



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2022

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 23 November 2022

# Legislative Assembly

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**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** took the chair at 12 noon, acknowledged country and read prayers.

## RECREATIONAL FISHING — BIRD ENTANGLEMENTS

### *Petition*

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn)** [12.01 pm]: I have a petition that has been certified as conforming with the standing orders of the Assembly. It has 440 signatures and says —

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

We, the undersigned, want our beautiful Pelicans, Cormorants, Darters, Swans and other waterbirds to live their lives free of cruel and frequently lethal entanglements with fishhooks and fishing lines used by recreational fishers.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly to urge the State Government to use its powers to require that action be taken to stop the cruel entanglements with fishhooks and fishing lines.

[See petition 36.]

## VISITORS — WARWICK SENATORS

### *Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [12.01 pm]: I am very pleased on behalf of the member for Kingsley and the Minister for Sport and Recreation to welcome to the Speaker's gallery the women's inaugural National Basketball League 1 national champions, the Warwick Senators. Welcome to Parliament.

[Applause.]

**Mr D.A. Templeman:** Go the Senators!

**The SPEAKER:** It is a very parliamentary name.

**Mr M.J. Folkard:** Go the Wolves!

**The SPEAKER:** I am almost tempted to formally call you to order, member for Burns Beach, for being so disrespectful to our guests!

## PAPER TABLED

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

## GOVERNMENT TRADING ENTERPRISES BILL 2022

### *Notice of Motion to Introduce*

Notice of motion given by **Mr D.A. Templeman (Leader of the House)** on behalf of Mr M. McGowan (Treasurer).

## AUDITOR GENERAL AMENDMENT BILL 2022

### *Returned*

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

## BILLS

### *Assent*

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

1. Government Railways Amendment Bill 2021.
2. Human Tissue and Transplant Amendment Bill 2022.
3. Land Tax Assessment Amendment Bill 2022.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** The Governor has been busy.

**The SPEAKER:** So has the Legislative Council!

**Mr R.H. Cook:** For a change!

**The SPEAKER:** You may well say that, Deputy Premier, I could not possibly.

## ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE OUTCOMES INFORMATION PACK

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

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)** [12.04 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to inform the house of the release of the Western Australian industry environmental, social and governance information pack. This is an exciting document that showcases the critical role of Western Australian industry in improving global ESG outcomes. Western Australia is a secure and reliable supplier for our partners overseas. But that is not enough. Today, competitiveness and sustainability go hand in hand. More than ever, investors around the world are demanding governments and industry strengthen their ESG commitments to deliver more positive outcomes for the community and environment. That means Western Australia is strongly positioned to be a supplier of choice in a cleaner, more diverse, inclusive and responsible global economy. We have the mindset, people, technology, resources, geography and determination needed to be globally competitive.

An important part of securing our position as a leading ethical supplier of choice is raising awareness about the incredible work our local industries are delivering. The Western Australian industry ESG information pack provides a snapshot of some of the incredible and diverse ESG outcomes industry is delivering across the state. We need investors to be aware of ESG outcomes across Western Australia's priority sectors, as identified in the Diversify WA framework. For example, the pack showcases the Western Green Energy Hub in the goldfields–Esperance region as one of the world's largest green energy projects. With an anticipated investment of approximately \$70 billion from the private sector, the project will produce around 50 gigawatts of renewable energy and aims to produce at least 3.5 million tonnes of green hydrogen a year.

Our health and medical life sciences sector is also going from strength to strength. VitalTrace, for example, is developing a biosensor device to improve the childbirth process for mothers, clinicians and babies, playing a critical role in improving birth outcomes. This novel technology is being developed as a device to be manufactured in Australia for export to the global market, contributing to advancing health outcomes and wellbeing at an international scale.

This government is improving ESG outcomes for Western Australia, and I am proud of the incredible achievements that our local industries have made to deliver benefits both locally and globally. The WA industry ESG information pack can be found on the WA government publications website.

## DECOMMISSIONING INDUSTRY

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

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)** [12.07 pm]: I stand today to discuss the opportunities for a decommissioning industry here in Western Australia. Decommissioning is a \$50 billion industry that involves the timely, safe and environmentally responsible removal of, or otherwise satisfactorily dealing with, the infrastructure and offshore assets that were previously used to support oil and gas operations. This is not a pipedream, and more than half of the works will start in the next 10 years.

Decommissioning has also been identified as a priority sector in the government's Diversify WA framework. Unlocking the decommissioning value chain opens up opportunities for investment across Western Australia, such as growth in local jobs and capabilities; improved environmental, social and governance credentials for the state; research and development of new technologies and innovations that could be exported globally; and recycling decommissioning material such as steel to support local manufacturing.

WA should absolutely position itself as the centre for decommissioning in Australia. But there is a lot of work to do and we need to capitalise on the opportunity to build a domestic decommissioning industry that can service the needs across the Asia–Pacific region. That is why this government is partnering with the Centre of Decommissioning Australia to establish the multibillion-dollar industry in Western Australia. We have committed \$5 million over the next four years to support CODA to establish its headquarters in Western Australia and support the forward work program.

Over the next 12 months, the Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety will look to conduct a location study to identify and help plan for decommissioning hubs in Western Australia; undertake a disposal recycling report; develop a decommissioning skills strategy and pathways to support the development of new technologies; establish a capability directory for the decommissioning market, growing the decommissioning supply chain capability; and undertake a study to identify the skills and capabilities for decommissioning and the development of courses to cater for new and emerging jobs, as well as upskilling and re-skilling the current workforce. The Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety has been conducting stakeholder consultation to ensure that titleholders understand their decommissioning obligations and that positive closure outcomes can occur. I welcome feedback from this consultation phase and look forward to developing the decommissioning industry for WA.

## CULTURALLY AND LINGUISTICALLY DIVERSE LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

*Statement by Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Citizenship and Multicultural Interests)** [12.10 pm]: I rise today to update members on an outstanding program for Western Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse

backgrounds, which the McGowan government is proud to support. Delivered through the Office of Multicultural Interests, the leadership and governance program aims to unlock the enormous potential of our highly skilled community members from culturally diverse backgrounds. On 8 November, I was honoured to participate in the graduation ceremony of the latest group of remarkable Western Australians to complete this program. I had the pleasure of congratulating 20 graduates who are now ready to join boards and committees of public, corporate and not-for-profit organisations. I am extremely proud to say that of these graduates, 10 have already secured board positions. This is an impressive outcome. As impressive is the fact that since its inception, more than 140 professionals from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds have completed the program. Our graduates have benefited from the guidance of mentors, and I thank the 44 mentors from senior leadership roles who have generously supported the program.

Of our graduates, 90 have registered with OnBoardWA and 49 have joined boards and committees in the government and non-government sectors. WA can truly boast that multiculturalism is one of our greatest strengths. However, currently only about one per cent of members on our public sector boards and committees are from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. This number needs to increase. This is also why this leadership and governance program is so incredibly important. We need more leaders from all cultural backgrounds in our public, corporate and not-for-profit organisations to truly reflect our community, and, importantly, to support good governance and lend their diverse skills and experience to better decision-making. I am proud of the McGowan Labor government's OnBoardWA policy, which strongly encourages participation of women and people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds on government boards and committees so that they reflect our community's diversity.

I urge members to encourage Western Australians from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds in their electorates to apply for, and take up, roles on boards and committees. This could be on a school's parents and citizens association, through to sporting clubs, businesses or local government and the public sector. I wish all the graduates of the OMI leadership and governance program every success and thank them and their mentors for their commitment to making positive contributions to Western Australia.

### **FIRM CONSTRUCTION — SUBCONTRACTOR PAYMENTS**

*Statement by Minister for Finance*

**DR A.D. BUTI (Armadale — Minister for Finance)** [12.12 pm]: I rise to advise the house of the important work the McGowan government is doing to protect subcontractors working on government projects. We all understand the challenges being faced in the construction industry. The situation can be difficult for builders as they try to grapple with disruptions to supply chains, escalating prices and workforce shortages. Recent media reports have suggested that FIRM Construction is a builder facing these types of challenges. The Department of Finance has been working closely with FIRM Construction Pty Ltd to ensure that subcontractor obligations on government projects are fulfilled and those projects are delivered. Officers from my department have been proactively contacting subcontractors and then working with FIRM to validate invoices and assist with making these payments via project bank accounts. This reflects the important protections offered through project bank accounts, which are in place on all government projects above \$1.5 million. We are also ensuring that projects such as the Wellard Village primary school can continue with minimal disruption to subbies, local families and future students. McCorkell Constructions has been appointed to continue the delivery of the school so that students and staff can commence on day one of 2023. The new contract includes a requirement to engage as many ex-FIRM subcontractors as possible.

In relation to other government projects with FIRM Construction, we are continuing to work through any issues. The issue of protecting subcontractors, who are generally small and local businesses, is important to our government. The McGowan government is focused on introducing industry-wide reforms to provide stronger security of payment protections for small and local business. The first stage of these reforms commenced in August this year, when the Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Act 2021 took effect. This first stage expands contractors' rights to claim regular payments to avoid large outstanding invoices. It also delivers more structure and transparency to payments and an effective dispute resolution pathway to recover money owed. Further security of payment reforms will be implemented from February 2023 and February 2024. These stages will include a mandatory retention trust scheme, fairer contracting practices and expanded powers against unscrupulous registered builders. The McGowan government is proud to deliver these important reforms to ensure greater payment protections across the contracting chain.

### **VOLUNTARY ASSISTED DYING BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2021–22**

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health)** [12.15 pm]: I rise to table the *Voluntary Assisted Dying Board annual report 2021–22*. I am pleased to present this inaugural annual report, which fulfils the requirements of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019 by reporting on the operations of the act for the 12 months to 30 June 2022. The report marks the first year of voluntary assisted dying as an end-of-life choice for terminally ill people across WA. I extend my condolences to the family and friends of those who have made the choice of voluntary assisted dying since the act commenced.

The contributions of community advocates, the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices, the Ministerial Expert Panel on Voluntary Assisted Dying and the voluntary assisted dying implementation leadership team established the safe and compassionate foundation for voluntary assisted dying as an end-of-life choice for our community. The key data presented by the VAD board in the annual report provides that from 1 July 2021 to 13 June 2022, 553 people made a first request for voluntary assisted dying, 375 patients completed a first assessment and 353 patients were found eligible; 284 patients completed the request and assessment process; 190 deaths were recorded following administration of a voluntary assisted dying substance; the median age of patients when they died was 74 years; 73 per cent of people who died were based in the Perth metropolitan region and 27 per cent were based in regional WA; and voluntary assisted dying deaths represented 1.1 per cent of the total deaths in Western Australia in the reporting period.

Support for people to access voluntary assisted dying was provided by 50 medical practitioners as coordinating, consulting or administering practitioners. A total of 70 medical practitioners were trained, with practitioners coming from a range of medical specialities from across the state. I am pleased to advise that, following this annual reporting period closing, two nurse practitioners have completed the voluntary assisted dying training process. The statewide Care Navigator Service has been pivotal in providing information, advice, coordination and support for patients throughout the voluntary assisted dying process, including facilitating access for 50 patients through the regional access support scheme. The Statewide Pharmacy Service has ensured that voluntary assisted dying substances have been provided in a manner that is safe, equitable and patient-centred, including pharmacists travelling to every region to supply the VAD substance.

The care, respect and collaboration displayed by these healthcare professionals is evident, through the personal reflections shared with the board by patients and family members, as represented in the annual report. The board has made six recommendations for the improvement of voluntary assisted dying, which will be considered by the Department of Health. It has, and continues to be, a privilege to be the Minister for Health in the McGowan government, ensuring that VAD in WA is an accessible, safe and compassionate end-of-life choice for Western Australians. I thank the VAD board for its work supporting the operation of voluntary assisted dying in WA and I table the report.

[See paper [1708](#).]

#### **FOODBANK WA — HEALTHY FOOD FOR ALL ABILITIES PROGRAM**

*Statement by Minister for Disability Services*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services)** [12.18 pm]: I am pleased to inform the house about a McGowan government-funded food and nutrition education program for people with disability now being delivered in regional Western Australia. On 25 October 2022, I announced the expansion of Foodbank WA's Healthy Food for All Abilities program to be delivered in regional Western Australia. This interactive food literacy and nutrition education program is designed to teach people with disability, parents who have a child with disability and their support workers skills to enable them to choose and prepare healthy food.

In the sessions, participants enjoy cooking and sharing a meal together, while building confidence about food choices. It is an opportunity to connect socially, while learning valuable life skills. Developing and maintaining healthy food habits is important for all in our community. For many people with disability, this is especially important as healthy food habits lead to better health outcomes, increased independence and skills and confidence to make decisions and enjoy the experience of creating and sharing healthy meals.

About 160 people with disability, along with support workers and family members, have already attended sessions in Perth. This success prompted Foodbank WA to take the program to regional towns, starting with Bunbury, before moving on to Geraldton, with plans for sessions in the wheatbelt and goldfields–Esperance regions in 2023. Living in a regional centre should not be a barrier to accessing this excellent program and, as a regional member, I am very pleased that Foodbank WA will take this program to the regions.

The program is funded by the \$5 million innovation fund as part of the state disability strategy. The innovation fund was set up to build the capacity of people with disability, their families and their community, regardless of their location, and the Healthy Food for All Abilities program is a great example of that. Most importantly, the innovation fund was set up to find innovative ways to enable people with disability to be engaged and empowered and to live life as they choose. I thank Foodbank WA for its passion and expertise in developing and delivering this initiative, which I know will make a difference in many people's lives.

#### **PEMBERTON TROUT HATCHERY**

*Statement by Minister for Fisheries*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries)** [12.21 pm]: On Sunday, I joined representatives from south west freshwater angling groups and the team from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development to celebrate 50 years of state government support for freshwater fisheries through the Pemberton Freshwater Research Centre, which is better known as the Pemberton trout hatchery. As part of the celebrations, I launched *A brief history of the Pemberton trout hatchery*, a book produced by the DPIRD freshwater aquaculture

research and development team. The book tells the story of the facility and the people with a can-do spirit who have done so much to make it a significant government asset and help it connect to the social fabric of the community. Over the five decades the centre has been running, there have been only three managers and two of them, Tony Church and Terry Cabassi, were at the hatchery to mark the occasion.

The McGowan government has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to enhancing the freshwater fishing experience for recreational fisheries in Western Australia. In 2017, the McGowan government enabled changes to allow year-round access to freshwater fishing experiences for the thousands of recreational fishers who enjoy wetting a line in our freshwater rivers and dams in the south west. Recently, the state government allocated \$305 000 for DPIRD to develop a business case to upgrade this facility to help boost trout stocking programs and tourism across WA's south west. More than 60 per cent of the trout stockings each year are released into irrigation dams. In all, there are 55 dam and river locations that are stocked across the south west and Peel regions. Having legal-size rainbow and brown trout in the right place at the right time is part of the strategy to improve the experience for the nearly 10 000 fishers with a freshwater fishing licence.

I would like to give a shout-out to Dian's Little Cake House, which produced a cake for the celebration that bore a striking resemblance to a very large rainbow trout. I am pleased to say it was above the 300-millimetre size limit.

## LAND AND PUBLIC WORKS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

### *Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr J.N. Carey (Minister for Lands)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

### *Second Reading*

**MR J.N. CAREY (Perth — Minister for Lands)** [12.23 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Land and Public Works Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 seeks parliamentary approval to introduce a new form of tenure known as a diversification lease to allow for a more diverse range of land uses on the crown land estate, modernise key sections of the Land Administration Act 1997 and the Public Works Act 1902, and make consequential changes to various other acts in order to streamline Western Australia's land project approval system. This will be achieved by removing unnecessary additional administration to create efficiencies and better support high-value capital projects of significance to the state's economy, providing greater flexibility within the state's land tenure framework and addressing certain previous recommendations for pastoral lands reform.

To accommodate the state's transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, and the associated priorities for renewable energy, replacement fuels such as hydrogen and expanded avoidance and/or sequestration of greenhouse gas emissions, the bill also proposes the introduction of a new and more flexible diversification lease. The proposed non-exclusive leasehold tenure will be suitable to accommodate a greater diversity of broadscale uses of crown land within Western Australia. Subject to the prior approval of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum, and any other necessary statutory approvals such as under the commonwealth Native Title Act 1993, the Minister for Lands will be able to grant a diversification lease for any broadscale use of crown land within the state. The minister will have full discretion to tailor fit-for-purpose conditions to apply to these leases, such as rental, lease term and options to renew. A diversification lease will not, however, be able to be converted to freehold.

The government is looking to this new and more flexible leasehold tenure to encourage greater use of currently under-utilised land—through assisting in diversifying the state's economy and facilitating increased investment in pastoralism and other regionally based industries—and unlock greater economic opportunities for Aboriginal people. Diversification leases are expected to be an important component of supporting key government priorities, such as the establishment of a new green hydrogen industry in Western Australia, as well as in greatly expanding the scope for adoption of approved and emerging carbon farming methods on crown land.

Importantly, the diversification lease will not compromise access by other key interest holders such as native title parties and the resources sector. A statutory right of access for Aboriginal people will apply over diversification leases in the same way as it does for pastoral leases. Mining, petroleum and geothermal interests will still be able to be granted over land held under a diversification lease. The bill also includes consequential changes to the Mining Act 1978 and to the Petroleum and Geothermal Energy Resources Act 1967 to ensure that the rights to access the new diversification leases for mining, petroleum or geothermal exploration and operations will essentially be the same as those for a pastoral lease. The government will also progress additional amendments to the Mining Act 1978 in parallel with those contained within this bill to ensure its underpinning policy intent that exploration and mining is still able to occur over areas subject to carbon farming.

The bill includes several additional measures aimed at promoting best management practice and protecting the ecological sustainability of Western Australia's pastoral estate, matters that were previously addressed in some detail by the Auditor General's October 2017 report titled *Management of pastoral lands in Western Australia*.

The bill will introduce an ability for the Pastoral Lands Board, in collaboration with the Commissioner of Soil and Land Conservation, to publish formal standards and guidelines that clarify the state's land management expectations for pastoral lessees. Such guidance will assist pastoralists and the Pastoral Lands Board to undertake their respective functions, while also paving the way for the joint development between industry and government of one or more voluntary land administration accreditation systems. The bill will also introduce the ability for the Minister for Lands to approve such systems under which individual pastoral lessees may choose to obtain certification in order to better demonstrate the environmental sustainability of their businesses.

The bill also seeks to deliver on several key aspects of the pastoral land reform initiative, which will offer greater security for the state's pastoral lessees, while simultaneously removing longstanding administrative inefficiencies. This includes an ability for pastoral lessees to extend the term of their leases, as well as a change to the timing for the lodgement of the mandatory annual reports to better align with industry practices. The bill also includes the ability for the Pastoral Lands Board to renew an expiring permit that has been previously issued and transfer an existing permit to an incoming pastoral lessee upon the transfer of the underlying pastoral lease. The Pastoral Lands Board will also have the power to amend, cancel and suspend permits.

Changes to the existing pastoral rent determination methodology and to the scope for the phasing in of rents are also included to assist in reducing the steep rises and falls in the annual rent premiums that occur under the existing framework. This is particularly so when such variations in rent are imposed without forewarning. The changes contained within the bill will double the period after which the Valuer-General is routinely required to make a new market determination of pastoral rent from five to 10 years, with the consumer price index adjustments applying during each of the intervening years. Pastoral lessees will be given six months' notice of all rent variations that will occur. Regulations for the phase in of rent increases will remain possible, with the maximum phase-in period to be extended from three to five years to account for the longer 10-year period between market rent reviews. A new ability for the Minister for Lands to prescribe a class of pastoral leases for rent relief, rather than requiring individual applications, will also extend the utility of the phase-in provisions, whilst avoiding unnecessary administrative overheads.

With appropriate transparency and regard for the need to protect individuals' privacy, the state government also proposes to modernise the circumstances in which information collected under the auspices of the Land Administration Act 1997 can be shared among its entities. As part of the reforms, the bill identifies certain government entities as information-sharing agencies and allows for other public authorities to be prescribed as such. The chief executive officer of the department has responsibility for the administration of the Land Administration Act 1997 and will be obliged to publish the guidelines governing the disclosure of the relevant information between designated staff within sanctioned information-sharing agencies only. The bill will allow for specific regulations to protect the confidentiality of information disclosed under these new arrangements.

