had expanded that national park. I had missed that bit of news, so it is really great to hear that.

Finally, we heard from the member for Mirrabooka. In her contribution, she focused on the particular importance of urban bushland and she referenced Koondoola Regional Bushland in her electorate. I had not been aware that such a large tract of urban bushland is in the member’s electorate. The member referred to how the Koondoola bushland takes up roughly half of the whole suburb and is a really important place for local people and, obviously, for the biodiversity of our animals and flora. It is somewhere really important to local people, and I connect with that. I am very fortunate in Beeliar to live just next to Thomsons Lake and Kogolup Lake, which are areas of high conservation value. For example, Thomsons Lake is a Ramsar Convention-listed and internationally recognised bird migration wetland. It is also an area that local people love to live near, experience and go for walks in. There is a track around the outside where people can walk their dog. I have had a few quendas in my garden because we live so close to that bushland. I want to acknowledge the member’s mention of the Koondoola bushland and support her comments about the importance of urban bushland.

The member for Mirrabooka also reflected on the establishment of Ningaloo Marine Park. She has been there recently. I have to confess that I have never made it to Ningaloo. I would really love to go. The member for Mirrabooka made the point that it is only through the foresight of previous Labor governments that we now have that area of significant natural beauty, recreational value and environmental value protected and able to be enjoyed. That was another contribution from the member for Mirrabooka that focused on the need for governments to take action now to preserve the future and provide for future generations. I would like to think that the Reserves Bill 2024 is part of that. Obviously, the bill will do the technical tidying up, but it will also establish the Wandering Conservation Park, which will be a park that future generations can enjoy. The park will help to knit together the northern jarrah forests around Dwellingup and the Dryandra Woodland, and it will create that important ecological linkage going forward.

I thank all members for their contributions. It is really fantastic to hear from members on a diversity of issues that touch on reserves and about how those issues are relevant to their electorates. As I foreshadowed at the start, I need to reflect on the issue of the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park. The Minister for Environment made some comments on this, and I would like to add to the minister’s contribution. One of the criticisms that the member for Roe made repeatedly about the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park was about the lack of consultation. This is plainly a furphy. If we go through the history of consultation on that issue, there has been more engagement and more consultation with the community on the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park than on the establishment of any marine park in the history of Western Australia. The Labor government established a community reference committee, which had an independent chair. That committee met six times over a period of 18 months. An independent chair ran a community reference committee that met regularly over a significant period. The government established 11 sectoral advisory groups, including advisory groups for industries and sectors

like recreational fishing, commercial fishing, tourism and conservation. They included all the different stakeholders—people who obviously have strong views about conserving our natural environment and our marine environment on the south coast of WA, but also people who have a stake in existing recreational and commercial fishing activities within the boundaries of that marine park.

The Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions offered meetings with every commercial fishing licence holder located in the region. I want to repeat that: DBCA offered meetings with every commercial fishing licence holder located in the region. That is a significant offering from the department. The initial statutory public comment period was for three months, but the government extended that to four months, so it went above and beyond what had been originally proposed. When pop-up shops were held with marine park planners in Esperance, 109 appointments were taken. Marine park planners engaged directly with the community on over 100 occasions just at those pop-up shops. The minister and his office met with a range of stakeholders over the period in which the marine park was consulted on. They met with the Shire of Esperance, Esperance-based fishers and state peak bodies, including Recfishwest, the Western Australia Fishing Industry Council and the Abalone Industry Association of Western Australia, so there was extensive consultation.

I go back to the comments I made earlier. I understand that the member for Roe, as the local member, has a job to do in being an advocate for his local community. I understand and respect that, but all members of this place also know that there is often tension in that role. Sometimes, we have to rise above misinformation and negativity and play a leadership role in the region. We have to have a forward-looking vision for our region. We cannot buy in to all the scaremongering and negativity. As a member of this place, it can be irresponsible to be amplifying that without reasonable cause. Unfortunately, one area in which I think the member for Roe has over-egged things has been the alleged lack of consultation. As I pointed out, there has been very significant consultation in this area. Yes, there will be people who are unhappy with the proposal, but that always happens no matter what. We could do consultation for 100 years, and at the end of consultation, whatever decision was made, we would still have some people who are unhappy and some people who are happy. People's happiness with a decision is not a measure of whether consultation took place. It is quite clear, given the matters that I have just adverted to, that the minister and the DBCA have done significant amounts of consultation. I do not think it is worth the member over-egging that issue.