Finally, the state government is seeking to modernise the definition of a "public work", as this directly determines the purposes for which land may be taken under part 9 of the Land Administration Act 1997. An update of this definition within the Public Works Act 1902 is long overdue and will remove a number of works that are no longer relevant and include a range of more contemporary public works which are now regularly required by the state but which currently fall outside the definition.

This bill is the result of extensive consultation over multiple years and governments. In late 2021, public briefings were held at the Perth Convention and Exhibition Centre, with over 100 diverse groups from multiple industries attending. The department has also travelled across Western Australia to regional areas to brief and consult with pastoralists, relevant industries and native title groups. A formal point of contact was also established at the department, with over 400 individual inquiries received and individually responded to. This detailed and extensive consultation process has assisted in developing a significant package of legislative reforms to deliver a range of benefits across the state.

I commend the bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr R.S. Love**.

## DIRECTORS' LIABILITY REFORM BILL 2022

### *Third Reading*

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Attorney General)** [12.35 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [12.36 pm]: I would like to thank the Attorney General for going through the issues so patiently yesterday and his advisers for their work. The bill will be transmitted to the other house and, hopefully, it will progress through there in an expedited fashion.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

**SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2022***Second Reading*

Resumed from 22 November.

**DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton)** [12.37 pm]: I rise today in support of the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022, as part of the Streamline WA initiative. I carefully listened to other members' contributions. The member for Willagee shared his experiences of enjoying camping by the river, fishing and then cooking fish and crab on occasions. The member for Thornlie spoke at length about his passion for the environment. I was quite impressed with his connections and the in-depth knowledge he has about bird rescues and the damage done to birds caused by young kids using fishing rods and the birds then getting trapped in the fishing lines. I also listened to the member for Churchlands. It is very sad that her electorate is not surrounded by any rivers. The member is welcome to come to Riverton any time. We will welcome her with open arms to enjoy the Canning River.

The entire northern boundary of my electorate of Riverton is surrounded by the Canning River. I am very fortunate. Unlike other members who were fortunate to live by the river or grow up by the river, I grew up in the mountains and hills in a pea-growing area where rivers were a rarity. When I came to Perth, I was quite interested in and got excited about the way the rivers and riverbanks looked. I made some inquiries about living in that area, on the riverbank, but I realised that it was so expensive I could not afford it. I am really proud to be in Riverton, with the Canning River there and the Shelley foreshore—a key landmark in my electorate. Such areas provide huge health benefits. When I get there in the morning for a walk, the enthusiasm and mood I get from people greeting each other as they walk is a great start to the day—although I should admit, I do not do it as often as I should. It builds our society in a warm, positive way in which people feel really good about being in such a place at such a time.

A lot of recreation happens in that area. I was very fortunate to be invited to the season opening of the Shelley Sailing Club. I learnt a lot about what happens on the water, how the process takes place, how they follow the wind and where they turn. It was an exciting learning experience. As I have already mentioned, my childhood was in the mountains. If I was asked, I would say that I am an expert in climbing trees; that is how I enjoyed my childhood, plucking oranges. But ask me about rivers, and I will say that I do not have expertise. Unfortunately, with subdivisions, increased occupancy and land infill, some kids are not even aware of how a garden or a lawn grows. I recently visited Shelley Primary School and was fortunate to have the state Governor visiting with me for a tree-planting event in commemoration of the Queen. At that time, I was surprised by the feedback from the teachers about kids who were not even aware of tree planting. It is a huge education opportunity to have such precincts in the electorate.

I am involved with a few volunteer groups in the Canning River area. One of the groups meets regularly on Monday mornings, and I would say it is a community-building exercise. I felt, after a couple of visits, that it is better than going on holiday. They all bring some morning tea and carry the required material in their cars. They group together to do some conservation work; they water plants and pull up weeds, work for about two or three hours, gather together again and then disperse. Looking at them working I thought, "You would be more organised if you had a trailer with all your materials there to bring in, enjoy what you do, and go back." It is a volunteer group, and I was fortunate enough to be able to make that election commitment and deliver it for them, so that they could work more efficiently.

Without people like that, the continuation of conservation would not be possible. Because those people give up their personal time and effort to conserve such areas, we are able to enjoy the benefits. It has made me realise that the river does not belong to only the people who live there; it belongs to the world. Anyone is welcome to come along and enjoy the benefits of it.

Another volunteer group took me on a long tour. Initially I thought I was in a rush, but I decided to cancel my next meeting to gain an in-depth knowledge of what the volunteers were doing. They are particularly focused on land erosion; they do not want any problems in that area, and they are contributing their volunteer time to prevent erosion by undertaking a planting program. To my surprise, I would say that the majority of that volunteer group are seniors. They have plenty of time, and their passion for contributing to such a cause really touched my heart.

There are many activities that happen by the river. Since coming to the Swan River, one of the best activities I have enjoyed—and I recommend this to members, if they can find the time—is a walk that starts at the jetty in South Perth, goes around the Causeway, comes back via Riverside Drive, under the Narrows Bridge and then back to the South Perth jetty. It is a 10.5-kilometre walk that takes approximately one hour and 20 minutes. It is the most scenic, enjoyable walk that one could ever experience. It is because of the efforts that have been put into preserving the beauty of the Swan River that we are still able to enjoy it. I have also participated in the Rotary Walk for a few years as a fundraising effort. One can enjoy the experience while also contributing to a charity, so there is a double benefit, let alone the health benefit. The Indian community hosts a landmark event in Langley Park every year, a holy festival called the Festival of Colours. People around the world celebrate the Festival of Colours, but I would say that Langley Park, by the Swan River, is the best location in the world for a holy festival to be celebrated.

The amendments contained in the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022 are not designed to lose control over the conservation efforts, but to make them more convenient. Part of the government's



Streamline WA initiative is to make it easier for businesses to undertake tourism, hospitality and leisure activities so that we can make this state more vibrant and more useful, welcome more people and get Western Australians more active. The bill will not change the rigorous assessments and efforts undertaken by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions. It will make no major changes to the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act 2006, which works effectively. The idea is to support tourism and hospitality businesses by making it easier for them, reducing confusion and streamlining processes to make things better.

The bill has two key streamlining effects. Firstly, it will remove duplication from the process of applying for a licence and a permit—licences for approved development and permits for other activities. Secondly, it will remove the requirement for the minister to conduct further consultation on changes to the Swan and Canning development control area and the Swan Canning Riverpark. Changes have already been made by the metropolitan region scheme, and have already been approved by the Planning and Development Act 2005. There will be a transitional arrangement for people who already have a licence or permit so that it will not be made more difficult for tourism operators or licence holders to transition. The bill will also insert a new regulation-making head power in section 136. This will give the CEO of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions the power to include insurance as part the granting of permits, which is not the case at the moment. There are more amendments.

In summary, the bill will introduce reforms that will enable DBCA to focus its regulatory efforts on protecting the outstanding values of the Swan and Canning Rivers, which will benefit the people of Perth. The intention of the Streamline WA initiative is to make things better, and this bill will make things better for tourism operators, the hospitality industry and related industries. I commend this bill to the house and thank you for the opportunity to speak, Madam Acting Speaker.

**MR M.J. FOLKARD (Burns Beach)** [12.50 pm]: I rise to speak to the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022, which brings together several acts that relate to the Swan and Canning Rivers to provide better oversight and enhance tourism, planning and development. I am not going to talk much more about that as many members who have spoken before me have unpacked those things, and I think it might be duplication if I were to do so.

I grew up on the Derbarl Yerrigan. The Canning River has a special place for me, as my mother's ashes are spread somewhere along the river. When she passed, my brother, who had the ashes, wanted us to come together. I said to him, "No, don't. You know where you will spread them; don't tell us." Every time we look at the river, that is Mum. As I said, it is a special place for me.

The river is a place of safety. It is a place that made me tough and taught me resilience. What do I mean by that? It taught me to be tough in the face of adversity. When I was a young kid, we lived in Shelley in the electorate of the current member for Riverton. I used to go to school at Aquinas College. I had two younger brothers. We were not rich. For us to get to school, we used to swim the river each day. Talk about building a bit of resilience! Some days it was cold, some days it was deadset freezing, but we would still swim the river. We used to hide an old foamie in the reeds. My two younger brothers and I would walk down to the river, my brothers would climb onto the surfboard, and I would push them across at Salter Point, which was about 50 or maybe 60 yards across. If we got the right tide, it was quite a fast swim; if we got the wrong tide, it could take us a little bit longer. We used to swim across, get off and hide the foamie in amongst the reeds on the other side, and then walk along the river's edge up to Nanna's place where we would have either a hot shower or a hose down, depending on the time of year. Nanna would have breakfast ready for us—a big bowl of porridge with heaps of honey and a bit of milk—and then we would wander off to school. I was not exactly the most well-behaved kid at school. I can remember my teacher giving me a whack across the hand for forgetting my homework or something along those lines, and I laughed at him. He got a little bit upset. I said, "Mate, is that the best you can do, because I've got to go swim the river to go home?" He realised, "Oh, shit; a strap is not going to work with him!" He was right; it never did. I used to look across at the kids who were a bit more well-off than us and they used to row across in their dinghies, and then there were the rich ones who had a little motor for their dinghies. I would think, "Really?", as we would swim across and run up to Nanna's.

I grew up in Aquinas Bay. I can remember hunting for mullet using kylie. Everyone is going to go, "What's a kylie?" "Kylie" is the Noongar word for boomerang. I remember that we were playing down at the beach and I saw a couple of traditional owner kids down there, throwing things in the water and stunning the mullet. I thought, "What's this?" We went up and spoke to them. They used to get old brick straps and fold them over, whack them with a brick to make them nice and flat, and then turn them into a steel boomerang. There was so much mullet back in the river in those days that we used to throw the kylie at the mullet and stun them. A mullet would come up and we would grab it, and that was that night's dinner. Members might question that, but the mullet were 12 or 18 inches long; they were a good size. Anyway, we got a bit of a passion for mullet. This was back in the days when you could net in the river. You cannot do that now. I do not know how we ended up with a length of about 40 metres of two-gauge net, but we used to put that out and catch a couple more mullet, which was great. We would take the mullet home, fillet it and Nanna used to pour a little bit of port on it. That was often our lunch or afternoon tea when we got home. We used to do that. We then got a bit greedier, because we could not catch enough mullet. All the cousins would say, "Hang on; there's a good feed at Nanna's place. Have the kids got any fish?" We got hold of this net, which was almost like a rag net that we tied all together. I am not sure where we found it, but we started catching a couple of dozen mullet, which was great; we could feed the family.

As we were doing this, we would catch small cobbler. Cobblers are beautiful fish that have no bones and a lot more of a salty white flavour. I remember that we were dragging the net out and my younger brother trod on one of them. Cobblers have a spike in the top of their head, and when you tread on it, it is like someone has put a fire inside your foot because it gets really, really painful. I can remember carrying my brother up the stairs. Nanna, in her wisdom, put his foot in a bucket of really, really hot water. She left it in there for half an hour, then took his foot out and put it into a bucket of ice-cold water. This hot and cold broke down the toxins from the cobbler sting. Normally, it takes a couple of days to get over it, but by using the hot and cold water in the bucket, it helped to break down the toxins really quickly. It is interesting that the treatment for marine stings used by Surf Life Saving these days is to take the kids and put them under a really hot shower. It still works; it breaks down the toxins. They use that when a kid gets stung down on the beach, together with a bag of ice and Stingose, and it is happy days for them. I learnt this from my Nanna as a young kid, 40 or 50 years ago. If anyone says that it is a modern treatment, I tend to have a bit of a giggle. I remember the days when vinegar used to solve the issues with stingers on the beach. The kids would end up smelling like fish and chips for the night! Anyway, I digress.

I also learnt to sail on the river, and I became a very good sailor. I had a little Flying Ant. Normally, that is a two-person crewed boat, but I used to crew it by myself. I became a very good, very proficient sailor. Aquinas Bay has sandbanks and all that sort of stuff to navigate. I had to do all sorts of things by myself—lift out the keel and all that. I learnt these skills for life. My father took me down to the junior sailing program at the South of Perth Yacht Club—I think I was about eight or nine at the time—and people tried to teach me to sail a Pelican. I realised that I could not do it because —

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** It kept on squawking!

**Mr M.J. FOLKARD:** It kept on squawking? No! It is a lovely little sailing vessel for training kids. I could sail the damn thing by myself, but it needed two people to crew it, so I thought that was not going to work for me.

I have carried my sailing skills with me for life. I was down in Esperance many years ago during the super 15s national keelboat championship. I had never sailed on one of those boats before, but my brother-in-law was running late and I got hooked into crewing on one of the vessels. There was a fleet of 60 and we finished in the top 15. I had not set foot on that style of yacht before, and I still have a laugh with my brother-in-law because he has never beaten that top-15 finish. I learnt skills and watermanship out there. I sailed my little Flying Ant to death. I cracked the keel on it a couple of times. I cracked the centre box and I learnt how to use fibreglass and repair it. For me, the river is more than just a space of water.

I note from the plans I have seen recently that parts of the river will have patches of mussels to filter the river water. I would like to see some more information about that because I think that anything that is a nutrient harvester, for want of a better word, is a good thing. I will follow the updates on this to see how it is going. I have a passion for the river and its cleanliness. My personal point of view is that it is important. I remember as a kid Nanna growling at us because she used to see all the stuff from the ski boats wash up from the river. One of our jobs, 30 or 40 years ago, was to emu-bob the river edge with the net. I can remember walking with onion bags full of rubbish that we picked up from the river, which was really sad, but that is the way it was.

I can remember prawning as a kid and filling an old two-gallon bucket full of prawns in about two sweeps of the river. There were thousands of them. We did not take more than what could feed us; that was the key. We would have our little bucket, and all the mob would come over—all my cousins were there—and we would boil up the prawns. I can remember scooping out the sand with our hands. We would lay out a little plastic sheet and empty out the prawning net. It was a good way to tell how healthy the river was back then. We would fill up a net and then go through it and pick out our prawns. We would put the small cobbler that was in amongst them into a bucket and released him after we had finished prawning—not before, because you did not want to tread on him! I do not remember us walking with shoes in those days as we were trawling. There was always a big fight about who got the river side of the poles because, obviously, whoever walked in the deepest end got wetter than the others, and then the sea breeze came in in the afternoon. We played paper–scissors–rock to work out who got the wrong end, and out we used to go. When Nan passed, we were going through her home and found the prawning nets still underneath her house; we had three of them.

They were wonderful nights—hot summer’s nights with fresh prawns. There was none of the butter and flash sauces that they have now—just a bit of vinegar and salt. All my mob were raised on these magnificent feeds. The health of the river is very important and, to be frank, I would like to see more of the mussel filters that we are putting in. I will not say they will clean up the river, because I think the river is pretty good, but I have not been down there recently. I can remember when I was a kid finding the steel cans that were thrown overboard—you could tell they were the old Swan cans. They used to cut the crap out of our feet if we were not paying attention.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk):** Member, I am not sure that that is terribly parliamentary.

**Mr M.J. FOLKARD:** My apologies, ma’am, but they did cut deep and they did hurt lots.

I look towards the river now. I learnt to dive in the river. Andy Frewd was a naval clearance diver who taught us how to dive when I was at Christ Church Grammar School. I went to plenty of good schools—a failure at all! We

learnt to dive at Blackwall Reach and we used to catch the blue swimmers there. Some of them could wrap around from kidney to kidney—they were huge. We used to swim out there with little crab pots. We would swim under the Rottnest ferry with our dive gear going across from one side to the other. There were none of the dive safety flags back in those days.

The river has such an iconic view for Western Australia, not only Perth, and its health is the key. One of the things that drives the bill is the modernising of the river. I would love to see more ferries being used on the river. A line of posts runs down the centre of the estuary in Shelley. The posts were there to help bring down the produce from Canning River to Fremantle. There used to be huge punts and fellows used to pole them across the open waters and then down Canning River, out through the Swan and down to Freo where they were loaded onto ships. Things like jarrah and wool and other things from the early days of WA were carried. I do not want to call the river infrastructure, but it is such an important river. It is not the size of the Murray River or anything like that, but it is our river and its health and protection sits strongly within our community.

I can remember seeing schools of mullet that used to turn the river silver. I used to sit in Aquinas Bay on a dead flat winter's morning, drinking a hot cocoa at Nanna's place, which overlooked the estuary. I cannot remember whether we swam in the river, but I can remember the whole bay bubbling with silver from the mullet and pods of dolphins chasing them. I watched the spectacle of the mullet flying out of the water. I have not seen that since. I am told that the river is getting healthier and I suggest that the only way to tell is from the number of dolphins that are returning to the river.

Madam Acting Speaker, may I have a short extension?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** You can have an extension, member. It is such poetry, I would like to hear more.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr M.J. FOLKARD:** Thank you.

The return of the mullet is very important. Blue swimmer crabs were everywhere. I remember walking down the front with little scoop nets and an old tin suitcase and scooping the crabs at the right time of year and flipping them in the back, and never being checked whether they were the right size or whether we had a gauge. Today people must have a gauge for just about every seafood they catch, whether it be crab, abalone or the like. I would like to see more of that. I know the minister is across this: I would love to see better management of the inflows. One of the biggest risks the river faces at the moment is not through population growth, but nutrients transitioning into the water flow, whether they be from the farmers in the Avon Valley or overflows from stormwater drains closer to the city. We really have to get on top of the protection of the water column.

I know that the team down at the Swan River Trust with their boats and that sort of stuff do a brilliant job of removing the rubbish and litter from the river, including a lot of shopping trolleys. I think we will find lots of scooters and e-scooters laying in there. The sooner we can get those out, the better we can protect our water quality. Who can forget the blue-green algae in the upper parts of the Canning River leading to the old dam and, more importantly, the blue-green outbreaks around the University of Western Australia and the Royal Perth Yacht Club. That worries me. If that continues, it is a sign that we have not got it right. As I said, we need to get the balance of that water right.

Another thing that worries me is we do not see kids running around down by the river as much as we used to. I have a little bit of heartache about that because playing by the river taught me so much. It taught me resilience, as I said earlier. I will never forget my memories of kylie-ing for those mullets. They were happy times for me, but we do not see that now. We do not see kids having that interaction. If we see a kid wandering around with a gidgee or something along those lines, everyone thinks the kid is up to no good, but he is just going to have a bit of fun on the river. I sit back and think, "Really?"

We need to bring our community closer and make our communities appreciate the great value of these areas of nature. Traditional owners have known this for hundreds of thousands of years. We have only been here for a freckle—absolutely nothing in comparison. I suggest that the knowledge that the traditional owners have about the Derbarl Yerrigan is phenomenal. Some of the old stories talk of the way of the dolphin, the mullet and the crab.

I am very appreciative of anything we can do to improve the way we develop our waterways. This bill will add to the quality of the planning and development. I think that tourism is a good thing. We are so blessed with the fact that the whole of our city and metropolitan areas are based on our river. Our electoral system is based on the river. Members may not realise that, but when they reallocate our electoral boundaries, it starts from the river and flows out from there. It has such an impact on our lives.

I rose to contribute to this debate today because I have such a passion about this issue. We need to keep an eye on our waterways. I get angry when I see chemical inflows and all that sort of stuff. I do not think that is right. That needs to be managed. We have good people who have their heads across it. Hopefully, these tools will empower the minister to take the protection of our river to another level, and, more importantly, enhance this amenity for everyone. Thank you. I commend the bill to the house.

**MRS. A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [1.13 pm]: I rise to also make a contribution to the debate on this excellent legislation, the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022. I do so tremulously, following in the footsteps of the member for Burns Beach, with his bucolic and picturesque description of his childhood on the banks of the Swan River—something that so many people in Perth and Western Australia get to enjoy. I am not sure I can match the standard that has been set by the member for Burns Beach, but he touched on a couple of things in this legislation that I think are very important, and I commend the minister for those.

The member for Burns Beach identified quite clearly and articulately in his contribution, for which I thank him, that this bill will do a couple of really important things. It will cut red tape, which this McGowan government is committed to doing, encouraging more people to use and access the Swan and Canning Rivers. In doing that, it will create more champions for preserving our environment. As the member for Burns Beach articulated, these river systems are part of not only the physical heritage, but also the social, cultural and, for many people, spiritual heritage of this place that we live in and love. If this legislation does exactly that, once again, it is legislation for which this McGowan government should be commended. Although this legislation will encourage participation and use of the river, it will also protect the environment, which our legislation as a whole has done and will continue to do.