The next issue that I foreshadowed wanting to touch on was native forestry. I am a big supporter of the government's decision to ban commercial logging in our south west forests. As I say, this continues the work of previous Labor governments. The forests are incredible natural assets. Anybody who has been around our south west forests knows how extraordinary they are. They are a great asset, whether people are engaged in recreational activities like hiking or in industries like tourism, and they are also significant for preserving and promoting biodiversity and for being part of the government's contribution to addressing climate change.

The member for Roe made a comment that I thought was disappointing, and I will give him the opportunity to respond to this if he would like. He made some comments about the stockpiling of jarrah timber by the Forest Products Commission. I am going to quote from the member's second reading debate contribution from 7 November. The member for Roe said —

I was talking to someone the other day about the Forest Products Commission stockpiling jarrah timber and the like. Furniture makers and others would readily use the timber. Instead, it is being stockpiled and then, all of a sudden, we have the scenario of those logs salvaged from the mine site going in a furnace because the government has a state agreement obliging it to supply logs to produce charcoal for the production of silicon. Why are our valuable jarrah logs being used to produce materials such as charcoal? Seriously! I would like the Minister for Forestry to look at that. The person I spoke to the other day was quite dismayed by that.

I understand the member for Roe to be referring to the operations of Simcoa in Kemerton. Is that correct?

Mr P.J. Rundle: That's correct.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: Without naming it, the member for Roe referred to the operations of Simcoa. I thought that was really disappointing. He was basically saying that we should not use the timber that has been stockpiled from, for example, thinning or in this case from mining to —

Mr P.J. Rundle: There are some beautiful jarrah logs —

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: I will get to that, member for Roe. He is saying that we should not be using those assets that have been logged as part of mining operations to support a local business like Simcoa. The member for Roe is suggesting that we should not support Simcoa! I grew up in Australind. Simcoa is based in Kemerton. I know many families with people employed at Simcoa. Simcoa employs almost 200 people in that community. It is a really significant operation that has been going for decades. It supplies silicon that is used in a variety of really important products such as silicon microchips and solar panels, yet the member for Roe said in his contribution that we should not supply logs to Simcoa to support its employment.

Mr P.J. Rundle: No—not beautiful jarrah logs. They should be made into furniture —

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: That is not true. I will get to that, member for Roe. That is actually not the case because the logs that are being supplied to Simcoa are not appropriate for furniture making. Historically, Simcoa has used jarrah residue timber, and that has been the primary source of previous supply from the Forest Products Commission. It has also been able to utilise residue from other native forest and plantation species. The residue timber that Simcoa uses is interchangeable with firewood. It is not timber that is sawlog or high-value log; they are not the same thing. Either the member for Roe was being misleading in his statements that we were taking timber for Simcoa that could otherwise be used for furniture making or he did not realise that. I am happy to correct the record, member for Roe. We are not taking logs that would be used for furniture making and diverting them to Simcoa. But in any event, I would have thought that he would support that. One of the things the member for Roe bangs on about is us shutting down local industries, yet in his contribution, he was basically bagging out the local business of Simcoa in Kemerton by saying that it should not be supplied with residue logs to be able to support operations that employ almost 200 people in the greater Bunbury region. I thought that was a misstep by the member for Roe. I will be sending a copy of this *Hansard* from the other day to Simcoa, and I will suggest that they contact the member for Roe to maybe invite him to tour its operations to educate himself about its operations and the importance of the employment opportunities.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I've already toured it with the member for Bunbury a few years ago.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: The member for Roe has said that he has already toured it, so he has answered one of my earlier questions, which is that he is not ignorant about these matters.

Mr P.J. Rundle: I've already toured it with the member for Bunbury.

Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE: That is what I just said! He has said that he is not ignorant about it. That answers my earlier question. I gave two options about what he was doing in his contribution and whether or not he was misleading or being ignorant. He is saying that he is not ignorant. That leaves one side of the dichotomy then, member for Roe. He walked into that one!

In closing, I want to just sum up this issue of the green credentials of the Cook government. It was an extraordinary performance in this place today to hear the opposition taking an announcement that the government and Premier gladly made yesterday morning about the development of Westport and attempting to turn it into a weapon to attack the government. We get these lectures from the member for Cottesloe, who I think has knocked off for the day. I suspect that if we ran a division now, there would not be too many members of the opposition to run to the chamber to vote on it.