The contribution just made by the member for Burns Beach about the changes to the marine life forms in the Swan and Canning River system brings to mind the important role that we play in protecting our environment. Part of that role is about finding and striking the right balance. Already, on three separate occasions today, we have had that balance between our use of waters and recreational fishing highlighted for us. When Madam Speaker opened the day's proceedings and called for petitions, the member for Cockburn stood up and tabled a petition from 400-odd signatories referring to the environmental damage that can be caused by fishing lines and hooks being left in the river environment. However, he did not do that to condemn recreational fishers, and I know that this government does not condemn recreational fishers. The second time the importance of fishing and watercourses in our communities was identified today was when the Minister for Fisheries made a brief ministerial statement about the Pemberton hatcheries, saying that fishing is a great part of the Western Australian experience. Now we come to the third occasion, as we talk about the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill. In all these ways—the petition from the member for Cockburn, the brief ministerial statement from the Minister for Fisheries and the contribution from the member for Burns Beach—we can see that our waterways, watercourses, lakes, rivers and oceans require us as legislators to identify the right balance.

The reason I am so pleased to speak on this legislation is because, once again, I think that the McGowan government is striking the right balance between protecting our environment and allowing access to these beautiful parts of our landscape.

I want to locate the importance of protecting our environment in a broader context. Unfortunately, I need to bring the good vibes down ever so slightly, because we are facing an incredible challenge with the environment right now in Perth, Western Australia, Australia and globally. I make this point knowing that the hardworking minister who has brought this legislation to the house has just returned from the United Nations Climate Change Conference—COP27—in Egypt, at which climate change was on the agenda. It is imperative that people like our Minister for Environment attend national forums like that so that the issue of climate change can be properly canvassed. I make this point because only yesterday, the Bureau of Meteorology and the CSIRO tabled their most recent climate report. I am going to read an article from *The Guardian* that addresses the tabling of the report. It is titled “Australia faces worsening extreme weather events latest BoM and CSIRO climate report finds” and it is authored by Graham Readfearn. The article states —

**The continent is now 1.47C hotter than it was in 1910 and sea levels around the coastline are rising at an accelerating rate**

Extreme weather events including torrential downpours, searing heat and dangerous bushfire conditions are all getting worse across Australia, with even more challenging events to come, according to the latest snapshot of the nation's climate.

The continent is now 1.47C hotter ...

Many of the changes are being driven by rising levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere caused mostly by the burning of fossil fuels.

The report ... provides a snapshot of changes on land and ocean, including temperature, rainfall, storms and droughts.

The environment minister —

That is the federal environment minister —

Tanya Plibersek, said the report was “sobering reading” and the science minister, Ed Husic, said it “reinforces the urgent need for action on climate change”.

Research director of the Climate Science Centre at CSIRO, Jaci Brown, said: “There are no surprises here and the story hasn't changed. It's happening, it's serious and we need to do something about it.”

It is happening, it is serious and we need to do something about it. That is why I commend the federal Labor Albanese government for actually taking the steps necessary to tackle climate change. The article continues —

The Albanese government took to the summit an improved emissions target of 43% by 2030, based on 2005 levels ...

On Tuesday evening, the government announced it was adding \$500m to the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to commercialise renewable energy, improve energy efficiency and develop other clean energy technologies.

I pause there to reflect on how what the federal Labor government is doing to protect our environment echoes what the state Labor government is doing. Right off the bat, we are tackling the challenges presented by our deteriorating environmental conditions by being sensible and pragmatic. We are commercialising renewable energy. There clearly needs to be an economic imperative to the way we respond to the challenges of climate change, just as it is also important to have a commercial element to the preservation of the Swan and Canning Rivers. That includes commercialising not only the intellectual property around renewable energy, but also renewable energy generally. We are also seeking to improve energy efficiency and develop clean energy technologies. These moves will create hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs.

I now return to the article. The article refers to the changes in the day and night-time temperatures in Australia and states —

As an example, the report says there were 33 days in 2019 when the national average maximum temperature went above 39C. This was more days in one year than in all the previous 58 years.

Trends in daily rainfall were mixed around the country, the report said, but an increase in the amount of rain falling in sudden downpours over several hours was now “very clear over recent decades”.

We only have to look at the devastating floods on the eastern seaboard to see the consequence of that. The report quotes a senior scientist at the bureau as saying —

“Pretty well everything we report here is consistent with what we would expect with human-caused climate change,” ...

We can see how urgent the need to tackle climate change has become. It is not just the federal government that is responding to the challenges of climate change. It is also the state government and the state Parliament. On the question of what the state government is doing to tackle climate change and preserve our environment, I want to identify a number of items. The McGowan Labor government has made the historic decision that it will retire all Western Australian government-owned coal-fired power stations by 2023, and it will transition the Western Australian energy generation system to a greater use of renewables and make sure that electricity reliability and affordability continues to be paramount. The government is also delivering major investment in the south west of the state with an extraordinary \$3.8 billion for new green power infrastructure, including wind generation and storage. This is a responsible plan to phase out coal-fired power, boost our green power infrastructure and reduce carbon emissions.

In addition, the McGowan government is taking the next steps towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by committing to a whole-of-government 2030 reduction target of 80 per cent below 2020 levels. Action on climate change is crucial to diversifying the Western Australian economy, creating long-term jobs, managing environment impacts, and protecting the health and wellbeing of Western Australians. There has also been a \$500 million state budget boost to the climate action fund, which will take the total value of that fund to \$1.25 billion. The McGowan government has also provided \$60 million to accelerate the use of zero-emissions vehicles. I understand that today, the federal government also passed legislation to remove additional taxes on electric vehicles to make them more affordable for purchasers. Labor is the party that cuts not only red tape, but also taxes. The government has set aside \$1.4 billion as a down payment for a new renewable-power desalination plant to support the government’s 2030 emissions target.

That is not all that we are doing to protect our environment and tackle the challenges of climate change. We also have our incredibly successful Plan for Plastics. That plan has phased-out a range of single-use plastics. We have also introduced our container deposit scheme, which has been embraced and is well loved by the community, and particularly by organisations in my neighbourhood like the Rotary Club of Mount Lawley and Yokine Districts Bowling Club. Our government has also announced the end of logging of old-growth native forests in our south west by 2024. We have introduced the Plan for Our Parks, which will create five million hectares of new parks. We have also created and expanded our Aboriginal ranger program. In these ways, the McGowan government has demonstrated its commitment to preserving and defending the environment of Western Australia.

People who know all about the importance of our environment, given that they are fortunate enough to live in the beautiful suburb of Yangebup, are the students, staff and parents of Yangebup Primary School, who are in the Speaker’s gallery as guests of the member for Cockburn. Another great primary school is Coolbinia Primary School, which is in my electorate of Mount Lawley. I want to welcome, on behalf of the member for Cockburn, the students, staff and parents from Yangebup Primary School. If you stick around long enough, I am sure you will get to hear the member for Cockburn make a contribution on this very bill, and perhaps one even more apt than mine.

It is not just the government in Western Australia that is looking at ways in which it can promote awareness of climate change and protect our environment, but also the Parliament. I want to commend members of the Education and Health Standing Committee of the forty-first Parliament for their second report, *Making hope practical: Report of the inquiry into the response of Western Australian schools to climate change*. I want to commend Coolbinia Primary School in particular. I have often spoken in this place about that school. That school is very fortunate that a beautiful area of remnant bushland is located right next to it. Dr Elaine Lewis, a cross-curriculum educational leader at Coolbinia Primary School, was one of the key witnesses in the committee's inquiry. She talked about the work that is being undertaken at Coolbinia Primary School to promote awareness and understanding of climate change and the importance of the urban tree canopy. The committee report commended Dr Lewis for her work. I want to re-emphasise that.

The reason that bit of bushland in Coolbinia is so important is that in the time since colonisation, suburbs and houses have been built and developed throughout what the Noongar people describe as Boorloo, or the metropolitan region of Perth. A network of lakes, wetlands, parks and bush is vital to the remnant ecosystem. The Coolbinia bushland is part of that. The Inglewood triangle, which I have spoken about previously, is also part of that network. It runs from Herdsman Lake and Lake Monger through the electorate of Mount Lawley—through Yokine Regional Open Space, Coolbinia and Inglewood, past Ron Stone Park, where there is a beautiful lake, and all the way down to that part of the electorate of Mount Lawley that is on the shores of the Swan River. Running between the old East Perth power station and Banks Reserve, all the way up to Maylands Yacht Club at Bardon Park, is what has been classified and identified as a Bush Forever site. Together with Dianella Regional Open Space, this is an important part of the network of bush and water reserves that provides a habitat for our beautiful local fauna.

This is where I want to emulate the efforts of the member for Burns Beach. Bardon Park and Banks Reserve are incredible community assets and facilities. Bardon Park has play equipment, barbecues, sandpits and climbing frames. It is visited periodically by food trucks, which include a woodfired pizza truck down in Maylands. That is all in Bardon Park, which is bordered by Fourth Avenue and is near Mercy Hospital. At the other end of the foreshore in the electorate of Mount Lawley is Banks Reserve. That reserve has a beautiful natural amphitheatre that leads down to the river. Banks Reserve provides incredibly important local community vibrancy for my constituents who live on the banks of the river on the eastern side of Guildford Road and the railway line in East Parade. It also provides wonderful amenity, with new nature play equipment, basketball courts, picnic tables and facilities for families to hold functions and events. The City of Vincent also has the Summer Concerts series, which utilises the natural amphitheatre. It is in close proximity to Optus Stadium, across Matagarup Bridge or the Graham Farmer Freeway footbridge that runs straight across to the other side of the river. Its proximity to other areas makes this a well utilised park.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** That is why it was incredibly important for me, in the context of the last state election in 2021, to have a conversation with the Mayor of the City of Vincent, Emma Cole, to try to see what assistance and support a re-elected McGowan government could provide to the City of Vincent to revitalise and invest in Banks Reserve. The City of Vincent was more than happy to come to the table, as it were, to help us invest in new picnic infrastructure—new tables and chairs, a new gazebo and a covered pavilion area—for the use and benefit of all those people who live on the eastern side of Guildford Road and the railway line in Mt Lawley. They have the great benefit of being in close proximity to the river.

That brings me back to my initial point; that is, this is legislation that will really strike the right balance between preserving and protecting our natural environment and the Swan and Canning Rivers system that we are blessed with. It does so in a way that will not shut off people's access to the system; they will be able to use and enjoy the rivers. The bill will facilitate that in a harmonious way, striking the right balance for both the environment and the community. For members in the chamber,

I have described the relatively small section of the Swan River foreshore that I am fortunate enough to have in the electorate of Mount Lawley. When I heard that the member for Burns Beach was going to make a contribution, I wondered how he would make the leap from the northern coastal suburbs all the way down to the Swan and Canning Rivers. He let us in on a secret with —

**Mr J.R. Quigley:** It's easy by chopper!

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** Yes. He referred to his childhood and education at Aquinas College.

A fact sheet put together by the Parks and Wildlife Service states —

- The Swan and Avon rivers are actually the same river, sometimes called the Swan–Avon. The Swan River joins the Avon River at Walyunga National Park. The combined Swan–Avon River is 280 km long and flows from near Wickiepin to the Indian Ocean at Fremantle. The Swan–Avon River drains a total catchment of approximately 126,000km<sup>2</sup>.
- The Canning River begins in Wandering and flows through Armadale to Applecross, where it joins the Swan.

When I think about the three kilometres of shoreline that I have in the seat of Mount Lawley, this becomes an incredible statistic —

- The combined shoreline of the Swan and Canning rivers is more than 300km long.
- There are 31 major sub-catchments in the Swan Canning Catchment. Drainage patterns from each of these are influenced by local climate and catchment characteristics such as land formation and soil type ...
- Major Swan River tributaries include the Helena River, Wooroloo, Susannah, Ellen, Bennett, Henley and Jane brooks, Blackadder Creek, and Bayswater and South Belmont main drains. The Yilgarn, Mortlock and Lockhart rivers are the main tributaries to the Avon River. Tributaries entering the Canning River include the Southern River, Churchman, Munday, Bickley, Yule and Wungong brooks, Mills Street Main Drain and Bannister Creek.
- The deepest point of the Swan River is about 21m near Mosman Bay. This is a popular scuba diving spot.

I hope it was where that clearance is greatest that the member for Burns Beach was able to dive underneath those ferries! I have to say, as a work health and safety lawyer, I was particularly concerned by the description he gave of diving underneath the Rottneest ferries as they sailed along! Thank God we have moved into a much safer environment these days.

The fact sheet continues —

- The Swan and Canning rivers become an estuary at Walyunga National Park in the Swan River and the Kent Street Weir in the Canning River, which is as far as estuarine effects in terms of tidal forces and marine salinity can be detected.

I just want to finish by acknowledging that for the traditional owners, the name of the Swan and Canning Rivers is Derbarl Yerrigan. From some quick research that I did before making this contribution, I understand that Derbarl Yerrigan describes the flowing point where the salt water meets. When we talk about the estuarine characteristics of the Swan and Canning Rivers system at Walyunga National Park and at Kent Street Weir in the Canning River, it brings to mind that description of the estuarine characteristics that the traditional owners, the Noongar people, had in mind when they described the Swan River as the Derbarl Yerrigan.

I conclude by saying that I am proud to be part of a government that recognises the immediate challenges of climate change. I am proud to be a member of a government that recognises not only the importance of the environment portfolio, but also that there is a balance to be struck between protecting these areas and allowing people to access them for use, enjoyment and amenity. This legislation, once again, achieves that balance for which the McGowan government is now becoming renowned. For that reason, I commend the legislation and the minister. I commend the bill to the house.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk):** Member for Jandakot.

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn) [1.35 pm]:** Cockburn!

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Cockburn—sorry.

**Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE:** That is all right. Acting Speaker, you are normally on the receiving end of people getting the wrong electorate name, so I take no offence. The member for Jandakot is a very good bloke after all, so I am happy to be in company with him.

I rise today to make a contribution to the debate on the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022. I will start with a few thankyou's actually. The first is, obviously, a thankyou to the minister for bringing the bill to the house. As I have said before, sometimes we have to deal with dry legislation, but, at the end, these bills underpin important policy issues. The member for Mount Lawley has stepped us through this government's commitment to protecting our natural estate, including the Swan and Canning Rivers, and combating climate change. Bills like this actually underpin that important work.

The second thankyou I want to give is to the advisers. I want to not only thank them for their work on this bill, but also acknowledge that often when we are in these debates, particularly when the member for Mount Lawley and I are contributing, I feel a little bit sorry for the advisers. I will not elaborate why, but members in the chamber will understand why! I appreciate their patience as advisers. They have done the heavy lifting on the bill. I am not going to suggest that our job is easy; to quote from the famous Liam Neeson film *Taken*, it does take a "particular set of skills" to do what the member for Mount Lawley and I do, but I thank the advisers for their work and their dedication, I will say, during debate on this bill.

The third thankyou that I want to give is to the member for Mount Lawley. I have said before that I followed the member for Mount Lawley to a few different places. He made the mistake of hiring me as a junior lawyer at Slater and Gordon, and then he tried to escape me by being elected to this chamber. Four years later, I snafued him on that one and got elected to this chamber as well. I want to thank him. I do not know whether we should say we

are a dynamic duo or a gruesome twosome, but I appreciate the member for Mount Lawley, particularly because I just had a school group in. I want to thank the member for Mount Lawley for acknowledging the students from Yangebup Primary School. I also want to thank him for holding the fort for a little bit while I was seeing off my guests. I very much appreciate that.

With those matters aside, as I said at the outset, this bill is obviously part of the government's commitment to the Streamline WA agenda. It is part of our commitment to ensuring not only good practice regulation, but also easy regulation when it comes to Western Australia's framework. Whether they are environmental approvals, mining approvals, exploration licences, transport duties or transport licences—any regulatory impost or process of the state—those regulations are necessary because they have important roles to play in protecting either our natural environment or industry. We also want Western Australia to be a place where it is easy to do business and it is easy and predictable for industry, the public, conservationists and community groups to know what the regulatory process is. We want to make sure that that regulatory process is easy. That means that the process can be navigated more easily by stakeholders, but it also means that the process can be held to account more easily, because a simpler process is easier for stakeholder groups to engage with and to hold to account.

As I said, that regulatory framework really underpins a lot of the important work that we do in a lot of different sectors, but particularly in this case in the management of our natural assets. When I volunteered to speak on this bill, I thought that some members might say, "What right does the member for Cockburn have to speak on a bill about the management of the Swan and Canning Rivers given that they do not pass through his electorate?"

**Ms K.E. Giddens:** The wetlands.

**Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE:** Yes, the member for Bateman is right; the Beeliiar wetlands are an integral part of our southern corridor, and she is very aware of that. Over the years, the members for Bateman, Bicton, Willagee and Fremantle and I, as the member for Cockburn—I admit I am a newcomer compared with some of the more seasoned members—have been committed to the preservation of our Beeliiar wetlands. The Beeliiar wetlands form an important part of the overall hydrology of the Swan and Canning river catchment. They are an asset that has been under threat. In many cases, we have built over the top of our wetlands. Of course, many years ago, we did not refer to them as wetlands; we just referred to them as swamps. Our planning system was basically designed entirely around putting roads and other infrastructure over the top of swamps, and it has been only in recent decades that we have started to appreciate the significance of our wetlands. We are very fortunate in the southern suburbs to have the best-preserved network of wetlands remaining in the Perth region in the Beeliiar wetlands. I am really pleased to be part of a government that took up the challenge when the Liberal–National government was proposing its road to nowhere, Roe 8 and 9, which, of course, members will know was to go through the Beeliiar wetlands but never actually get to Fremantle port.

**Ms K.E. Giddens:** It was unfunded as well.

**Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE:** It was unfunded as well. We had a few suggestions for Roe 10. At one stage, we had a tunnel under the river, we had a bridge and we had a realignment of the road. The Barnett government could never decide how it would get the road to the port, but it had decided that it would get it through the wetlands. I am very proud to be part of a government that stood up and said, "No, this is the wrong thing to do to our best remaining example of Perth's important wetlands." I thank the government and the many members of this government who fought for that outcome. It is really pleasing to see that we are currently in the consultation process on what was previously known as the Roe 9 corridor, which is being very ably led by the member for Willagee. He is going through consultation in suburbs like Hamilton Hill and talking to people about how we can preserve the natural environment in the Roe 9 corridor, but also deliver dividends for the community. That really is the balance that we as a Labor government have to find in environmental management. I really respect any Labor member of Parliament who gets the role of Minister for Environment, because it is a balancing act between ensuring that we protect our natural assets, like our south west forests and the Beeliiar wetlands, and encouraging secure industries and sensible development and infill in the city so that secure housing, jobs and services are provided for people well into the future. It is a real balancing act.

I know that the Minister for Environment takes his responsibilities very seriously as, essentially, the custodian of the conservation estate of Western Australia. I want to acknowledge that and pay tribute to that. We know that, in the past, governments have not taken seriously their role as custodians of the Swan and Canning river system. I remember the days when we were in opposition, particularly the early days in opposition. Members might recall that in around 2009 or 2010, there was a series of dolphin deaths in the Swan River. It took a number of years to establish the cause. I believe Hon Dr Sally Talbot was the shadow environment minister at the time and Hon Donna Faragher was the environment minister. It took a lot of badgering from Hon Dr Sally Talbot to persuade the government to do the investigations that were needed to find out the cause of the dolphin deaths in the river. If memory serves me right, ultimately, after a couple of years, it was established that the cause of those dolphin deaths was a pesticide or other chemical that had made its way into the Swan and Canning river system. It was really tragic at the time to see that happening in an asset as significant as the Swan River, but also to see a government dragging its feet on the issue.



It had to be dragged by the Labor opposition towards taking some action. Luckily, we are now at a stage of the management of the Swan River whereby the government is taking its responsibility seriously, and this bill is an example of getting the balance right between good regulation and simple regulation.

When I was reflecting on the issue of the dolphin deaths in the late 2000s and early 2010s, it made me reflect on the significance of the Swan and Canning river system to people across the whole of Western Australia, but particularly in the metropolitan area. I do not think any other natural asset is so essential to the way of life in Perth. It structures the way that our city has been planned and developed. It is a place of great significance to traditional owners. I want to acknowledge, as the member for Mount Lawley said, that the Swan River should be known by its traditional name, Derbarl Yerrigan, and had been taken care of by traditional owners for many thousands of years. It is a place of great cultural significance for our traditional owners. It is also a place of great significance to everyday families for recreation, whether that be boating or fishing or simply walking or cycling. I get puffed just thinking about the concept of running the bridges, from the Causeway to the Narrows Bridge. I can see that the member for Armadale's pulse has barely quickened at the thought of it. To him, doing a lap around the Narrows and the Causeway is just a warm up. I understand that he does that when he runs from Armadale to Parliament; he just does an extra lap for sport along the way! It is something that I know people do; I am not one of them. There are a few of us in this chamber who have not done that but probably should.

The Swan River is iconic. It is significant to everybody, no matter how they use it and no matter where they live in Perth. It is iconic, so we need to take good care of it. I am really pleased to say that not only do we have a government that is taking care of the Swan River, but also I know that future generations will be taking care of our natural assets like the Swan River. I know that because I very recently held the inaugural Cockburn environmental leadership program at the Wetlands Centre on Hope Road in Bibra Lake. The Cockburn environmental leadership program is a new initiative that I run as the member for Cockburn. It is a program that is designed to train our young people in areas like conservation issues and leadership in conservation so that they can become leaders in their community for advocating for things like our wetlands and the Swan River.

I want to recognise the students who came along to the Cockburn environmental leadership day. I will run the program every year. This year, about 23 students from 11 primary schools in my electorate attended. I want to acknowledge the following students: Franchesca Galicia and Hunter McIntyre from Atwell Primary School; Greta Ward and Ruby Ledwidge from Beeliar Primary School; Sara Ranieri, Ben Boomer and Olivia Ianni from Coogee Primary School; Isabella de San Miguel and Mary-Jane De'Laney from Jandakot Primary School; Isaac Forzatti and Annika Upadhyay from Mater Christi Catholic Primary School; Callum Perna and Chloe Constant from Newton Primary School; Alexis Vos and Cara Cremin from South Coogee Primary School; Alexander Kirkby and Shineay Truscott from South Lake Primary School; Leo Lapitskiy and Lexie Ryder-Butling from St Jerome's Catholic Primary School; Amelia Dlugi and Georgia Scott from Success Primary School; and Ebony Soerja Djanegara and Adin Tremain from Yangebup Primary School. All these students represented their primary schools at the Cockburn environmental leadership day and they did a really outstanding job. They learnt about the importance of reducing their waste and the things that we use. We often hear about reduce, re-use, recycle; there is a lot of focus on the recycling part, but the most important part is the reduce part. We had a great presentation from Peg Davies, who taught the students about reducing waste.

We also had a presentation from the Water Corporation. The Water Corporation is particularly pertinent to this debate because its presentation was about how rainfall is declining in Western Australia and we therefore cannot be reliant on our dams in the way that we used to be. In fact, these days, Perth gets the bulk of its water from desalination plants. That is all about adapting to a drying climate and the challenges of climate change. Of course, it has always been Labor governments that have risen to that challenge. One way that we rose to that challenge was the decision of Geoff Gallop, as Premier, to commission the first desalination plant in Western Australia when we were last in government. This current government has followed that by announcing that a third desalination plant will be built in Alkimos. It was a great presentation from the Water Corporation about the drying climate and how we can better manage our water in the metropolitan area. I really appreciate that contribution from the Water Corporation.

We also had a presentation from Marie Taylor, who is a local Noongar elder. Marie actually won the 2022 WA NAIDOC Female Elder of the Year Award. I want to give my congratulations to Marie. Marie spoke extensively and passionately about the relationship that traditional owners have with Beeliar wetlands and the broader Swan and Canning Rivers system.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr D.A.E. SCAIFE:** I want to give my particular thanks to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action because he came to the Cockburn environmental leadership day. He spoke to the students and was asked an incredible array of questions. As the minister was leaving, I said, "There's no need for you to prep for question time in future because you've answered all the tough questions asked here today by students from the schools in my electorate." They had great questions about what we are doing to protect our endangered wildlife. They had incredible questions about bushfire management as well, which I did not see coming. I have to say it was good to have a minister with

a background in the emergency services portfolio to speak about that because I think it would have been outside my expertise. He talked to the kids about the science around bushfire management and answered questions about what we are doing to rise to the challenges of climate change. That is an issue that is on the minds of our future generations, even more so than it was on the minds of my generation or the generation before. It is fair to say that there is a bit of anxiety amongst our young people about what the future is going to be like for them, but I know that those students were reassured by the answers that the minister gave and by the work this government is doing that we are heading in the right direction to reduce our carbon emissions and limit the impacts of global warming. I thank the minister very much for attending the program.

I look forward to repeating the program again next year. Hopefully, the minister was not too bamboozled by the questions and will accept the invitation to come back. That is always a risk when we run repeat events. It was a really excellent day. I thank the minister and all the presenters, and all the schools for allowing their students time off to attend.

The next thing that I want to speak about is the subject of climate change. I know that the member for Mount Lawley spoke to this but the reason I raise it is that a drying climate is really the number one challenge that governments right around the world face at the moment. I want to reflect on how far we have come and how far others have not come on the issue of climate change. I will give a little bit of credit; this state opposition is a little bit more progressive on the issue of climate change than the federal Liberal and National Parties, but I have to say that is a pretty low bar to step over. Those guys in the federal Liberal–National coalition would have to be global climate laggards. We saw some promise of change immediately after the federal election, as if they had learnt their lesson, but, in recent days, the federal Leader of the Opposition, Hon Peter Dutton, and Alex Hawke, the former Minister for International Development and the Pacific, tried to weaponise the loss and damage fund that was agreed at COP27, which is just rubbish politics. It is an incredibly difficult and vexed international issue but one that has to be addressed, so to see the federal Liberal–National opposition trying to weaponise it was really disappointing, but not surprising in many ways.

I want to reflect on how far we have come because the idea of pricing carbon is mainstream in industry and has been for a long time. It was quite fascinating to go to the Global Iron Ore and Steel Forecast Conference held in Perth earlier this year to find out that big resource industry players were incredibly progressive. It is chalk and cheese with the federal Liberal–National coalition; it is unbelievable that the party that styles itself as the party of big business could not be further apart from what big business was talking about with regard to decarbonisation and acting on climate change. I want to refer to when I was convener of the environment policy committee for the WA Labor Party in the late 2000s. We wrote into our platform that we would work with the federal government to deliver a price on carbon. I remember that the state Liberal Party went and pulled out from our platform the paragraph that referred to putting a price on carbon and put it on negative flyers that it put out to the constituents of the member for Albany. At the time, I was campaigning for Peter Watson, the then member for Albany. The Liberal Party pulled out a paragraph from our policy platform, which, I have to say, most members of the Labor Party have not read, so it was pretty impressive that opposition researchers went ahead and pulled it out! It tried to weaponise a paragraph in our platform in an attempt to unseat the member for Albany. Of course, that was unsuccessful—we know how that went!—and it is great to have a new member for Albany in the chamber who is doing a sterling job representing Albany. It completely fell flat, and that would have been perhaps the 2008 or 2013 election. It is a shame that we find out that the federal Liberal–National Parties really have not gone anywhere since those days. We are now 15 years on, and they are still trotting out the same lines demonising the price of carbon, when big players in the resources industry have fully embraced the fact that we have to price carbon and there has to be a price signal through some kind of mechanism. If government does not do it, industry will get on with it and do it anyway.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 5790.]

**VISITORS — JACK AND DEARNE ARRAH AND KAREN DOYLE,  
NEWBOROUGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL  
AND SILVER TREE STEINER SCHOOL**

*Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [1.59 pm]: I have some people to acknowledge in the Speaker's gallery. On behalf of the member for Joondalup, I would like to welcome Jack and Dearne Arrah and Karen Doyle to the Speaker's gallery.

I also acknowledge guests of the member for Scarborough. On his behalf, I acknowledge student leaders and the principal from Newborough Primary School.

On behalf of the member for Hillarys, I welcome to the Speaker's gallery the year 6 student councillors and the principal from Springfield Primary School.

Also, as guests of the member for Kalamunda, I welcome students and teachers from Silver Tree Steiner School to the Speaker's gallery today.

**QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE****BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING****748. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I refer to the meeting held in the Premier's office this morning regarding Banksia Hill Detention Centre.

- (1) Will the Premier be making the issues, solutions and recommendations raised by stakeholders and the outcomes of this meeting public?
- (2) Was there consensus from attendees on whether there should be an independent inquiry or not?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1) To the Leader of the Opposition's first question, firstly, I thank the attendees this morning. It was a very good meeting. Everyone got to have their say for as long as they wanted to speak; everyone who was invited—I think there were eight representatives of community and other organisations, maybe six or seven public servants and three elected representatives. In particular, all the people from the community groups got to speak for as long as they wanted, and at the end of the meeting I went back to them twice to ask whether there was anything more they wanted to raise. Everyone got to air any issues they had. They raised a range of issues, which I just ventilated to the press outside. I committed to responding in writing to them and will be making further announcements publicly, I expect, before the end of the year in terms of some of the responses to those issues. Much of what they raised, the government already has in train. For instance, one person raised that we need on-country options for young people, and, obviously, we announced in the budget earlier this year that we will be doing that in the Kimberley. Another person raised that they would like to see a rewrite of the juvenile justice act—that is already in train. We are working on that. Another person raised that they would like to see a different, enhanced more therapeutic model of care. The government is working on that already, and I expect we will have further announcements on those things. It was productive to hear it, but it is good to know that we are on the right pathway.
- (2) In terms of the Leader of the Opposition's second question about an inquiry, there was overwhelming consensus that there should not be an inquiry—and in fact virtually every participant said they do not want any more inquiries.

**BANKSIA HILL DETENTION CENTRE — PREMIER'S MEETING****749. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Could the Premier advise what his government will do differently to address the challenges in the youth justice system as a result of his meeting held this morning or will he continue to do the same?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I just outlined to the Leader of the Opposition, but I will be repetitive because that is the nature of her questioning every single day. We are going to do something that has never been done before, which is an on-country sentencing option. It is not a boot camp, as the Liberal government before the last one put in place. It will be an on-country sentencing option in the Kimberley for, in particular, Aboriginal youths from throughout regional WA. That is different. A new model of care will be developed—we are working through—that will be different from what is currently in place. I outlined the rewrite of the legislation a moment ago of the juvenile justice act.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** You're already doing that, Premier.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It has not been drafted; it has not been introduced.

The last juvenile justice act was passed by Cheryl Edwardes, I think, back in the mid-1990s. It is something that has been redrafted with a view to implementation. They are three important things. As I constantly say, and I thought that the Minister for Community Services—both ministers were very impressive—was very impressive this morning when she said that it is a complex issue. There is rehabilitation and providing opportunities to young people, detainees, which is incredibly important, but there are also the rights and protection of people in the public and the victims. We have to take both of these things into account; we cannot do just one.

**AT-RISK YOUTH — ON-COUNTRY DIVERSION FACILITY — KIMBERLEY****750. Ms D.G. D'ANNA to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting communities in working to break the cycle of youth offending.

- (1) Can the Premier further outline to the house how the Marlamanu on-country diversionary program would provide an alternative to detention in the Kimberley and help young people turn their lives around?
- (2) Can the Premier also advise the house what other measures this government is taking to address the complex issue of youth offending?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Kimberley for the question, her incredible hard work in one of the biggest electorates in the world and the great job she does up there. You have only to visit the Kimberley with the member for Kimberley to know that she is deeply engaged and works incredibly hard for constituents all across that magnificent place.

- (1)–(2) The government is investing \$40 million in a comprehensive package to help break the cycle of youth offending across the Kimberley. Yesterday, the Minister for Regional Development announced that Marlamanu Pty Ltd will be delivering the pilot on-country diversionary program in the Kimberley. It will be located 112 kilometres outside Derby at the Myroodah cattle station. We are investing \$15 million in this program; we have been working closely with Aboriginal leaders to design the facility. It will provide 16 or so places for young men, in particular, between the ages of 14 and 17 years. It will deliver a culturally appropriate alternative rehabilitation pathway. It will be a sentencing option or alternative for the courts. We also providing \$240 000 to two other Aboriginal corporations, and they will progress the planning for other safe place residential accommodation proposals in Derby and Kununurra. We are also delivering the Kimberley community action fund, with delivered grants to 12 local projects, including Djarindjin Aboriginal Corporation for its family empowerment program and Wunan Foundation’s swimming the river on horseback program.

We have also rolled out the Target 120 early intervention program across regional WA. The program itself is about early intervention into families, which we brought in when we came to office. It is not just about the end of the train line; it is about actually doing something with families to try to intervene and assist to prevent young people getting caught in antisocial or criminal behaviour. The program has been incredibly successful since February 2019 and 216 young people have participated. It has shown a significant reduction in contact with police by the people engaged, compared with past performance, with a 65 per cent reduction in contact with police.

We have a very practical and pragmatic program to deal with youth offending that intervenes early—and rehabilitation programs as well. We are investing \$350 million-plus from the announcement we made yesterday into upgrading and improving remote Aboriginal communities. I might also remind members that back in 2015–16, the then government had a plan to close remote Aboriginal communities. Members might recall the then government described Aboriginal men living in these facilities as sex offenders, broadly. They might remember that was the case back when members opposite were last in office. That is the way they approached those issues back when they were in office. We are investing more in remote Aboriginal communities and in Aboriginal programs than any government before.

#### HOSPITAL IN HOME SERVICE

**751. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the minister’s answer yesterday regarding the Hospital in Home service provided by Silverchain that the uncertainty around the future of this contract would have no material impact on the organisation as it makes up only 15 per cent of its entire contract.

- (1) If Silverchain is, in the minister’s words, “highly regarded and enormously valued in our community”, why is the government dragging its feet on extending a contract that keeps thousands of people out of hospital each year?
- (2) Does the minister accept that it is extraordinarily difficult to retain staff when there is no long-term job security in a 12-month contract?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

- (1)–(2) First of all, the member for Vasse has verbed me in the house, because I did not say that. She has verbed and misquoted me.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The member has claimed that I said certain things yesterday that I did not say. It is dishonest and the member needs to correct the record.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! Member for Vasse, if you are going to behave in this unruly way, you will not get a supplementary.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** At no point did I say that it would not affect Silverchain at all. I did not say that at all, but that is what the member is claiming. The point I made yesterday is that it is 15 per cent of the entire business of Silverchain. Silverchain does an incredible job. Most of its footprint is in aged care and palliative care. That is the majority of the work that it does. The staff who work across both of those contracts work across home care as well. That is Silverchain’s business model and it does a great job, but the reality is that we are looking at ways we can

improve access to Hospital in Home. We want to expand Hospital in Home. We want to expand the ability of patients to be admitted to hospital, if you like, at home. That is the work that we are doing as the government and as part of looking at those pressure points in our system to ensure that we have bed flow and a flow of patients through our hospitals. Hospital in Home is an important part of that.

#### HOSPITAL IN HOME SERVICE

**752. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Will the minister rule out a public sector takeover of this service?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I will not be drawn into the silly little games the member plays in this place. It is absolutely pathetic.

**Ms L. Mettam** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Silverchain is highly regarded and well supported by the department, the health service providers and this government. We will continue to support Silverchain and the work that it does. This is about ensuring patient flow through hospitals. I think the Auditor General in her briefing said to the member that ambulance ramping and bed blockage is not about the number of beds in the hospitals. Did she not say that to you?

**Ms L. Mettam:** She said you don't have a strategic plan. You have no plan. She said you've got no strategy and you don't know how to spend your money.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The Auditor General undermined the member's entire argument for the last 12 months. Did she not look you in the eye and say that is not what it is? We are looking at how we can give more people access to Hospital in Home. That is what we are doing and that is what we are committed to doing.

#### POLICE — RECRUITMENT

**753. Ms K.E. GIDDENS to the Minister for Police:**

I refer to the McGowan government's nation-leading approach to police recruitment and being the first Australian jurisdiction to launch an international recruitment campaign targeting police officers in the United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand. Can the minister update the house on the success of this campaign and outline what has attracted these candidates to apply to join the WA Police Force and make Western Australia home?

**Mr P. PAPALIA replied:**

I thank the member for her question and for her well-known and robust support for the Western Australia Police Force. The Western Australia Police Force is engaged in a recruiting campaign in the United Kingdom, Ireland and New Zealand. It is the first jurisdiction to undertake that task because we moved very early to meet with the federal government in only its second week of sitting. We managed to achieve support from Minister Andrew Giles in a very successful meeting we had with him. We moved within two weeks to confirm our application for a labour agreement. The WA Police Force has a labour agreement and is moving to attract qualified police officers from New Zealand, the UK and Ireland. Those officers have to have served at least three years, so we are talking about experienced people. The response has been quite extraordinary. There has not been any great advertising campaign; it has been done through the use of online sites, the announcements we have made and the odd response from the media in the UK in particular, which is aggrieved at us taking their police officers. That will only help our reach with the campaign. It is quite extraordinary. The number of applications on average per week is 105. Noting that we have been going for five and a half weeks, in the order of 600 applications have been received already, and that is not slowing; it will continue at that rate. Something like 62 per cent of the applicants are aged between 20 and 34 and they all have at least three years' experience. The Western Australia Police Force will go through those applications to seek out and source the very best applicants to come to Western Australia.

Why would they not want to come to WA? What is not to like about Western Australia? What a fantastic place. The UK is in the midst of a recession and here in Western Australia we have the most robust economy in the world. We are one of the very few places anywhere that the government is actually in the process of reducing debt. We are the only jurisdiction in this country that is doing that. The police officers can rely upon a stable, very supportive government. If they come to work as a Western Australian police officer, they will get to work with a police force that I think has one of the best reputations in the world. It has rightfully achieved that reputation in recent years. Western Australia is a fantastic place and there is no reason not to come.

**Dr A.D. Buti:** The Liberal Party!

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I do not think they will pay much heed to the criticisms and carping from the Western Australian Liberal Party when they choose this destination for their future careers. I am looking forward to getting some of those officers here and trained rapidly through the 18-week transition course and then out onto the streets of Western Australia.

## HEALTH — INVESTMENT

**754. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the incessant crisis in the health system and the minister's ongoing rhetoric about the Department of Health embarking on the biggest asset investment program in history.

- (1) Given the former coalition government spent \$4.3 billion in its first five years on health asset investment compared with this government's \$1.6 billion, how can the minister justify these claims?
- (2) Is the latest cash injection not just playing catch-up from the miserly investment of \$251 million in 2020–21 and \$379 million in 2021–22?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I have to admit that I am struggling to understand the question —

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please! You have asked the question.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** I know who I would not trust with numbers, and that is the National and Liberal Parties. I would not trust them to count, that is for sure. The investment that the member outlined in the first five years of the Liberal–National government included Fiona Stanley Hospital, which the former Labor government paid for up-front. The Labor government put that money up-front, not the National–Liberal government. It is embarrassing that the member would get on his feet and talk about health spending under the former government when FTE under the former government went backwards by nearly 1 000. The number of health workers went backwards by nearly 1 000 people. We have increased FTE by up to 12 per cent across the board. Our record on investing in the health system is very, very clear. We have a \$3.2 billion asset investment program and the health budget has increased by 30 per cent since we came to government in 2017. That is boots on the ground, bodies in hospitals and people actually working in our healthcare sector. I would not trust the opposition's numbers, and the community certainly does not trust them.

## HEALTH — INVESTMENT

**755. Dr D.J. HONEY to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Finance and members for Wanneroo and Balcatta, your interjections are unruly.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Why does the minister not focus on fixing the health system mess she has created instead of making false claims about the government's investment?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

It is not even worthy of an answer; it was barely a question.

Several members interjected.

## RUAH CENTRE FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**756. Dr K. STRATTON to the Minister for Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's ongoing commitment to combat family and domestic violence and keep Western Australia safe. Can the minister advise the house how the government is supporting initiatives that will provide safety and support for families who are experiencing violence and abuse?

**Ms S.F. McGURK replied:**

I thank the member for Nedlands very much for the question. I know that the member, along with many other colleagues in this place, is concerned about domestic violence and how we combat it. As we lead into the 16 Days in WA campaign, which will start on Friday, we hope to galvanise and encourage people across the community to embark on awareness raising and speak out against violence against women.

It has been really great to see the development of Ruah Community Services' new centre for women and children, which will be located in Northbridge. Unfortunately, I was laid low with COVID-19 so I could not attend the sod-turning event that occurred last week, but many people did attend, including the Minister for Housing. This is going to be a fantastic seven-storey facility that will provide not only accommodation for women and children who are victim–survivors of violence, but also wraparound services. We are appreciating more and more that we need not only a crisis response but also medium and long-term supports to get victims back on their feet. That is the model of care that will be provided in this centre. Ruah has focused on getting input into the model from women with lived experience. A research element will be embedded into the work so that it can start to see the outcomes. That is something we have been very focused on in our service design since coming to government. This will be an

architecturally designed building. In fact, Deb Zanella from Ruah commented to me that the Lord Mayor sounded surprised that it would be a good-looking building and that it would actually be quite handsome. It was good to hear that it has been given the Lord Mayor's seal of approval! I am glad that he is going to support this particular centre.