I think the member for Cottesloe has knocked off, but he gives us these lectures about the damage to seagrass meadows in Cockburn Sound, which is a laugh for a number of reasons. Firstly, it is a laugh because when the member for Cottesloe was the president of the Kwinana Industries Council, the KIC produced several reports in glowing terms about the need for Westport. Of course, now he has a political attack line on the government, so he has taken it. He then also pretends that somehow, the member for Cottesloe, the Liberal Party and the National Party are the defenders of the environment, while at the same time they get up and will not support the banning of commercial native logging and the establishment of the South Coast Marine Park. This is why people believe that the Liberal and National Parties have no credibility on these issues. They use conservation as an attack line only when it suits them, but when we actually get down into the serious issues, they are opponents of conservation. They always have been, and they always will be.

On that note, I really thank members for their contributions. We have covered a lot of ground on some significant achievements of the Cook government that are sort of represented in the framework of this bill. I thank all members for their contributions. I thank the Minister for Lands as well for giving me carriage of this bill; it has been a great experience to bring it through this place. I look forward to its swift passage in coming weeks through the Legislative Council, Leader of the House. We obviously cannot dictate what that house does, and it has a bit of business before it, but I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

[Leave granted to proceed forthwith to third reading.]

Third Reading

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.17 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe — Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [6.18 pm]: I wish to make a very brief contribution. I thank the parliamentary secretary for his points raised in reply. I am glad he listened closely to some of the points I made in my contribution. I recollect that the parliamentary secretary's last contribution about me was that I gave a "meandering contribution", but I am glad he addressed some of the points that I raised.

As members know, I am opposed to the South Coast Marine Park and the level of consultation involved. I stand here to represent my community, who I would generally say are 90 to 95 per cent against the South Coast Marine

Park. The Minister for Environment has made his announcement, and we will press on from there, but the electors of the south coast will have a chance to have their say at the ballot box. Hopefully, they, along with those from many other electorates around the state, will overturn this government. As I said, I am curious that government members are strangely silent on Marmion Marine Park just off the coast of Perth because they do not want to rattle the cage of the voters in Scarborough and Hillarys and many other electorates. They are very silent. Their heads go down when Marmion Marine Park is mentioned.

Nonetheless, I would like to finish this debate on a positive note. The parliamentary secretary said that the opposition does not believe in conservation but I will happily take him to my office and show him a picture of our farm. In the early 1990s, my family and I basically recontoured the whole farm on our property in Katanning to control water and to conserve our soil. We put in 35 kilometres of drains. We re-fenced our whole farm and we planted 50 000 trees on our property. That was, as I said, to control water and the wind. We probably forgave somewhere between eight and 11 per cent of our land, but our calculations were that we had a 20 per cent gain in productivity. As I said, to finish on a positive note, I was down at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn two Friday nights ago where my father, Bronte, was inducted into the Western Australia Landcarers' Hall of Fame. I do, sort of, take the parliamentary secretary's comments on board but I would like to disagree on this occasion that all opposition members are against conservation. I am very proud of our family's work and the recognition of Bronte, my dad and, of course, June, my mum as well—and, of course, my wife, Andrea, who swears that she planted every one of those 50 000 trees —

Mr D.A. Templeman: What sort of trees are they?

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: It was a variation of mainly eucalyptus—spotted gum, red flowering gum, any other number, minister. I certainly support conservation in the right way but, I am very, very proud of our family's achievements on our farm, which I still live on. The other night at the event at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn, I said it got to a point at which we had probably in the order of three bus loads of people coming to our farm every week, whether it was school kids, the Esperance Landcare group or some other group from the wheatbelt or the like. It got to the point at which I said to dad, "Well, you keep going with the tour and the tour guiding, but I've got to do some farming!" I will end the debate there on a positive note, parliamentary secretary.

Mr D.A. Templeman: It could be the site for the next Woodstock.

Mr P.J. RUNDLE: Yes; that's it. As I said, the opposition supports the Reserves Bill. I will leave my contribution there.

MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn — Parliamentary Secretary) [6.23 pm] — in reply: I am very happy to end the debate on the Reserves Bill 2024 on two positive notes. Firstly, I say to the member for Roe that I was at the Landcare annual gathering in the morning, representing Hon Jackie Jarvis at the Wetlands Centre Cockburn. I was not able to make it in the evening, but I passed on my and the minister's congratulations in advance to the people who were being inducted into the Landcarers' Hall of Fame that evening. I was not aware that the member's father was one of them. I gave my congratulation in advance then and I give my congratulations now to the member for Roe's father, Bronte, on being inducted into the Landcarers' Hall of Fame. It should be noted that people in our agricultural industry—our farmers and people in our regional communities—in many cases have been good stewards of the land. To clarify, I am not suggesting that individuals, people in the farming industry or in particular communities are against conservation. I think the National Party and the Liberal Party are politically opposed to conservation. But I set that aside and I want to acknowledge the efforts of individuals in those communities, including the member's family, for the work they have done because there is no doubt much of the great work in Landcare has been done by people in our agricultural towns and regions.

Finally, on the most positive note, I want to thank all the advisers who assisted with this bill. I acknowledge Kate McKelvie from the Minister for Lands' office. Kate has been a constant source of support for me and she is the one who really knows how things work. I acknowledge Tony Richmond and Andrea Agocs from the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage, and Nicola Mincham and Sandra Thomas from the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. We all know bills like this and debates like this would not be possible without the assistance of advisers. Thank you very much.

In closing, I thank the opposition for their support of this bill. It is great to have bipartisan support on any issue, particularly when it comes to reserves in Western Australia. I commend the bill to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

PREMIER'S STATEMENT

Consideration

Resumed from 5 November on the following question —

That the Premier's Statement be noted.

MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands) [6.27 pm]: I rise today to respond to the Premier's Statement and, in doing so, I take enormous pride in being part of the government that is delivering very effectively for the people of the

Churchlands electorate. It is an enormous honour to represent Churchlands in this place. Whether I am re-elected will depend on the judgement of the electors, but I can say for certain that the votes of the electors of Churchlands cannot be taken for granted. All I can do is to continue to work very hard to serve our community. I would like to digress here to explain the particular prism through which I appreciate the wonderful people of my community and the beautiful area that is the Churchlands electorate.

In March 2020, I was working in Port Moresby for the Asian Development Bank but when a state of emergency was declared there at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, I took the last Qantas flight back to Australia and went onwards to Perth and my home in Wembley. It has been my home base since the late 1980s. I was fortunate to be able to continue working for the Asian Development Bank from home and I subsequently took on another project for the bank in Bangladesh. It was while I was enjoying being home for an extended period that I decided to put up my hand for the seat of Churchlands.

Coming and going to and from my home in Wembley had been my life since 1990 and included working in Queensland for the state government; being based in Belgium to undertake study and research; working in Dublin on secondment to the Irish government; being based in Copenhagen with the United Nations development program, but working all over the world; living and working on the edge in a peacekeeping mission in the Darfur region of Sudan; working in old Vienna for the International Atomic Energy Agency and hiking the Wienerwald; supporting a major public procurement reform in Trinidad and Tobago; and spending a lot of time in Canada with my Canadian husband and family. Throughout this nomadic existence, my home in Wembley was the anchor in my life—the place that has always drawn me back home. For the best part of 30 years, I have been privileged to compare and contrast the changes in my community with what I have experienced in many different places around the world. In that time, I have also developed a skill set and perspectives that help me to listen to and better understand and address the things that matter to my community, so allow me to share some insights.

There are those who would seek to characterise the people of my electorate as very comfortable conservatives whose election of this Labor member is an aberration soon to be reversed. Although this caricature may have been true a long time ago, it is no longer the case. Whoever represents the people of Churchlands has to work very hard to merit elector trust and support. In fact, ours is a diverse community including people who have a variety of interests, values and perspectives on a range of issues. There are many people who think deeply about what matters to them and want their community and our state to be a better place. In this context, it is noteworthy that every booth in the Churchlands electorate voted yes in the Voice referendum, including booths in areas ranging from City Beach to Glendalough and from West Leederville to Doubleview. Both booths in Innaloo that are polling places for people living in the new addition to the electorate also voted yes.