This is a big initiative; it is a \$30 million project. It is really great that Lotterywest is supporting it with a significant \$4 million grant towards the construction of the facility. What is also significant about this project is that Ruah has not quite finished the full fundraising for it. It has about 75 per cent of the funds, but it already has received a number of philanthropic contributions, in both dollar terms and in-kind support. The harnessing of those contributions at a much more senior and significant level will be really important. The Premier showed his capacity for that just this week when he got significant money out of the corporate sector.

This is going to be a really good project once it is finalised. As I said, it will build on our approach to provide not only extra capacity in crisis terms, but also the medium and long-term support and healing that is needed by victims of domestic violence. That is what we have put in place in our new refuges, and particularly the therapeutic refuge, and is the approach being taken in the hubs. We are coming up to finalising a third of our hubs. This will be ongoing support and contact for victim-survivors of domestic violence.

#### WYNDHAM HOSPITAL — OPERATING HOURS

**757. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the service reduction at Wyndham Hospital, from 24 hours to 12 hours, that started on 25 October 2021.

- (1) What measures is the state government taking to address staff shortages and resume normal operating hours for this hospital?
- (2) Can the minister confirm that the reduced operating hours are only temporary, and advise the time line for a return to normal operations?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I can confirm that the reduced hours are only temporary and are due to staffing pressures. The WA Country Health Service is working diligently and intensively to ensure that we relieve those staffing pressures. This is a challenged area—it is remote and difficult to staff. We work very closely with Rural Health West. We are recruiting a number of healthcare workers, particularly from Queensland and the Northern Territory. We are very focused on getting that back up to a 24/7 service. During the hours that staff are not in place, the community has access to emergency on-call, so it has access to emergency health care when it requires it. It is temporary.

#### WYNDHAM HOSPITAL — OPERATING HOURS

**758. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Given that it has been more than 12 months since that hospital has had normal operations, can the minister please advise a time line for the return to normal operations?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I cannot give the Leader of the Opposition a time line. What I can tell her is that WACHS is working intensively to ensure that we uplift the staffing there. It is immensely challenging to staff rural and regional areas across the nation right now. We have the most rural and remote areas in the world in some instances. We have up to 800 sites to staff. As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, it is very challenging to maintain services in those very remote areas. However, we are providing emergency access to that community, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We are absolutely focused on lifting that service back up to its normal service level as soon as we can practicably and safely do so.

#### MAIN ROADS — MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

**759. Ms E.J. KELSBIE to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the efforts of the McGowan Labor government to create jobs and drive economic opportunities across regional Western Australia, as well as its commitment to bring services that were privatised by the Liberals and Nationals back into public hands. Can the minister update the house on the government's efforts to bring road maintenance jobs back in-house at Main Roads Western Australia, including in Manjimup?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Warren–Blackwood for that question. Of course, as was noted yesterday in this place, many of us got to spend Sunday and Monday in her electorate. What a great time we had! We also saw firsthand the strong advocacy and representation this member is giving to those regional communities.

We all know that the previous Liberal–National government was very much focused on privatising, outsourcing and losing regional jobs. That was the focus of the Liberals and Nationals in government. One of the decisions we

have made is to bring Main Roads network contracts back in-house, which will create 660 permanent jobs, with 490 of those in regional WA. It will mean better pay and conditions for the workers. It will mean increased access to leave. Of course, it will mean that the government can be far better and far more efficient in delivering services across the state. So far, we have brought 41 workers back into Main Roads in the wheatbelt, and 50 workers through the midwest and Gascoyne. Members will be happy to know that next year will be a big one, with workers coming back in-house in the goldfields, the Pilbara, the great southern and the south west, as well as throughout the metropolitan area. That will be huge for those communities.

Of course, Manjimup will now get a new Main Roads office right in the middle of town. This new Main Roads office will accommodate 20 employees, including a project manager; network inspection and operations personnel; maintenance, safety and environmental officers; and business support officers. The new Rose Street office will be central and workers will be able to access all the great cafes and other activities happening in town. We will make sure that Main Roads is back in the centre of those regional communities. We all saw on Monday and Sunday how these towns and communities have so much opportunity and are under so much pressure. More and more people want to live there. We can look at the significant economic activity that is happening around the area and, of course, the produce that continues to come from that town. We know that Manjimup and surrounding towns will continue to grow, and we really want to support that. We are so pleased to be reversing the privatisation that happened under the Liberal–National government—the sacking of regional workers that happened under its watch. We are now bringing permanent employees back to our regional towns.

#### PARABURDOO HOSPITAL

##### **760. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the lack of investment in existing hospital and health service infrastructure in parts of northern WA.

- (1) Is the minister aware that Paraburdoo Hospital is in a state of disrepair and in need of urgent upgrades, with reports of scaffolding used in places to hold up sections of the ceiling?
- (2) If yes, when was the minister made aware, and what plans are underway to ensure that this health facility is repaired and upgraded?

##### **Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I am aware that there are some challenges around Paraburdoo, and there is work immediately underway to put in place those repairs. It is absolutely untrue that there is a lack of investment in the north of the state. That is a falsehood. It is a complete falsehood. There are around 800 sites around the state, by the way. That is completely wrong. We have a significant program of works going on in the northern part of the state. I just visited Newman Hospital to see the first stage of the works, and the second stage of that is underway. There are significant works at Tom Price Hospital. There will be even further works at Newman when we also open dialysis chairs for on-country dialysis, supported by the local Aboriginal community.

From time to time, some of the ageing assets are challenged and need work. That is absolutely what happens. The WA Country Health Service is working with the regional director up there to ensure that those works occur. But the member does these towns no justice by running them down. Members of the Nationals WA say that they are the party for regional WA, but they are so negative about the towns. The former member for North West Central had nothing good to say about the north west central area or about Carnarvon. He did not say a single positive thing about Carnarvon. Actually, we travel around those regional communities. There is huge opportunity. We have world-class health infrastructure and we are committed to delivering that. We have a \$3.2 billion asset investment plan across the country—more than members opposite ever implemented.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!

#### PARABURDOO HOSPITAL

##### **761. Ms M. BEARD to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. Can the minister please outline whether the plans to fix Paraburdoo Hospital will impact service delivery; and, if so, what would be impacted?

##### **Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

That is an entirely operational question that is best put to the health service provider. I am happy to take that question on notice and send it to the WA Country Health Service, but that is an entirely operational question that is around the safety of patients and services. Has there been some guidance from the member's colleagues on the kinds of questions she asks and the framing of her questions? She may want to ask how helpful they are being.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please!



## ABORIGINAL CULTURAL CENTRE

**762. Ms L.L. BAKER to the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to delivering a statewide Aboriginal cultural centre in Perth. Can the minister update the house on how we are engaging and working with Aboriginal people in progressing the development of this iconic project?

**Dr A.D. BUTI replied:**

I thank the member for Maylands for her question. It is a very exciting project that the member refers to—the Aboriginal cultural centre. It is part of our longstanding commitment to reconciliation. I know that the member for Maylands has a longstanding commitment to reconciliation.

As most people would be aware, not so long ago, we joined the Whadjuk Noongar elders to announce that the Terrace Road site is the preferred location for the Aboriginal cultural centre. That followed an extensive culture investigation and an Aboriginal-led process consultation. The site was chosen primarily due to its connection with Derbarl Yerrigan, the Swan River; Matagarup, Heirisson Island; and Kaarta Koomba, Kings Park. All those places are of cultural significance to Noongar people.

Yesterday, I had the great pleasure to join the Minister for Culture and the Arts and the member for Wanneroo, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Premier, at a cleansing ceremony at the Terrace Road site. I just add that the member for Wanneroo, the parliamentary secretary, has done outstanding work in getting to this stage. It has been a challenging exercise, but the parliamentary secretary has been absolutely outstanding. Yesterday was another milestone in that process. I thank the parliamentary secretary very much. I know that the Noongar elders really respect her. She has an incredible relationship with them, so I have great confidence as we go forward with this project. The Minister for Culture and the Arts, the parliamentary secretary and the Premier have been the driving forces behind this centre. It is a really, really exciting project that we are very proud, as a government, to be heavily involved with. Yesterday, the Whadjuk Noongar elders hosted the ceremony, which included a formal welcome to country, a traditional smoking and water cleansing ceremony and a ceremonial song and dance. It was not like the ceremonial turning of the sod, where we just get a bit of sand; we actually had to use a bit of muscle and dig to collect the sand that has been taken away for preservation and will be re-laid when the site is established. It was really a very moving experience yesterday. It is an important step as we go ahead to the next step into the technical site investigations that will commence over the next month.

I should also say that yesterday was a great time to have that ceremonial exercise, because yesterday the Premier also announced that the resource industry has announced the establishment of a world-leading resources community investment initiative. This initiative has been brokered by the Premier, and one project that will be funded out of it will be the Aboriginal cultural centre. It is absolutely fantastic that we will have state and federal government funding and funding from the resource community. That is all very important as we support this iconic, transformative project known as the Aboriginal cultural centre. Members should understand that this is an incredibly significant milestone in our state's history. It will allow Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities to walk together for a reconciled future. It will mean that acknowledgement of the past is immortalised in the city's cultural landscape. I conclude by once again thanking the parliamentary secretary for her work on this.

**The SPEAKER:** The Deputy Leader of the Opposition with the last question.

## JURIEN BAY BOAT HARBOUR — SPUR GROVNE ADDITION

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

I refer to the ongoing environmental issues and fish kills in the Jurien Bay marina. When will the Jurien Bay community finally see this government take action and deliver on the spur groynes, which the minister had designed and costed more than two years ago; and will the community of Jurien Bay see the \$7.8 million it needs to fix the problem following the midyear economic review?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for that question.

I think it is more than \$7.8 million. We had sought to get a partnership with the federal government to help try to address some of these maritime issues across the state, which are significant. We have not been that successful in getting funding for these types of projects, but we continue to work to endeavour to get funding for them.

## JURIEN BAY BOAT HARBOUR — SPUR GROVNE ADDITION

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

I have a supplementary question. With \$6 billion in surplus and the people of Jurien Bay seeing \$120 million being spent down the road at Ocean Reef, why is it unfair for the people of Jurien Bay to expect the government to fix this problem with their asset?

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

Members should remember that it is the Nationals WA, as the members behind me have said, which always wants to divide the community. The member for Moore should remember the motion that he took to his state council, which was: we need to appeal to people in densely populated areas. This type of approach does not lend itself to that motion that he put forward and got endorsed, as I understand it. It is now National Party policy to try to appeal to densely populated areas.

There are a lot of demands across the state. We work to try to meet those demands. There continues to be demands in maritime infrastructure and roads across the entire state. We work very hard. We are delivering a record asset investment program, much of it in regional WA, and we will continue to endeavour to fund projects that deliver real outcomes to the community.

**JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION***Council Membership*

Message from the Council received and read notifying that Hon Steve Martin had been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation.

**SWAN AND CANNING RIVERS MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2022***Second Reading*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn)** [2.40 pm]: Prior to question time, I was speaking about how far some people have travelled on the issue of climate change and putting a price on carbon, and how far some people have not come on that issue. The resource industry and major emitters have come a long way in recognising that we need to deal with climate change and put a price on carbon. I think it is fair to say that the state Liberal Party has come some way on this issue compared with where it was 15 years ago. That resulted in its disastrous plan at the last election to shut down the town of Collie and basically turn the lights off in the whole of Western Australia. That was not a sensible plan. That goes back to what I said at the beginning of my contribution about how the job of a Labor minister who has the environment portfolio is to strike a balance between conserving our natural environment and ensuring that we have a sensible way forward on jobs and industry and preserving people's livelihoods, but also keeping the lights on. The Liberal Party made it clear at the last election that it cannot be trusted when it comes to energy policy and climate change.

The reason I raise these issues is that adapting to climate change and seeking to mitigate the effects of climate change is crucial to the future management of our Swan–Canning River system. Members may be aware that the Swan–Canning River system is subject to the *Swan Canning River protection strategy*. This is an instrument that the Swan and Canning River Management Act 2006 requires to be developed. The most recent version of that strategy was developed by the Barnett Liberal government. The word “climate” is mentioned only twice in that 44-page strategy about how to protect our most important natural asset in the metropolitan area. At a time when climate change is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, it rated only two mentions across that whole report. I am pleased to say that if members go through the updates and progress reports on that strategy, they will notice that after the McGowan government was elected in 2017, “climate” suddenly appears much more often in that documentation. That is a reflection of the fact that this government takes very seriously the effect that a drying climate, and climate change generally, will have on our Swan–Canning River system. That is gratifying to see.

I now want to go back to some comments that I made earlier about the spate of dolphin deaths that occurred in the Swan River in late 2009 and early 2010. That eventually dragged the then Liberal government into doing something about that issue. The *Swan Canning River protection strategy* delivers funding for a variety of initiatives to monitor dolphin populations in the Swan River. That includes the Dolphin Watch program. This program encourages members of the public to be citizen scientists by helping to monitor and report injured, entangled or sick dolphins, and dolphin deaths, so that they can be recorded and investigated and we can get to the bottom of the cause of the problem and hopefully will not end up in the situation that we were in in the 2000s. Over the years, this government has also put additional funding into a range of programs to monitor water quality in the Swan and Canning Rivers. That is gratifying to see. We have also provided for the installation of oxygenation plants, which operate along a 14 or 15-kilometre section of the Swan River. Positive steps have been made by successive governments. However, as I have said, the former Liberal–National government had to be dragged kicking and screaming to do something about these issues, including climate change.

I conclude my comments by again thanking the Minister for Environment for bringing this bill to the house. As I have said, although this bill does not deal directly with improvements to or conservation of the Swan–Canning River system, it deals with the overarching regulatory environment. We can only successfully protect Perth's greatest natural asset, the Derbarl Yerrigan, if we get the regulatory framework right. We need to have a framework that is streamlined and simple for people to understand and measure so that stakeholders can be held accountable. This bill might be technical work, but it is very important work in protecting our Swan and Canning Rivers, and I commend it to the house.

**MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman)** [2.46 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to rise today to speak on the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022. I always enjoy the contribution of the member for Cockburn, but I do not necessarily enjoy speaking after him. He sets an incredibly high bar with his considered contributions, so the inspiration has been set. Thanks for that!

As has been noted, this bill seeks to streamline the regulatory environment for businesses that operate on the Swan and Canning Rivers. This is good news for the small businesses that operate along the river in my electorate of Bateman. The major economic activity in my electorate is centred around small businesses. The Derbarl Yerrigan, or Swan River, and the Canning River, sit at the heart of my electorate and the lifestyles that we enjoy in Bateman. This is not necessarily a business that will benefit from this bill, but an example of the economic benefit that the river provides to my community is Kerbside Cafe at Mt Henry Bridge. That is a great little kiosk that serves people who enjoy the foreshore along the Derbarl Yerrigan, ride their bikes and bring their kids there. It is a striving little community. That is just one example of many of the riverside businesses in my electorate.

I now turn to the specifics of the businesses that will benefit from this bill. This bill will remove duplication by removing the need for businesses to have both a licence and a permit. A licence will be required only if it relates to an approved development. If that criterion is not met, businesses will be allowed to operate with just a permit. That is good news. It is part of a Streamline WA initiative to reduce red tape for businesses in the community.

Another reduction in duplication and red tape in the bureaucratic effort of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions is the removal of the requirement for the Minister for Environment to conduct further consultation on changes to the Swan–Canning development control area where those changes relate to an amendment to the metropolitan region scheme.

[Interruption.]

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Excuse me!

**The SPEAKER:** Bless you, member for Landsdale! Sorry for interrupting the member for Bateman's speech!

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** I have never heard a sneeze like that!

That will not mean the removal of consultation. Extensive consultation already takes place on proposed amendments to the metropolitan region scheme. This bill will remove the requirement to go through that consultation again, and thereby reduce duplication. I note that the community sometimes get confused about consultation. It is really important to conduct consultation. We know how important it is to talk to people who will be directly affected by any changes that are proposed. We also know that the community can get fatigued by ongoing and constant consultation. People often say to me about different levels of consultation, "But I've already contributed to that and given my feedback", and, when I question them further, it was about something a bit different and they had not realised that they had to go through to another level. It is great news to be able to streamline the consultation to ensure that the public has the best opportunity to give its feedback in an effective way.

As was noted by my colleagues, including the member for Cockburn before me, it is impossible to talk about the Swan and Canning Rivers without talking about the environmental value. It is worth noting some facts about these river systems. The Swan River estuary is approximately 60 kilometres long. That is a significant stretch of our metropolitan area, obviously beginning at Fremantle and going all the way to Ellenbrook. The Canning River goes all the way up to Kent Street Weir. Many of my colleagues in this chamber are directly affected by this river, such as the members for Belmont and Victoria Park. The member for Cockburn was right when he said that although the river does not directly go through his community, the river system is extremely important to the Beeliar wetlands. It is an incredibly important part of our lifestyle that we all enjoy in Perth, and specifically for those who live directly on or near the river system.

I was pleased recently to take the Minister for Environment into my electorate and the electorate of my dear neighbour the member for Bicton, Lisa O'Malley. We had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with the Minister for Environment showcasing some of the work our local community is doing on our river foreshore to protect the environment. We began that visit on the foreshore along Tompkins Park with the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group. We had a fantastic visit looking at the work SERAG has been doing on the foreshore, and also the challenges it faces in managing the river system there. We were met by Margaret Matassa, who has an incredible amount of energy and passion for her local environment, and Robert Harvey and Rosemary Peek. We saw the rehabilitation that has been done on the foreshore there—a significant amount as they have spent literally thousands of hours removing weeds and reintroducing native species and, in that process, allowing the important samphire grasses to regrow and spread. That species is incredible at processing carbon dioxide; it is a brilliant carbon capturer and it has been under significant pressure along the area. Some people did not know the background of the Tompkins Park area in particular and that it was used as a refuse site. A lot of waste is buried under that foreshore area and it makes it very difficult to disturb the surface, but it also means that any leakages of what is buried under there must be managed.

The other challenge for that area is erosion, and we see this across our coastal and river systems. As climate change increases, there are changes to the depth of usage as the human population loves getting out on the water with boats and other marine activities, but that love of the environment comes with pressures. SERAG has done a significant amount of work to abate some of the erosion through those natural seagrasses and change the levels of the foreshore.

The member for Bicton since her election in 2017 has been a long-time supporter and advocate of SERAG. We have worked together closely to continue that relationship and we will have a lot more to say about what is going on in that area as time goes on.

One of the significant challenges the river faces is pollution from plastics. The member for Cockburn spoke about dolphins, and a bunch of challenges exist around the dolphin population with boat strikes and pollution run-off, and one source of pollution is, of course, plastics. The McGowan government has introduced significant reforms to reduce the use of single-use plastics, because the first step is to completely remove that stream of waste from our community and its systems.

Bottle Top Hill is the initiative of Emma Charlton and sits in the electorate of Bicton but serves communities across the City of Melville. Bottle Top Hill operates once a month. To simplify it, it is where people can take their bottle tops, because, of course, bottle tops cannot be recycled and cannot be put in the yellow bins. That is to simplify what is a full educational experience. Emma takes people on a journey. When they walk into Bottle Top Hill, they are not just dropping off their plastic waste into a bin and walking out; they are encouraged to walk through her setup. It has been extremely well thought through. There is a theme for each month. Under the directorship of Emma, volunteers educate the public on waste, how it is re-used and how it can be recycled—whether in fact it can be—and, importantly, on alternatives. An obvious alternative to plastic is glass, and that is easily recyclable. I congratulate Emma and Bottle Top Hill for that fantastic initiative in our community, and I thank the member for Bicton for sharing that with me and the Minister for Environment.

Another initiative that is worth noting for the beautiful foreshore of my electorate—again, it is shared with the member for Bicton—is the Attadale–Alfred Cove foreshore. That includes Tompkins Park and heads around towards Troy Park in the Bicton electorate. The City of Melville recently engaged in extensive consultation with the community to come up with a plan. That area is under significant pressure from population use through the things that we love to use our foreshore for, such as sports. A great number of local community clubs use the area, such as soccer and rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer, and people ride their bikes or walk their dogs. It is a beautiful part of our city. However, these activities bring pressures and we need to balance those competing uses among the community. The City of Melville’s engagement with the community and key stakeholders led to the *Attadale Alfred Cove foreshore master plan*. The key factor to come out of that was the community’s value of this space and the environmental and cultural heritage of our river system—that is, the Swan River and further around as it connects to the Canning River. My community, and the member for Bicton’s community, places an extremely high value on that river system. That river system supports international migratory birds. Australia is a signatory to international conventions on migratory birds. It is an extremely important habitat area and is very vulnerable to being disturbed. If those birds are disrupted from feeding, that may interrupt their ability to return successfully on their long journeys. People love to birdwatch, and there is plenty to see there, but one of the solutions of the minister—I mean, the member for Bicton; I have given her a promotion!

**Mrs L.M. O’Malley:** I’ve never been referred to so much since I’ve been in this place. Please continue!

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** It is important to acknowledge the work the member did because this work was done before my election in 2021 and it is great to now have a partner and for us to be able to work together to continue that. The work the member for Bicton has done from 2017 onwards needs to be acknowledged. One of the solutions the member and her community came up with was to fund a bird viewing platform so that people could get out their binoculars and books and take their kids there and share in the joy of their local environment, and do so without disturbing the birds. I believe the member for Bicton is getting ready to open that officially with the Minister for Environment next week, and I cannot wait to be there as well. I will enjoy being there. That has to be acknowledged, because these are local solutions to problems that are faced everywhere across metropolitan Perth. It is great to see the member come up with a solution that will have such a great impact. I know that Tom and Jenny Lubin and the Friends of the Melville Bird Sanctuary absolutely love the work that the member has been doing for them, so that definitely deserves acknowledgement.

**Mrs L.M. O’Malley:** And, member, you have been doing a phenomenal amount of work. It is another example of the McGowan government teamwork!

**Mr P.C. Tinley** interjected.

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** Thank you; I will take the interjection from the member for Bicton.

**Mrs L.M. O’Malley:** Ignore the member behind me!

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** I will have Hansard record the interjection!

The other work that is really important is the foreshore work, the rehabilitation work done by the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group and the work of the Friends of the Melville Bird Sanctuary. There is also the quality of the water in our river system. The member for Cockburn mentioned the run-off from both agricultural and residential pollution in our water system. Pop quiz: what is one marine animal that we know can really have a positive impact on water quality?

**Mrs L.M. O’Malley:** I know this one!

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** Member for Bicton? Minister for Environment?

**Mr R.R. Whitby:** Mussels.

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** Mussels; thank you very much. Mussels are fantastic water filters. That brings me, surprisingly, to another amazing commitment that has been delivered by the McGowan government and led by the member for Bicton—that is, the \$2 million investment in a reef system to support the reintroduction of blue mussels and to support the habitat in the Swan River. The construction of the reef at the Point Walter site has been completed and millions of baby mussels are being released. The second site, which is in Attadale, is currently under construction. These are trial sites. I have every confidence that they will be successful; the science behind them is very strong. I look forward to seeing other initiatives like these rolled out across the Swan and Canning Rivers and seeing that success breed further success. It is another wonderful example.

Over \$13 million has been spent by the McGowan government on similar projects across our coastal and river systems since 2020. Certainly, my electorate has been a significant beneficiary of that, as has the member for Bicton's electorate. It is crucial that we preserve the river system for the economic prosperity of our state, because then small businesses can prosper and people can get out and enjoy the environment, and connect and make money as they do that. It is also about the cultural and environmental value. Of course, it would be remiss of me to talk about cultural values without acknowledging the Whadjuk people, whose connection to the river system was integral to their food sources and to the story lines and the songlines. When I was first elected, I really enjoyed meeting and talking to local elders, and I still do; everywhere I go, if I have the opportunity to speak to a local elder about the Aboriginal heritage of the electorate of Bateman, I take that opportunity, and I learn something every single time.

I do not want to introduce any controversy into the debate, but I know an elder who does not believe that Goolugatup Heathcote should be called Goolugatup. He believes that there is a different name, and that name stems from the way that the Heathcote ridge line looks like little frogs. I am not going to get into that debate; it is not my place to do that. It is really interesting to have these stories unfold and to learn about the connection to place. As the member for Cockburn rightly said, the connection between the river and the wetlands systems was extremely strong. I have a fantastic piece of artwork by an Indigenous artist on the wall in my electorate office that shows the river system connected to the wetlands system around it. The river system is not a system in isolation; it is deeply connected.

I would like to end my contribution by saying thank you to the minister for streamlining the process and making it less bureaucratic for businesses to operate in this area. I know he shares the environmental values as well. Congratulations.

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Minister for Environment)** [3.04 pm] — in reply: I rise to conclude the debate on the second reading of the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Amendment Bill 2022. It has been a wonderful couple of days listening to the contributions from all around the chamber. Many members have had the opportunity to reminisce. Who knew that a piece of legislation designed to streamline bureaucratic processes and make it easier for operators to do business on the Swan and Canning Rivers would unlock such a treasure trove of romantic and nostalgic stories about the Swan River? It has been heartening to hear such personal and deep-felt emotions about the Swan and Canning Rivers and the river system. That is why it is so important that we make it easier for operators to exist on the Swan and Canning Rivers and for members of the public to have access to experiences on the river system, because there is that deep connection. In a way, the stories were not superfluous. They were very much in the spirit of this legislation. This legislation is about creating easier access and enabling greater involvement by businesses and tourism ventures and similar operators on the Swan River and to deal with the approvals process in a much simpler way and to regulate them in a very simple and efficient way, which is an improvement on what we have at the moment.

I acknowledge the contributions of all members. I thought there were such gold nuggets in the contributions that it bears repeating and acknowledging some of the contributions we heard today.

We began with the member for Bicton, who spoke about the value of the Swan River to her electorate. We know that Bicton has a very rich history. We can think about the Bicton baths and the connections for the local community with that part of the river. She spoke about the nature conservancy effort on the mussels, which is a giant filtering system for the Swan River to remove nutrients and improve the quality of the water. We note that in recent years, the quality of the Swan River has improved, but we are only a season away from adverse conditions that are beyond our control; we could have algae outbreaks and issues that affect the Swan. We want to see those mussels back in the river not only for the benefit they provide in filtering the water, but also because they add to the habitat and the food chains for fish species in the river.

The member for Nedlands spoke about the sporting clubs, the Perth Frontrunners and the important work that the Swan Estuary Reserves Action Group is doing at Pelican Point in Nedlands.

We know that the member for Thornlie is a passionate conservationist and he described at great length the dangers and issues of fishing line abandoned in the river and how it entangles birds and other marine creatures such as dolphins. He gave us some tips on how to wrangle a swan. He said that they hiss and get very defensive, but there is a certain master stroke that can be applied to make their neck fall limp to deal with the issue of any entanglement. It was very enlightening.

The member for Willagee made a wonderful Tim Winton–esque contribution about his childhood of growing up on the Swan, with his deep personal connections and how the river was a rite of passage for young men in the Fremantle area. He indulged in some activities that were wholesome and others that were not so wholesome. He learnt to swim at the Bicton baths. Again, he was not the first person to bring up memories of prawning in the Swan River. It was a great contribution.

The member for Swan Hills spoke about the western swamp tortoise, which was once thought to be extinct, and about relying on the sustainability of our wetlands and the important conservation work that is going on with that species.

The member for South Perth talked about the important history and culture of the Swan River, not just the Indigenous culture that we are very well aware of, but even the Chinese market gardeners of South Perth. He spoke about the need to preserve the quality of the Swan River for the fauna and flora that it supports to this day.

He made some very unkind comparisons between our gleaming Derbarl Yerrigan and the Torrens and Yarra, and if this debate is reported interstate, they may create a bit of controversy.

The member for Moore made an important contribution, and I will come back to the issues he raised in a moment because he went into some specifics that I want to address in detail.

The member for Churchlands talked about the wonderful days of growing up and having nuns take her to the river to learn to swim. A bit like the member for Thornlie, she became very skilled in untangling fishing lines—maybe not from around creatures but certainly from around her son’s fishing tackle boxes. She learnt many lessons and she spoke about the significance of the river. Although the Churchlands electorate does not share a boundary with the river, it shares integral systems with the Swan River.

The member for Riverton talked about the social aspect of the river and how it helps bring the community together. It is a focal point for exercise and picnics, and I think we have all experienced that.

The member for Burns Beach was very interesting this morning. He described his underprivileged childhood as a student at Aquinas and Christchurch. He talked about the struggle of getting to school every day on a foam surfboard that was hidden in the reeds. That was after he left home, which was a shoebox, on the way to Aquinas. He also reminded us all about the horror and terror of stepping on a cobbler. This is something I grew up with as a kid. I went prawning and crabbing on the river a couple of times with my parents, and I remember my dad and my uncle talking about the cutting, fiery pain of stepping on a cobbler, so I lived in terror of putting my foot in the wrong place. I am grateful to say that I do not think I was ever stung by a cobbler, but I was fearful of doing so for most of my childhood.

The member for Mount Lawley, one of the learned members in the chamber, was very eloquent. He said the case for this legislation is that it encourages river use and access, which also encourages protection of the river. It is a very pertinent point: the more a community is given access to enjoy a natural environment, the more likely the community is to care about it and want to see it protected. We adopt this philosophy in our national parks and in our marine national parks, and it is important for our river as well. If people are allowed to enjoy it and appreciate it, they recognise the value of its natural environment and natural state, and want to do more to protect it.

The member for Cockburn rightly acknowledged the role of our advisers and agency officers, who really do the heavy lifting. We get up and spruik our passions, but the actual heavy lifting of any legislation is done by the advisers who are here to assist us when required. For the last two days, they have been ready to talk about detail, but they have been regaled with wonderful stories of nostalgia and romance. I do not think it has been too tough on them, but they are ready to assist at a moment’s notice.

The member for Bateman wrapped up debate brilliantly this afternoon. She talked about the practical sense for small businesses in her electorate. Small businesses and other operators will get a real benefit from the streamlining of regulations and the legislative changes that we have spoken about. She also spoke about her electorate’s magnificent environment. She is on the border of Bicton, and both electorates have migratory birds and important habitat. It has been wonderful to sit here and listen to these stories.

I want to get to some of the legislation’s detail and the detailed response to the point the member for Moore raised. From the outset, I point out that the member for Moore was gracious in pointing out that he supported the legislation. He had some issues he wanted to raise, and I will get to those, but he indicated the opposition’s support for the legislation. He also shares some of the romance and spirit of the river systems and knows how important they are. The river is an icon of Western Australia. I thank all members.

It has been pointed out many times that this legislation is the result of our Streamline WA initiatives. At their core, these initiatives are intended to make life easier and make it easier for businesses to do business by improving regulation and regulatory practice. The bill will clarify the licensing arrangements in the act so it will be clear that commercial businesses operating on the Swan and Canning Rivers and adjacent lands will need only a permit. At present, these operators are issued a combined permit and licence due to a lack of clarity in the act.

This is an important point made by many people: the rigorous assessment process and responsibilities undertaken by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions will not be diminished by these amendments; in

fact, removing the duplicative processes will mean that departmental resources and staff time can be better redirected to protecting and enhancing the ecology, community benefits and amenity of the river. Less duplication will mean less process and more time to do important things like protecting the river.

The amendments and the transitional agreements will recognise the validity of existing combined licences and permits, which will be transitioned as permits. Furthermore, the amendment bill will put in place transitional arrangements to ensure that the holders of two specific contractual licences relating to the operation of Swan River Seaplanes and the Matagarup Bridge zipline will continue to operate under their existing licences.

There has been extensive consultation for what is a relatively simple piece of legislation with the relevant schedule 5 authorities—that is, the state government agencies that have an interest in the management of the Swan and Canning Rivers—and schedule 7 local government bodies. Letters were sent to holders of all existing commercial operator combined licences and permits; they were made aware of this change and offered the opportunity to comment. Holders of the Swan River Seaplanes licence and the Matagarup Bridge zipline licence were also sent letters. The State Administrative Tribunal; the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage; the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation; and, importantly, the Swan River Trust were also consulted and supported the amendments. I am pleased to say that no concerns regarding the bill were raised by these stakeholders during the consultation process.

The member for Moore raised three specific queries during his second reading contribution. They are important, and I want to go through their detail. The member asked about the practical changes the proposed amendment to section 13 will deliver for individuals who are interested in a proposed amendment to the development control area or Swan and Canning Riverpark land, and whether it will affect or make a difference to the appeal process. In response, I advise that this amendment will streamline consultation processes that apply to the making of regulations to amend the development control area or Swan Canning Riverpark. For the most part, the boundaries of the development control area and riverpark reflect the parks and recreation waterways reservations under the metropolitan region scheme. The amendment bill will remove the requirement for the Minister for Environment to conduct further consultation on regulations to change the development control area or the riverpark when that change relates to a metropolitan region scheme amendment that has already been approved under the Planning and Development Act and has been subject to either public consultation or the amendment is made by an act.

In the past, when an amendment was proposed to the development control area or Swan Canning Riverpark land, DBCA wrote to the relevant landowners to explain the proposed amendment, and this practice will continue. Important stakeholders are informed of the government's intentions and can provide feedback. The practical change will be that the Minister for Environment will not consult a range of other ministers, local governments or public authorities to change the development control area or the riverpark when that change is related to a metropolitan region scheme amendment that has ready been approved and subject to consultation with those same ministers and organisations.

In other words, the intent of this change is that it will avoid a double up—a duplication of process—but it will not, in any way, change the opportunity for members of the public to have a say in the process. Although there are no formal appeal processes for individuals under the Swan and Canning Rivers Management Act, landowners and other stakeholders can write to or approach the Minister for Environment with their concerns about this and the minister can choose to consult ministers and other organisations listed in section 13(2). That part retains an ability for people to reach out and make comment, but they already had that ability under the Planning and Development Act.

Regarding the member's question about transferability of licence agreements, I can advise that proposed section 32(6) provides that licence agreements can be transferred with the approval of the CEO. This will enable the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions to undertake an assessment prior to any transfer. It is not appropriate for a licence agreement to be transferred without the CEO's prior approval. Generally, in the case of commercial businesses operating on the Swan River, a licence agreement is likely to be held by a body corporate, and in the circumstances that a director of a company passes away, the company would continue to hold the licence agreement. There will be no limitation on the transfer of licence agreements to family members, subject, again, to the approval of the CEO. However, it is important to note that licence agreements cannot be inherited. They could be transferred with approval of the CEO.

The eagle-eyed member for Moore spotted a clerical error that our writers of this legislation and others did not—full marks to the member—which will be fixed by changing the word “licence” to “lease” in the heading. Under the Interpretation Act 1984, headings to sections are not part of the act, so parliamentary counsel can correct this minor error in the published version of the act. I thank the member for that. Bringing up issues is part of the process of debate. Sometimes substantive issues need to be corrected, but in this case it was a relatively simple but important matter, and I appreciate the fact that the member for Moore has an eagle eye.

In summary, this amendment bill will introduce important regulatory reforms that will support operating on the Swan and Canning Rivers. It will support jobs in tourism and local hospitality sectors by streamlining approvals and providing clarity on regulatory processes. It will do this in such a way that the Swan and Canning Rivers are

not placed at risk. The resulting reform will enable DBCA to focus regulatory effort on protecting the outstanding values of the Swan and Canning Rivers, which are so important to the people of Perth and Western Australia, as we found out, in a large sense, over the last couple of days.

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*

Bill read a third time, on motion by **Mr R.R. Whitby (Minister for Environment)**, and transmitted to the Council.

**ROAD TRAFFIC (VEHICLES) AMENDMENT (OFFENSIVE ADVERTISING) BILL 2022**

*Second Reading*

Resumed from 27 October.

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [3.24 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill. It has a very long title, but it is very important legislation for not just those who use our roads, but also the many vulnerable and impressionable people in our community. The bill came about from a change.org petition. Its genesis, I think, was that a Sydney-based mum started a change.org petition to have a certain brand of campervan banned because of the offensive and, in my opinion, downright disgusting slogans on the sides of its vans. The slogans were derogatory to women and other vulnerable cohorts in our community. I personally do not think there is any place for them in our community and neither, it seems, did the various ministers for transport across Australia. In response to this movement, which got a large number of signatures on the petition, the state ministers agreed that they would all bring in legislation to ban this type of offensive advertising on vehicles. This is a great move. It will protect people in our community who could be unduly impacted by the messages and the offensive things that these slogans put out into our community. What we found, though, is that once jurisdictions started to bring in legislation, such as Queensland, where these campervans were previously registered, the company would register the vehicles in South Australia, for example, instead. We are trying to bring in consistency across the country so that we can ensure that there is no place in any corner of Australia for these types of offensive slogans and advertising, if you can call it that.

At this point, I have to question: What is the point of the advertising? Why do it? It is purely for shock value. It is purely to raise the company's profile and create top-of-mind awareness. People know to go to this company if they want to rent a campervan in Australia. However, it has completely disregarded the social licence or social responsibility that it has with the community to ensure that vulnerable people in our community are not targeted by the offensive advertising on its campers. I will not go through in Parliament some of the words that have been displayed on the side of these campervans, but it is fair to say that they were overtly sexist and they overtly targeted the most vulnerable and impressionable people in our community. A problem with the slogans is the often cartoon-like imagery that is used, which attracts the attention of young children. When children look and see a favourite cartoon character on the side of a van and start to read the slogan, what they read is really quite disturbing. As a community, we have a responsibility to ensure that our young people are getting good, positive messages about themselves, about their bodies, about what they can do with their bodies, and about what they should not allow other people to do to their bodies or online—whatever. There is a whole plethora of things that our children have to deal with that we never had to deal with. We did not have to deal with having a digital online persona. We did not have to deal with people being able to contact us 24/7 through Instagram, Messages, Snapchat and TikTok. We never had to deal with any of those things as children. The digital platforms that we now have do have great benefits. Some great things have happened because of them and great communities have formed around them, but they have also opened the doorway to introducing negative body images for children. The instantaneous nature of social media has the capacity to allow a certain trend or thought to become the bible or the workbook for these children. It is what they go to and see as normal, and because it happens so quickly, it is quickly normalised.

The problem with the advertising on these vehicles is partly that it continues to normalise behaviours, particularly for children and young girls, that we, as parents, do not want to normalise. We do not want them to think they are useful only for how they look. We want them to think they are useful for what they can do on the stage, on the basketball court, on the football field, or academically in the classroom such as what they can achieve in science. We want them to understand that they can be appreciated for what they do in whatever field they choose to pursue. I certainly feel that these negative images of girls, women and other vulnerable people, but particularly girls and women, from my point of view, define them by certain things like sexual acts, taking drugs or how they can dress themselves to attract attention from the opposite sex. They are not the things that we need to be teaching our young girls or our young boys. They do not need to learn those things. They need to learn that they can use their minds or use their bodies for sport for their talents to be appreciated. We should not reinforce that the only way of appreciating a young person is how they look or what they can do in a sexual way or in a situation in which peer pressure and



social pressures force them to undertake activities they would not normally participate in. The problem with the proliferation of this type of messaging not only online, but also on the road is that there is nowhere for them to escape. They are constantly getting this messaging from vehicles on the road, from their online social media platforms and on streaming devices on which they can watch things that are probably not appropriate for their young minds to be watching. I understand that any young person who was reading *Hansard* or watching this, which I know is very unlikely, would probably think I am a bit old, stuck-up and do not understand what it is to be a young person anymore, and that is probably true —

**Mr D.A.E. Scaife:** No, I don't think that!

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** Ha-ha! However, we were given the grace and opportunity to grow up without that level of pressure and constant bombardment of having to get our lips filled or to have a certain body type or wear bathers that look a certain way. We never had that growing up. This constant reinforcement of negative body images for vulnerable people has a detrimental impact on how they grow up and how they perceive themselves. This bill is really important not only because of the mechanics of it, which I will get into and think are very relevant to how the bill has been drafted, but also because it sends a message to the wider community that this is not acceptable behaviour for a community. We should not be sexualising our children or allowing them to see this type of imagery in their day-to-day lives. People can criticise me and say that is just the way the world is, and that is fine, but I still do not believe we should do this to our children and vulnerable people.