Electors in our community are not content to be passive; there are so many amazing people who work hard to be part of the solution to the issues we face. I have had the pleasure of working with some of them to address traffic congestion and road safety, conservation of our wetlands and bush habitats, issues for seniors, mental health and wellbeing, and opportunities for green jobs. We have people from all walks of life in our community—retirees, fly-in fly-out workers, retail workers, community and personal service workers, labourers, cleaners, health professionals, tradies, small business people, public servants, hospitality workers, students, business executives, innovators, manufacturers, teachers, people who are reliant on Centrelink payments and a small army of volunteers. We have older and younger people living alone, couples, families with young and not-so-young children living at home, singles in share houses and people living in extended family groups. We have people from many countries including, notably, from China, India and Bhutan. We also have fourth generation West Aussies like me, the descendent of a convict made good.

In terms of wealth distribution, our community ranges from those who struggle financially to those whose circumstances are very comfortable and everyone whose circumstances fall in between those extremes. We have social housing as well as some of the most impressive architecturally designed houses in the state. Take for instance the Iwanoff house in Dorking Street, City Beach that came onto the market not so long ago. We have a large number of private renters, retirement village residents, home owners with mortgages and people who own their homes outright, many of whom are older and may be contemplating downsizing, as well as aged-care home residents.

There is a plethora of community organisations, including those focused on recreation, sport, the natural environment, supporting our school communities and on service to the community. We are a community of joiners, with volunteers representing about 23 per cent of the population aged over 15 years.

How does that reality of the people of our community compare with the comfortably conservative caricature? Yes, there are people in the Churchlands electorate who would consider themselves fiscally and socially conservative—the rusted on Libs—many of whom I count as dear friends and whose ideas and engagement I respect and whose interests I seek to represent.

However, in my experience the largest proportion of people in our community could be characterised as socially and, dare I say, environmentally progressive and appreciative of the outstandingly good financial management of our government. They are the people in our community who reasonably expect that our government will not shy

away from grappling with the big social, economic and environmental challenges that we face. The fact that we have managed the state's finances so well means that we have the capacity to make the necessary transformational investments to meet those challenges.

There are also those in our community who are just holding their heads above water and for whom even small setbacks can be devastating. It is those people for whom our Labor government makes such a positive difference. They are not so interested in our how we manage the state's finances or the subtleties of our policy agenda; they just want to know that we care and will strive to ease their cost-of-living pressure and ensure their access to good jobs, housing, education, training, transport and quality health care.

What are the things that generally matter to the people in my community? First of all, the cost of living does matter. It matters for those directly affected as well as those who have family members facing cost-of-living pressures. We have been delivering cost-of-living relief in a big way. In fact, we have delivered a litany of measures and I will go through the list. We introduced the WA rent relief program, giving tenants at risk of eviction up to \$5 000 in direct rental support. We made laws that ban rent bidding and limit rent increases to once every 12 months. We added FuelWatch to the ServiceWA app, helping consumers save at the bowser. We scrapped Liberal plans to privatise our energy system, protecting WA from the skyrocketing increases in household power bills that have been experienced in other states. We supported those doing it tough, with free energy between 9.00 am and 3.00 pm for eligible Synergy households. We distributed over 88 million rapid antigen tests to WA households, hospitals and community organisations, saving people hundreds of dollars. We delivered urgent care clinics across WA, providing free GP appointments for Medicare card holders. We reduced Keystart interest rates, saving customers thousands of dollars on interest payments.

We provided a \$3 000 cost-of-living payment in the 2023 budget for all public sector workers, including nurses, police and firefighters. We are supporting foster carers, grandparent carers and other carers, with \$500 payments for a child in care and \$250 for each additional child from January 2024. We introduced the safety and security rebate for WA seniors, a program cut by the Liberals but valued immensely by people in our community. We increased the cost-of-living rebate for seniors. I made sure that as many older people as possible knew they needed to be registered for that rebate. I doorknocked two of the retirement villages in the area and handed out paper-based application forms.

We are supporting women into trade and technical occupations by providing \$5 000 scholarships to increase pathways for women into higher paying jobs. We funded additional places for group training organisations to get more construction apprentices on the job. We are working in partnership with the Albanese government to make priority TAFE courses fee free, which is a very important initiative. We have capped public transport fees in Perth to two zones, saving users thousands of dollars, particularly those in the Dawesville electorate. We launched fare-free Sundays, providing SmartRider holders with free travel every Sunday across Perth.