Turning to the mechanics of the bill, this bill has been very well drafted in that it gives a really practical way for us to take these slogans off the road. We have always had the ability to complain about these types of slogans if we felt they did not conform to the advertising standards. What we lacked was the mechanism to get them off the road. This bill is written for complaints that are made and upheld by Ad Standards. The process is fair. A person can be accused of something and be asked to change it. If they are willing to change it, that is fine and they can keep the vehicle on the road minus the slogans. But if the company refuses to change, the Department of Transport can go through the process of deregistering that vehicle so we can get it physically taken off the road, which is really important. It is great to have principles and to stand by them, but having the capacity to physically change something that we think is wrong is a really important part of this bill. I know that it has been a long time coming and that the minister has been working on it for a while. I commend her for bringing it into the house. I think it is an important piece of legislation and I commend it to the house.

**MS C.M. COLLINS (Hillarys)** [3.36 pm]: I rise to also make a brief contribution to the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. This legislation will provide authorities with the power to cancel, refuse to grant or transfer a vehicle licence if Ad Standards has determined that the advertising on the vehicle is offensive, degrading, obscene or insensitive. As we have just heard from the member for Kingsley, this bill will bring Western Australia into line with the other jurisdictions that have already implemented similar legislation to prohibit this kind of offensive advertising on vehicles. I think everyone in the chamber would agree that offensive slogans or symbols have absolutely no place in WA.

I want to talk very briefly about public offensive messages and how they have affected my electorate of Hillarys. A number of constituents have contacted me in the past about offensive graffiti around the place. One particular incident was graffiti at a local school that has been targeted a number of times because of its proximity to a local bus stop. The graffiti that was at this school was not the usual tags or cartoon-like images that we might usually see. Rather, it was very inflammatory and very hateful speech on the walls, and included swastikas. They were left, no doubt, by juvenile vandals seeking only to shock, offend and get a reaction, but it was quite confronting for the students and parents to rock up to school on a Monday morning and see such graffiti on the walls of their classrooms. The people who do these things often do not realise the pain they cause because they do not have either the knowledge or life experience to properly grasp what they have done. They do not necessarily see the impact on the Monday morning when people arrive and see what has happened. They do not understand what some of these offensive messages really mean to the people who have been thoroughly affected by the toxic attitudes that they reference. I have had similar emails from constituents about graffiti left at Hillarys Beach Park Playground. My inbox was filled with messages by really disappointed locals who wanted the ugly mess to be removed as fast as possible. As a member of Parliament, hearing people's experiences of being hurt and saddened by offensive material opened my eyes to the impact that this sort of material can have on people on a daily basis. Seeing these offensive messages tells people that their community is not as kind or as respectful as they previously thought. As we just heard from the member for Kingsley, it is often children who take notice of these messages, whether it is graffiti or an advert on a vehicle. It is an attempt to normalise what is not normal, kind or decent, and we all really need to do better to lift the standard and ensure that symbols of hate, or tags or lines that might belittle sections of our community, are not allowed to proliferate.

Although we might no longer see Wicked Campers so often on our streets because it is a national company and other states have implemented similar legislation, we still often see on vehicles some pretty obscene stickers or messaging, which can be really offensive, particularly to minority groups. I will not read out too many of the Wicked van statements I have seen, but one was, "I often wanted to drown my troubles, but I can't get my wife to go swimming". These are the sort of really tired, lazy, misogynistic lines that most of us see as very much a thing of

the past—something that might have been considered normal to say in the 1950s, but in 2022 there is absolutely no place for these supposedly funny jokes. It is the idea that women are sexual objects or, at worst, just a nagging wife that deserves a quick end.

The Our Watch campaign has crunched the numbers: one in three Australian women—31.1 per cent—have experienced physical and/or sexual violence perpetrated by men they know. One in four Australian women have, since the age of 15, experienced physical or sexual violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner. When companies put those sorts of dirty jokes on the sides of their vans, they might get a laugh from a few dinosaurs in the community who think it is funny, but it is normalising it and sending a public reminder to all victims that it is just funny to the rest of society—to say nothing at all of the mothers and fathers who have to try to explain the jokes to their young children. It makes it really, really difficult; in the past we would see these brightly coloured vans, which attracted the attention of kids to point and ask their parents, “What does that mean?” It is senseless, it is stupid, and it is out of touch with the Western Australian community. It would be really nice for businesses to have the decency to try not using these tactics as some sort of marketing grab. It is our business as parliamentarians to take action against poor behaviour, whether it is by this particular company or any individual owner who has put something inflammatory or insulting on a vehicle for all to see.

The 16 Days in WA campaign runs from this Friday, 25 November—International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women—through to Saturday, 10 December, Human Rights Day. The tagline for the event is “Ending violence against women—it’s everybody’s business”. Closer to Perth’s northern suburbs, Edith Cowan University’s Joondalup campus will be lit up in orange to spark discussion about making change. I want to thank the Minister for Women’s Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, Hon Simone McGurk, for the important work she is doing to build this positive campaign. The campaign has spread into the private sector, with a number of prominent Western Australians from the private sector and competitive sports signing on to stamp out inequality in their fields. However, as we all know, especially in the modern era, not all violence is physical. More and more, in the age of the internet, we are seeing cyberbullying, abuse, online denigration, hate speech and gaslighting; it all adds up.

Often when we think of sexism, it can be tempting to call it a thing of the past and a symbol of 1950s Australia—now that almost 50 per cent of parliamentarians are women—but I really do not think the problem has gone away. Having been a teacher in recent years, working in various schools with various types of students, it certainly was noticeable to me that some students had a desire to put certain stickers on their laptops that might represent a particular group, or to write insults on their desks using whiteout or carving it with their pens. I would often see these comments left in the classroom at the end of the day. It was sometimes quite astonishing that a child could think of something that was so sexist, racist or downright abusive. I do not mean to make it sound like all my students were like that; most were very well behaved and did the right thing, but it would often just be a student who thought it would be funny to leave a comment or crude symbol on their desk.

What we have seen is that advertising works; it really is an influential tool. In fact, some schools in the US, where they do not have to wear a school uniform, have recently banned certain advertising slogans on T-shirts because they target particular minority groups. It is important to note that this bill is not about taking away people’s freedom to express themselves; it is not about stamping out free speech. It is about stopping these really discriminatory behaviours through the use of slogans or hate symbols and preventing their appearance in public places where they might be deemed really offensive by members of the community.

The spread of these offensive stereotypes and marginal ideas can really turn students into their own worst enemy. We are seeing more and more chat forums that might have started out as innocent teenage boys getting together to discuss their distaste for modern women turning into something quite sinister and serious, and turning into physical abuse further down the track. It is not a joke, and it is certainly not a funny joke. It is one that hurts both the victims of gendered violence and the people who spread it.

The 2022 Women’s Report Card reveals that violence against women is not going away. Women continue to face a significantly higher risk than men of sexual, family and domestic violence, with a 21 per cent increase in sexual assaults reported to the Western Australia Police Force—up from 769 in 2018–19 to 935 in 2020–21. We need to call out sexist behaviours, not normalise them, and the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022 is certainly a step in the right direction. Western Australia can be proud of the efforts this government is making to ban offensive advertising. This is action that is very much needed and that we will see occurring globally—not just on vehicles, but in other spaces to which people in the community are exposed. I commend the bill to the house.

**MR D.A.E. SCAIFE (Cockburn)** [3.48 pm]: I rise to make a contribution to the second reading debate on the Road Traffic (Vehicles) Amendment (Offensive Advertising) Bill 2022. Hopefully the chamber will not get sick of me today; although, looking around, it appears that members might indeed already be sick of me today—or it might have something to do with afternoon tea!

I really want to echo the comments that have already been made by the parliamentary secretary to the Minister for Transport and the member for Hillarys. I do not want to give life to some of the disgusting slogans that have been

used by Wicked Campers, but we need to tackle this issue head-on. Although this bill applies to any derogatory or offensive advertising on vehicles, it comes out of a national conversation that was held several years ago about the advertising on vehicles that were branded and rented out by Wicked Campers. The member for Hillarys gave some examples of statements that were overwhelmingly misogynous in context, but also attacked people from other groups, including members of the LGBTQIA+ community. The public reaction to those slogans was rightly swift and severe, but it exposed a flaw in our approach to regulating advertising standards. We essentially rely on a self-regulating framework, industry use of advertising standards bodies and public opprobrium being directed towards people who use inappropriate advertising, but Wicked Campers actually used that public opprobrium as a business model. It essentially took up the old catchphrase that any publicity is good publicity. It leaned into the fact that it was creating outrage amongst regulators and in the media and social media and used that as a way of essentially promoting its brand and selling its product. That business model really showed how the regulatory regime failed in those circumstances, because Wicked Campers was taking advantage of the regulatory system to use controversy to sell its product.

As I expand on this point, I say that I absolutely agree with the points that have been made that, overwhelmingly, the advertising that Wicked Campers used was misogynous. As previous speakers have said, the slogans were aimed at degrading women, and a lot of the time they were aimed at that version of misogyny that makes women an accessory to men—that women exist just as a wife, girlfriend or sexual partner of men. The slogans treated women as objects. That is an utterly disgraceful line of characterisation to enter into. It is misogynous and it is backwards, but I want to make the point that it also has consequences that go beyond the pure consequences of using that language. That language is not only offensive, but also one of the first steps towards full-blown violence against women, which we know is a scourge in our society and something that we are still coming to grips with.

With bills like this, some people talk about things like free speech. I make the point that never in the history of the world has there been completely free speech. Societies have always accepted that there are limits to some of the speech that people can make, and that is for a variety of reasons. It is because not only some speech is so offensive and hateful that it should be banned, but also, as I say, speech can be the first step towards real violence. It can be demeaning and violent in its own right, but it can also be a step towards physical, emotional or financial violence.

We are now coming to grips with this. It has been slow progress, but we are making progress in saying particularly to young men and boys that this is not an acceptable view of the world. It is not the type of behaviour we want to be role modelling. I want to echo what the member for Kingsley said. The content of the slogans that Wicked Campers used were exactly what the member for Kingsley said. They are not lessons and messages we want delivered to the girls and young women in our society, and they are not messages we want delivered to the boys and young men in our society. We want and I always want to be a better role model for young men. I am troubled probably on a weekly basis by the rise of what I would call angry men in our society. An example is online trolls and some of the violent rhetoric that we see on social media, which is predominantly carried out by young men. Particularly in the United States, but also here, we see young men being radicalised into far-right movements that are premised on hatred of women and minorities. It is deeply disturbing and it has real consequences for violence against women and violence against minorities.

As I said, this legislation has been in the works for a number of years. It has come out of a national conversation that happened I think in 2017 or 2018 between the states and territories to ban this type of advertising. I am pleased that we are passing this legislation now, but I know that some people might think it is not so much an issue anymore, because Wicked Campers changed its ways to some extent a couple of years ago. I want to make the point that it changed its behaviour only to some extent.

I refer to an article from a website called Mumbrella. This article is titled “Wicked Campers’ explicit advertising returns after 3-year hiatus” and was published on 24 May 2022. The article refers to an advertisement on a Wicked Campers van that featured the slogan, “Back in my day blowing a tranny was car trouble”. This is just absolutely disgraceful. It is transphobic content. It is exactly the kind of slogan and advertising of Wicked Campers that first prompted this legislation and this national discussion. I want to refer to that slogan and take two points out of it. The first is that there is still a need for this legislation. It is not the case that the threat of this legislation has deterred Wicked Campers or will necessarily deter other businesses that might want to use outrage as a business model. Clearly, years after this type of advertising has been banned in other jurisdictions—I believe that van showed up in South Australia—this is recent evidence that this legislation is still needed, because Wicked Campers is still engaging in this conduct.

The second thing I want to take from this slogan is the point I was making earlier that Wicked Campers also goes after other groups. Its offensive advertising has most often targeted women, but it has also targeted members of the LGBTQIA+ community. That kind of language is completely beyond the pale and I denounce it in the strongest terms possible.

I want to return briefly to the point I was making that speech can have consequences beyond just causing offence. We know that what might seem like minor behaviours or minor speech against women can have devastating consequences, because it contributes to a culture in which particularly boys and young men think that women are

somehow objectified or can be subjected to violence or poor behaviour. The member for Hillarys made the point that we are going to start 16 Days in WA on 25 November. That campaign starts on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, which is a global campaign to make progress on women's rights and on eliminating violence against women. The 16 Days in WA campaign is great because it acknowledges all the different factors that contribute to violence against women. Those factors are many. They include women's workforce participation. If women cannot be financially independent of their spouse, that can contribute to them being trapped in abusive relationships. But during those 16 days, we also draw attention to the consequences for women of appalling, misogynous speech.

I want to acknowledge the Minister for Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence, who has been a real leader in Western Australia in driving that campaign and ensuring that it is taken up by the wider electorate. In my electorate of Cockburn, organisations like the Yangebup Family Centre make a point every year of taking up the challenge in the 16 Days in WA campaign.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

## HEALTH — MANAGEMENT

### *Motion*

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party)** [4.00 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Minister for Health and the McGowan government for their shambolic management of the health system that has had a series of failings and continues to put health workers and Western Australian families across the state at risk.

During question time today, we saw the extent of this failing, particularly through the responses of the Minister for Health to a number of issues raised by the opposition. We asked about information received this week from Silverchain that the Hospital in Home service would be extended for only one year—a miserly 12-month extension. At a time when we know the health sector is struggling to attract staff, this uncertainty is very concerning. It is also concerning that the Minister for Health was unable to rule out a public sector takeover of this valuable service.

The Leader of the Opposition asked about Wyndham Hospital. This hospital once operated a 24/7 service, but staff shortages are leading to an ongoing cut to the operating hours. I am sure the Leader of the Opposition will touch on that further as part of this debate. It is very concerning to hear from the Minister for Health that there is no end in sight and no time line for restoring those services.

The Leader of the Liberal Party asked questions about the asset investment program and the McGowan government's underinvestment in and lack of priority for health infrastructure. In its first five years, the Liberal–National government invested \$4.3 billion in asset investment, compared with only \$1.6 billion under the McGowan government, and we are very proud of our \$7 billion investment in capital infrastructure, which delivered for Perth Children's Hospital, Fiona Stanley Hospital, Midland Public Hospital, Joondalup Health Campus, Albany Health Campus, Busselton Health Campus and Kalgoorlie Health Campus.

The issues across the health system are widespread, impacting the sector in a range of ways. I again point to the need for a royal commission into the health system, backing up the calls from Aswath and Prasitha, Aishwarya's family, and the need for an honest and transparent evaluation of the health system.

It brings me no joy to again raise the issues that are impacting the health system in this state. I certainly do not relish raising the crisis that is unfolding across the hospital system. The feedback that we are receiving from health workers, patients and people in the community is that the government's promises are falling short of delivering any real improvement across the health system. Despite a \$6 billion surplus, the McGowan government's management of the health system is shambolic. That is undoubtedly putting not only our health workers under extraordinary pressure, but also, increasingly, Western Australian patients' lives at risk.

After several inquiries, reports, inquests and reviews over the last couple of years, we see no real evidence that the system is improving. In fact, the latest reports show that the system is much worse, and they all point to the mismanagement of the health system under the McGowan government. No single area can be pinpointed anymore. While the Premier has been sipping Grange in the western suburbs and crowing about a \$6 billion surplus, which is apparently the envy of every other state, our health system is crumbling around him. No amount of spin, deflection or diversion can hide the failings that we see in the hospital system in not only the metropolitan region, but also regional areas.

The deterioration of the health system began in this government's first term, when members opposite tried to cut corners in funding, and has led to chronic under-resourcing and a government scrambling to fix the problems. While the government was stating that it would keep the state safe from COVID, the Premier dropped the ball on ensuring that our health system kept pace and remained battle ready. It turns out the Premier; Treasurer's real battle was delivering the funding to ensure that the system was operational. After closing a number of beds in its first term, the government is now trying to open them in an effort to ease the bed block. In fact, the full complement of beds committed to at the end of last year is yet to be delivered.

In December last year, the Premier installed a new set of eyes to oversee the health system. The new Minister for Health was going to turn the ship around. She has been almost 12 months in the role now. What improvements do we see with the new captain at the helm? It is fair to say that very little has changed, particularly when we look at the key metrics. One key metric, which this government is trying to bury once again, is ambulance ramping. In fact, ambulance ramping has become significantly worse, and I will get to that later. As to the minister's oversight and the measures brought in to try to ease the crisis created under the McGowan government, it is very clear that the state of crisis continues.

The signs that the pressures were building were there for all to see in the first couple of years of the McGowan government, as it cut funding and significantly underinvested in the health system. The death of Aishwarya Aswath in April last year was a shocking tragedy that truly highlighted the extent of the pressure that our hospital system is under. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the family on the birth of their beautiful daughter who was, over the weekend, named after Aishwarya in her honour. She is a bundle of hope and joy after such a heartbreaking loss. Whenever I have talked in this place about Aishwarya's death and questioned what has changed, the government has accused me of being grubby and claimed that I am trying to gain political points. That is certainly not the case. I have done so purely to call the government to account on the promises it made and question what has changed. Can the public have faith that the system is better and has the government acted since the tragedy? I have also asked questions in the other place. Some questions were put into the Council today, but I am yet to see the responses. I note that Aishwarya's family called for a royal commission into the health system; it backed up those calls over the weekend. I question why the Premier is so reticent for a thorough, open and transparent evaluation of the health system—so much for gold-standard transparency. It should be made clear that the family is not seeking a royal commission into the circumstances of their daughter's death or Perth Children's Hospital; rather, it believes that the issues highlighted at Perth Children's Hospital are endemic across every hospital in every region of the state. Members of the opposition will certainly outline and raise those concerns. A royal commission would look at the whole system and would allow individuals to come forward and provide evidence without fear of speaking up. We have seen bed blocks, code yellows, record levels of ambulance ramping, under-resourcing and fatigued staff, all of which are real issues.

Concerns have also been raised about the culture within the hospital system. I point to comments made by Dr Aresh Anwar about Perth Children's Hospital at the coronial inquest. He said —

“It was an organisation that was very, very fragile in terms of integrity and working as a team.”

That is quite a stunning comment and it points to cultural issues. We know that a number of concerns were expressed in the state government's health worker survey, which the government suspended this year. I am pleased that it will be reinstated next year because that vital survey provides feedback to the government about morale issues. Health worker feedback certainly pointed to concerns about staff morale. Only 47 per cent of health workers felt comfortable speaking up and only 33 per cent felt very safe talking about issues in their workplace. It is very concerning that such a survey was suspended under this government.

We have seen from Aishwarya's death and the response to the tragedy that the system is not working as well as it should, and that is despite an internal and independent inquiry last year. Evidence at the coroner's inquest suggested that things are not much better. The minister has said in this place that the dedicated emergency resuscitation team might have been called something else and stated that I was confused with the designated resuscitation team. The Child and Adolescent Health Service's status report clearly pointed out that the department is working towards a dedicated resuscitation team. It is concerning that at the time of the inquest, some nine months later, people in the emergency department were still battling the same pressures and there was no dedicated resuscitation team. Hopefully, one has now been implemented. Nurse Cathryn Davies told the inquest in August this year —

“I think we're one of the only tertiary hospitals in Australia that doesn't have one and it's ridiculous,” ...

“Not much has changed to be honest. We are still extremely busy and we are not covered enough and if [resuscitations] come in we are in trouble.”

She said there had been an occasion she was the shift coordinator and if there had been the need for a resuscitation team the staff would have embarrassingly needed to come from different departments at the hospital other than ED.

In August this year, the opposition in the other place asked the minister how many of the 30 recommendations of the independent review had been implemented. The answer was that six have been completed. We accept that some are ongoing and not easily completed in a short time frame, but I would have thought that something as important as a dedicated resuscitation team would have been a key priority; clearly, it is not. The ED in our state's flagship children's hospital should not have to call in staff from other wards to perform resuscitations. Patients and their families rightly expect the state's largest children's hospital to address the needs in its emergency department in an appropriate and timely fashion.

It also highlights that there is a clear disconnect between what is happening on the ground in our health system and what the government has been spinning. When it comes to the health system, the government has invested in

spin doctors; it consistently points to something else when statistics and reports are mentioned. One of the key metrics is ambulance ramping. Despite the government's best efforts to deflect blame for the truly shocking extent of ramping in this state, the reality is that the situation has never been worse. In 2017, when the Labor Party was elected, the annual ramping figure was 9 819 hours. In 2018, it was 15 437 hours; in 2019, it was 24 438 hours; in 2020, it was more than 25 000 hours; and in 2021, it was more than 52 400. With six weeks to go until the end of the year, the ambulance ramping record for this year so far is 58 627 hours.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** No wonder the government wants to hide the statistics.