We are providing interest-free loans for builders to complete unfinished homes, helping to ease cost-of-living pressures. We have extended the Water Corporation's hardship support to additional consumers. We have kept water and power fees and charges well below inflation. We have provided free respiratory syncytial virus immunisations to WA infants under the age of eight months, helping to protect our most vulnerable. We launched the WA student assistance payment, providing \$150 for each kindergarten and primary school student and \$250 for each secondary school student to assist with school costs.

We are providing free influenza vaccinations. We are providing free period products to public primary and high schools and TAFE campuses across WA. We are making payments to construction apprentices throughout their apprenticeship for tools and safety equipment after they complete training milestones. We are providing \$725 in small business electricity credits across the state and slashing \$700 off household power bills this year, bringing total power bill relief to \$2 100 since 2020. That is really appreciated in my electorate. We have more than doubled the secondary school clothing allowance for two years. We are continuing to cut local government rates bills for WA seniors by up to 50 per cent.

We have increased the KidSport voucher program to \$500, nearly doubling the previous amount, helping provide extra assistance for the cost of kids' sport for those who need it most. Kids' sport is so important. I enjoy watching my grandkids play sport every weekend. Cost-of-living relief is something that our government is delivering for people in the electorate of Churchlands because we can—because we have managed the state's finances so well.

I would like to talk about some other issues that are really important in my electorate. Among them is energy transition. Apart from making our electricity the most affordable in the country, we have effectively managed our transition to renewables. This matters greatly to members of our community. Our government's retention of electricity assets in state ownership has protected our community from the horrendous energy cost escalations experienced in the national electricity market.

Our state's domestic gas reservation policy has prevented businesses in this state from having to go out of business due to unaffordable gas input costs, as has been the case over east. Our energy transition is challenging enough, but the inexplicable commitment by the Liberals to nuclear energy has increased the complexity of its management. This is a policy of the federal Liberals but its impact will fall to the state.

Having worked for the International Atomic Energy Agency, I am often asked what I think about nuclear power for WA. Nuclear is part of the mix in other countries—I have nothing against nuclear energy—but it represents a threat to our state’s energy transition. Our remaining coal-fired power stations are due to close in late 2029—a mere five years away. They cannot be maintained operational any longer. The proposal by the federal opposition is to replace coal-fired generating capacity with a small modular nuclear reactor to be located at Collie. Optimistically, such a reactor could not be delivered until 2040. That is very optimistic. By that time, our transition from coal will be long since complete. Investment in renewables involves long-term decision-making. Nuclear generation would disrupt the state’s energy market, making future investment decisions uncertain. We need investment in renewables. The nuclear elephant in the room will not help businesses and investors put their money into an uncertain market. Nuclear power has the same problem as coal—it cannot be ramped up and down to keep our grid stable when we have such variable solar and wind inputs. To be most efficient, nuclear power plants have to run at full capacity all the time. We would have to stop solar and wind inputs if we ran a nuclear plant. I cannot imagine how we could possibly sell that policy to the people in our electorates who have embraced rooftop solar.

[Member’s time extended.]

Ms C.M. TONKIN: Nuclear power is the most expensive to generate. The government would have to lock in very high generating costs for decades, and we would be paying higher electricity bills.

We have no social licence. In a recent article in one of the local papers, I note that the Liberal candidate for Curtin suggested that Labor, the Greens and the teals are on a unity ticket opposing nuclear. The community would have to be 100 per cent in support of nuclear energy before any government could make decades-long commitments. I think the Liberal candidate for Curtin has answered his own question: there is a unity ticket that represents the majority of people in our electorate.

Finally on the nuclear issue, we would need to import nuclear fuel from specialised processors, and we have no capacity to manage nuclear waste. The management of the nuclear fuel cycle is really tricky. From my experience at the International Atomic Energy Agency, including looking into the procurement of low enriched uranium in order to support a nuclear fuel bank, I know that it is a very tricky market in which to work. It is a very specialised area. That is one inexplicable policy that the Liberals are bringing to the party. Although emanating from the federal sphere, that policy will impact the state because the state is responsible for our energy transition.

Another inexplicable policy of the Liberals is their apparent commitment to building the women’s and babies’ hospital at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre site. I know from the material that was letterboxed by the Liberal candidate for Churchlands that he supports this policy. Both my sons were born at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and, like many long-term residents of this area, it is hard for me to imagine the new women’s and babies’ hospital being located anywhere else. It was certainly our government’s preference to build the new hospital at the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre site, but, unfortunately, that laudable intention has proven to be impossible to achieve. Again, we have the Liberals with an impossible policy objective—to build the hospital at QEII.

There are two main reasons why building the hospital at Murdoch is the best decision. Firstly, there are the issues and risks of project delivery. The risks of constructing the hospital on the heavily constrained QEII site are impossible to mitigate, and the alternative of rebuilding King Edward at its current site is not feasible whilst maintaining the service. Secondly, considerable improvements to obstetric and gynaecological service delivery can be achieved by building at the Murdoch site and developing those services at Osborne Park Hospital. The starting point for determining the configuration of the new hospital was, of course, the clinical considerations. These requirements were developed through extensive consultation with all the relevant stakeholders. However, the hospital ultimately has to be built in a timely manner, taking into account the ageing infrastructure at King Edward, which must continue to be fully operational and well maintained until the new hospital is delivered.

Members may recall the difficulties at Princess Margaret Hospital for Children, which had to continue operating well beyond its anticipated closure date because of the long delays in opening Perth Children’s Hospital. There are several constraints at the QEII site that make the timely delivery of the project impossible to achieve. First and foremost, the existing hospital services must be fully operational throughout the construction of a new hospital at the site. This will involve access to and operation of two emergency departments, as well as unimpeded access for staff, patients and visitors to the existing hospitals. Then there is the impact of construction-related site works, noise and vibrations on patient wellbeing, as well as on sensitive medical and diagnostic equipment. The site is further constrained by the inflexibility presented by the size and location of the private car park concession at the site—another Liberal policy legacy. Because of the site constraints, access to facilities for businesses and residents in the surrounding area would inevitably be significantly impeded. It may be possible to mitigate some of the risks by packaging the build into smaller phases. However, this would inevitably delay the delivery of the project significantly. Delay would present a major risk to the ongoing operation and maintenance of King Edward, which must be fully functional until the new hospital opens.

Importantly, the Murdoch site presents the best option to deliver the new hospital in a timely way; it has some significant advantages. It is an unconstrained greenfield site, which will minimise disruptions to other services and

reduce the construction time significantly. The new hospital will provide access to modern, state-of-the-art facilities much sooner than could be achieved at the QEII site. Each year, many women and babies are transported to King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women via the Royal Flying Doctor Service from Jandakot Airport. The Murdoch location, close to the freeway, will mean that women and babies will arrive at the hospital much faster than would be the case at the QEII site. Further, about 65 per cent of the women using King Edward come from the southern suburbs. The Murdoch site presents an easier access option for them, while people from the northern and western suburbs will have access to well-positioned and upgraded gynaecology and obstetric facilities at Osborne Park Hospital. There are already world-class obstetric and neonatal intensive care capabilities at Fiona Stanley Hospital, and these services may be further enhanced to present a seamless transition to the new hospital facility. There is a relatively small number of cases in which neonates require urgent surgery. This service is currently provided at Perth Children's Hospital. During the years it will take to build the new hospital, there will be alternative delivery of these surgical procedures so that neonates will receive the urgent care they need. There is plenty of time to achieve that transition.

The tough but necessary decisions around the location of the hospital demonstrates our government's commitment to delivering quality health care for women and newborns. Again, the Liberals are pushing a policy agenda that is impossible to deliver.

I would like to add another piece of policy inertia emanating from those in opposition. That revolves around our very tight gun control mechanisms, which will prevent women victims of domestic violence from being assailed by guns. I am absolutely opposed to having weapons freely available in our community, particularly in circumstances in which women's lives are at risk. I witnessed people with horrendous gunshot injuries during the peacekeeping operation in which I worked in Sudan. Removing guns from our community is essential; there is no going back on that policy, but the dithering and inertia from the two opposition parties on this issue, and the failure of my challenger for the seat of Churchlands to come out and unequivocally support our gun laws, are very, very concerning and, I think, very detrimental to the people of our community. I say unashamedly to the Minister for Police: thank you for your very, very strong and important changes to our gun laws, which protect people from the horrors of gun deaths and injuries.

With that, I will conclude my contribution to the Premier's Statement. I am proud to be part of this government.

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

House adjourned at 6.58 pm