**Ms L. METTAM:** The Leader of the Liberal Party made a fair point about why the government is moving to bury those statistics. Ambulances have spent 2 442 days ramped this year, which equates to more than six years. It is absolutely gobsmacking. The government has used creative ways to spin these figures, but the reason is bed block; indeed, there are not enough beds in hospitals to accept patients. Management of the hospital system is shambolic.

An inquiry into the ambulance service was launched. Again, it was an effort to deflect attention from the real issues. Even though the Premier thinks investigations are nothing more than talkfests, it was recently announced that embedding senior health bureaucrats and police officers at the St John Ambulance control centre to oversee the operation has so far failed. The headlines described it as a move to address the ambulance crisis. At the time, the Premier fronted the media and said it would help ensure the full weight of government and the full resourcing of government would be used to plug any future holes in the availability of ambulance services. What absolute spin that is. It is clearly a capacity issue—that is, the bed block in our emergency departments.

That happened in May. In the five months since then, from June to November, we saw a record 34 470-plus hours of ramping. It was more than the total number of ramping hours for 2020. In July, it was 6 972 hours. In August, it was 6 949 hours. They are the highest ramping figures on record. Of course, the government did not want to make public those figures.

We know the government has form in trying to bury such figures. In 2019, the government decided to stop reporting ramping figures. Why would it? The figures highlighted the slide in the health system as bed block was getting worse. That was despite the Labor Party making a clear election commitment to address this issue, which has only become significantly worse under the Labor government's watch. It fits with the government's modus operandi of "gold-standard transparency" at any cost. When the government stopped being open and transparent, St John made this information public. It was an extraordinary attempt to bury the truth. I note that last week in this place the minister confirmed that negotiations for the new contract with the service provider are underway, but she refused to say whether a gag order would be imposed on St John preventing it from reporting ramping data or publicly commenting on the hospital system or McGowan government policies. It was a simple yes-or-no question, which the minister refused to answer, stating —

It would be completely inappropriate for me to divulge any details of those negotiations and it is inappropriate for the member for Vasse to ask me to.

As I stated, it was a pretty simple yes-or-no question: will the ramping data information be publicly available following those negotiations?

The \$250 million investment in the emergency care reform package was a key health budget announcement in May. It was to address long-stay patients causing bed block. It is caused by the commonwealth government. The minister told this place —

... we are stepping in and we are stepping up to fill the gap that the commonwealth has left. We have around 250 patients in the system who are awaiting NDIS and aged-care plans. That is a shockingly high number.

...

The 15 other measures are targeted at existing pressures, like long-stay patients ... Quite frankly, what is letting us down the most right now is the commonwealth government, with its lack of funding for primary care and lack of incentives for GPs, particularly in the regions, and the state system is bearing the brunt of that.

The lack of commonwealth funding and GPs is also being blamed for the state health crisis. The government allocated money for a task force—hopefully it was not a talkfest, because the Premier does not like those—a business case for an operation centre and measures to address long-stay patients. There was \$74.1 million for innovative measures to free up emergency departments by securing appropriate forms of care for long-stay patients. The opposition accepts that patients waiting for aged care and NDIS packages, and community beds are contributing to the issues across the hospital system. It is also true that many long-stay patients are waiting for social housing and mental health support, which are both state responsibilities.

I note the innovative measures included a \$5.8 million commitment to a long-stay patient fund for support measures tailored to the needs of individual patients experiencing barriers to being discharged from hospital. This is interesting in light of the Auditor General's report into the management of long-stay patients in our health system. The report highlights some very troubling home truths about the government's management of long-stay patients. In large

part, the government is undeniably focused on the spin around why the health system is floundering and less focused on actually developing a strategy for how to address these issues and help patients in the system who need to be discharged. According to Auditor General Caroline Spencer's report *Management of long stay patients in public hospitals* —

The Department of Health, as system manager, does not know, in real time, how many patients across WA Health remain in hospital when they are medically fit for discharge and therefore has limited understanding of the cost and impact on hospital bed capacity and patient flow ... without reliable data, and determined focus on continuous improvement, WA Health will struggle to recognise and adequately improve underlying systemic issues and make well-evidenced value for money investments.

The government is blaming this cohort of patients for the many underlying issues across the hospital system, but it actually has no idea of the scale of the problem or how much it is costing the hospital system. The government is throwing money at fixing, or trying to fix, something, yet it has no idea of the scale of the problem. It is just hoping that these funding commitments will take the heat off. Effectively, that is what the Auditor General stated in her report. The closest to that WA Health has been was with the snapshots for 2021 and 2022 that showed almost 500 patients spent an additional 40 000 days in hospital when they were medically fit for discharge. I again quote the report —

Some patients have been in WA hospitals for many weeks, months and even years beyond medical necessity.

...

WA Health's approach to reducing the number of long stay patients is hampered by the absence of a strategic plan and measures to coordinate and track initiatives to reduce the number of long stay patients.

There is no strategy to deal with one of the most significant issues for patients or the efficiency of the hospital system, which is ultimately a cost to patients as well. How can we be confident that this government under the Premier has any understanding of what it is doing, direction or a plan to alleviate this very serious concern? The report rightly points out that this is not a new problem. The Auditor General was at pains to talk about the number of reports that she had published in recent times. One was on ambulance ramping. One was on the mental health system. That report had also pointed to these issues and action that had been sporadic and resulted in shambolic management. The Auditor General also touched on the government's review and the lack of data to identify the best value-for-money spend. That was backed up by the independent governance review, which the Auditor General also referred to, which found that the government's lack of data sharing across the system was contributing to inefficiencies. To quote a small part of that review —

All data should be shared openly and transparently to improve patient outcomes and experiences ... The processes around which data is shared should provide a consistent source of truth to assist in properly informed decision making.

That is some of the feedback that we have heard, and the sustainable health review pointed to this as well. Data should provide a consistent source of truth to assist in ensuring that decisions on investment in the health system are made properly. That is effectively bureaucratic speak to describe how decisions have been made on the hop and there has been a scattergun approach to endemic issues that need proper supporting data and need to lead to measurable outcomes. Throwing money in the general direction of an issue in the hope that it will address it will not be enough. That is effectively what the report pointed to. The sustainable health review certainly highlighted the importance of gathering data.

It is not surprising that this scattergun approach to decisions is having an impact on patient care. In September this year, 28 560 patients were on the elective surgery waitlist. The waitlist has barely budged all year. The situation was significantly different in March 2017, when just over 19 900 patients were on the waitlist. I have asked questions in this place about the expansion of the elective surgery waitlist. One of the responses of the Minister for Health was —

... it is not the number of people on the list that matters; it is the time that they wait —

The minister went on to say —

— particularly when it is urgent surgery. That is what matters ... The member needs to look at the data.

I do look at the data. The data shows that not only has the number of people on the waitlist grown, but also the time they are waiting has increased. For category 1 elective surgery, the median wait time in October 2021 was 12 days, with 198 people over boundary. In October this year, the median wait time was 14 days—it was longer—and 360 patients were over boundary. That was a significant increase. In April, it blew out to 19 days. We see the same picture for category 2. In October 2021, the median wait time was 47 days, with 1 216 patients over boundary. In October 2022, the median wait time was 59 days, up from 47 days, and the number of patients over boundary rose from 1 216 to 1 995. The picture for category 3 is even worse, as we might expect. In October 2021, the median wait time was 142 days. In October 2022, it was 185 days. We have gone from 1 800 cases being over boundary to 4 189 cases.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** That is hardly a system getting better.

**Ms L. METTAM:** Yes; the system is under extraordinary pressure. More than 4 000 patients have been waiting for more than a year for category 3 surgery, and we know that there can be significant impacts as a result. Elective surgery does not mean that it is nonessential surgery. We know the impact that a delay in surgery can have on the acuity of patients. Michelle Hansford from Busselton is a clear example of a patient who waited for category 3 surgery. She waited three years, until her situation became much more serious. She had needed preventive breast cancer surgery but, unfortunately, because of the delay, she needed to be treated more urgently for breast cancer once these issues were raised through the media.

Code yellows, or a lack of capacity in the system, is another metric to evaluate our health system. There is now a different policy around how code yellows are managed, but when we look at the data, as the minister implores us to do, it points to a system that is under extraordinary pressure. There were 490 code yellows between June 2020 and June 2021, and there were 603 code yellows across the whole system from 2021 to 2022. That is an extraordinary sign that the health system is under extraordinary pressure.

The four-hour rule is another metric that is used to see how the hospital system is performing. Despite a 90 per cent target for patients to be seen within four hours, there has been a failure to reach anywhere near that target—it is sitting at between 58 and 60 per cent.

In terms of how the hospital system is managing and the health crisis that is continuing, we should not forget the shambolic way in which this government has managed critical wage negotiations with our nurses and midwives. At a time when we are desperately trying to retain and recruit nurses and midwives amid a mass exodus of health workers from the profession because of burnout, it is extraordinary that we are seeing the pay dispute and political fighting continue between the Australian Nursing Federation and this government. The government will argue that three per cent is in line with what others and the union were offered and had accepted, but it is hard for our frontline workers to cop this when they were asked to do more with less over the last couple of years during the pandemic. They accepted the wages cap because of the need for budget repair, but they have effectively gone from being some of the highest-paid health workers in the nation to some of the lowest paid. It is fair to say that those who are really losing in all this are our nurses and midwives. We certainly do not support the approach of the nursing federation in recent times to ignore the direction of the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission, but we have so much sympathy for our health workers, who deserve a negotiation in good faith. Enrolled nurse and United Workers Union member Julie-Marie Hay said about the three per cent offer —

“Five per cent isn’t actually what it costs to live anymore. So we’re not even asking what we deserve,” ...

“I’m a single parent, I got three kids. I do it on my own. Just to be able to survive and go to work every day is a goddamn struggle.

“Currently in the hospitals we are struggling to survive, just because we don’t have staff.

“[If] they want to retain us, they want to keep us, they want to be able to keep us motivated so we actually have the resources to be there for you, then they need to respect us.”

It is fair to say that many nurses and midwives feel very let down by the way the political debate and negotiation between the government and the unions have played out. They feel insulted by a Premier who, on one hand, crows about a budget surplus that is apparently the envy of other states and then, on the other hand, cries poor when it comes to our health service. As one nurse said —

No more “health-care hero” lip service!!! ... Pay us what we’re worth

This government has buried its head in the sand on the plight of our healthcare workers, who are already a diminished workforce through mismanagement and a failure to recruit the health workers we need. Day after day, we hear very concerning feedback about what it is like to operate on the ground.

This morning, I spoke to a nurse about dialysis services in some of our major hospitals. The nurse raised concerns about how dialysis hours are being cut due to a lack of dialysis beds and support. I hope that is something the minister will be able to clarify. Some patients have had treatment cut from the recommended four hours to three hours. Instead of patients undertaking dialysis three times a week, they are going for a reduced number of days because the health system is under-resourced in that area. It is certainly very concerning and points to a health workforce that does not feel supported. We know our health workers will always put their patients first because they are so committed to the job. The nurse described to me her utter frustration and the extent to which she feels let down by not being properly resourced and not being able to give patients the recommended level of care.

The Premier stated that he gave the nurses the concession they wanted on nurse-to-patient ratios, when the government offered to shorten the time frame for implementing the ratios from three years to two years. We would argue that if the health system had enough incentives, so many health workers would not be leaving, more workers would be coming into the workforce and we would have less of an issue. Health workers on the ground felt that it was an insincere offer that lacked urgency to fix the healthcare crisis. The government has dragged its feet on addressing this issue.



The Aishwarya Aswath inquest heard from one nurse who worked that night and stated that there were nine patients to every nurse at the Perth Children's Hospital emergency department. Professor Phillip Della, who is Western Australia's former chief nursing officer and was a witness during the coronial inquest into the death of Aishwarya Aswath at Perth Children's Hospital, found the existing staffing system for nurses and midwives was flawed, resulting in "increased workload stress, low staff morale and decreased staff satisfaction".

A number of questions were asked today about the issues that are affecting our regional hospitals. I am sure that my colleagues will point to those concerns. We have a situation that is not what it should be. Strikes appear inevitable on Friday. Patient care will undoubtedly be compromised as elective surgeries are cancelled or delayed further. The Australian Nursing Federation is demanding the five per cent increase. As I have stated, the union needs to respect the decisions of the Industrial Relations Commission, but the government also needs to step up and de-escalate the situation with a fair and reasonable offer.

It is very clear that our nurses are at their wits' end. Many are walking off the job. They are desperately trying to get a message through to the government that the government has its head buried in the sand. It is fair to say that nurses have had enough. The government and the Premier can fix this. The government could resolve this, but it seems that there is no appetite to fix it. It is wholly and utterly compromised going into these negotiations and keeping all the competing unions at bay.

I know other members would like to speak, but we hope that a resolution will be sought and addressed for this wage dispute. We hope that it will be imminent. Our health system is being propped up by our critical health workers, who continue to do more with less. They are doing double shifts and feeling the real impact of burnout, for not just the last 12 months, but also several years before under the McGowan government. They face a string of issues that I have pointed to—record levels of ambulance ramping, increased wait times, surging lists for elective surgery, all the code yellows, and our nurses and health workers being in the unenviable position of speaking to patients about a level of care that is compromised by under-resourcing and this government's lack of strategy.

This government's only mode of operation is diverting and deflecting. In this place, we have heard that the government cannot rule out gagging St John Ambulance on ambulance ramping figures. We know the government attempted to bury those figures before. I also touched on the scattergun approach to reform, which has been highlighted by the Auditor General. In the meantime, patient care is being compromised, despite the best efforts of our dedicated health staff.

It is unconscionable that we are at this point. This is a state that was meant to be battle-ready for COVID and well past COVID, but we are seeing ambulance ramping figures that are the worst on record, and more and more damning reports about a government that has lost its way and is not prioritising health.

It is quite clear that there is no strategy and no long-term plan. We know that the health system is in crisis, but without an honest and transparent look at the issues and an evaluation of the health system, it is difficult to see how that will be turned around. We also support calls from Aswath and Prasitha for a royal commission into the hospital system because it is very clear that there is a disconnect between the McGowan government's spin and what is happening on the ground in our hospital system. We absolutely need that line in the sand. Our patients deserve it and, quite clearly, our health workers—our nurses and midwives—deserve it as well. It is very clear that they have been let down by the McGowan government and there is no sign that the situation will improve under the current Minister for Health.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [4.50 pm]: I rise to support this excellent motion moved by the shadow Minister for Health. It was interesting and instructive today when the Minister for Health was asked about her claims of record investment in the health system and she effectively refused to answer the question. Of course, when the minister makes public claims about a record investment, one is led to believe that somehow or other this government is doing better than any other governments have done. The shadow Minister for Health has demonstrated quite patently that the records that this government holds are records it should be ashamed of. It certainly does not hold a record for performance or investment in our health system. This government is big on announcements but poor on performance. As we heard, this state's health system has significantly worsened under the McGowan government. This government was elected on a platform, in part, based on claims that the previous Liberal government had a poor record in this area. Although the government was effective in its strategy, it was untruthful in what it said. If a massive shortage of beds and ambulance ramping rates that are five times worse than the rates under the previous government are an improvement, perhaps the government could say there is some validity to that statement. I want to go over this. Minister after minister in this place loves to dwell on the past and go back in time. I have heard ministers in this place criticising this side and referring to the Court government era in 1997, which was 25 years ago. I am going to go through in some detail the record of our previous coalition government and what it achieved and contrast that with the appalling poor performance of this government.

History is often rewritten in this place, but it is good to go through these achievements and put them in *Hansard*. I will talk about health budgets. This is a difficult topic for this government and its public relations folk—and, boy, does this government have a lot of them! I think the government had 110 PR staff before the COVID pandemic

and then it took on another 50 journalists to manage the COVID message, but I would say that was to manage the message on the dysfunction in the hospitals. It has a very large number of PR staff. This government has certainly achieved recruitment in that regard, if not with police and hospital staff. It is a touchy subject.

The government is saying that everything is okay. It does not matter whether it is law and order, crime or, in this case, the performance of the hospitals in this state, because everything is okay. Of course, as was pointed out, the reality is that thousands and thousands of Western Australians cannot access critical health care. In many cases, care is needed for a condition that is profoundly affecting their quality of life. We heard about the increase in waiting lists for various surgeries such as a hip operation. A hip that requires surgery is not some idle condition. It can keep people housebound and it can keep them from socialising. Immobility can bring on a person's early death, yet waiting lists for hip surgery, amongst others, are increasing. The government likes to pride itself on how much it is spending on the health system and it likes to make these statements, but, as was pointed out, it is a health system that is going backwards.

Let us go through some facts. Under the previous Liberal government, the health budget increased by more than 90 per cent from \$4.5 billion in 2008–09 to \$8.6 billion in 2016–17. That health budget increase occurred under the previous Liberal government over two terms. That investment turned a health system that Labor had once again run into the ground into a modern health system. Labor inherited a gold-standard health system. This Labor government now claims that it is fixing the health system. In fact, it is degrading the outstanding, first-class health system that it was given, a system that had been largely rebuilt with almost a doubling of expenditure in the health budget. What has this government done? During the five years that the McGowan government has been in power, which is over half the time of the previous Liberal government's term, the health budget has increased by 30 per cent. This government has not kept pace with the demand for health services. Our health workers are utterly distressed. I resonate with the comments made by the shadow Minister for Health in this regard. If any government members bothered to talk to health workers, they would hear of the enormous distress that they are experiencing. The industrial campaign that is going on at the moment is not some idle campaign by health workers to simply enrich themselves. This group of workers is utterly distressed. In fact, the senior staff in these hospitals are massively overburdened. The government can say that everything is fine because of its record expenditure, but the facts belie the truth of that statement.

A whole heap of preening is going on amongst members on the other side who think they are going to get some positions in the forthcoming cabinet reshuffle. In the upper house, members are hoping to get the position of Minister for Agriculture and Food. In this place, there are various hopeful parliamentary secretaries putting on their best show, puffing out their chest and hoping to get a cabinet position. They are not worrying about the wellbeing of hospital patients in this state.

Under the previous Liberal government, the number of doctors increased by 52 per cent. This government cannot get doctors to go into the hospitals, part of which is the government's own making, and I will go through that. Health practitioners have been turning away from hospitals because they do not want to work in a dysfunctional hospital system, and the shadow Minister for Health touched on this. The government is so embarrassed about its poor performance, it actually stopped its Your Voice in Health Survey. That was an election promise of this government, but it stopped running that survey when the information was most needed, when hospital staff were under the most pressure and needed this government's support. At that time, the government should have known that staff were suffering and struggling and it should have been working out how to support them. This government stopped that survey under the ruse that staff would be too busy to do the survey. What an absolute farce! It was stopped at a time when staff were under stress and the government should have known how they were feeling, but it chose to ignore the survey. Why? Because it did not like the results. That is the simple truth of it. I will not go through the survey in detail for the sake of time, but it asked staff whether the organisation supported them and their goals, and less than half the staff were positive about that. It also asked staff whether their organisation was making the necessary improvements to meet future challenges and only 44 per cent of staff believed that. The outcomes of that survey reflected the reality of what we have already heard in this debate today: leaders are not being open to communication and the like.

I will say, and I have said this before in this place about this industrial dispute; it is not just about pay and conditions. Those are clearly important to everyone, logically, particularly in the example we heard of the single mum who is struggling to get by. However, it is the way that they are being treated. It is the arrogant dismissal by this minister and government of their issues and concerns, portraying them as grubby opportunists who are seeking to leverage their position to get a bit more money. They are probably distressed. Now we are seeing an industrial issue and I think that issue has been covered very well.

As much as anything else, it is a cultural issue. As I mentioned, under the previous Liberal government health workers were one of the highest paid the country. Why was that? Why were they amongst the highest paid in the country? The reason is that we wanted the best possible staff that we could get, the most qualified and professional. We are competing with an ascendant resources sector in Western Australia. That means that if we are going to compete for those trained people, we need to offer competitive salaries.

We have listened to all the issues around those health workers. The senior staff who are working in those hospitals are absolutely overburdened. Do we have trainers in wards? In most hospital wards we do not have trainers. Do members know why? Because those nurses and midwives are actually out there working on the wards. The minister can laugh and think that this is funny that those staff are overburdened —

**Ms S.F. McGurk:** We are not even talking about you.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The minister can sit there laughing. The reality is that those staff are absolutely overburdened and distressed. As I said, the trainers are not on the wards. If they are on the wards, they are not actually training, because they are completely overwhelmed with carrying out the work of the ward. Junior staff are coming into the hospitals, but of course, in many cases, that actually increases the burden on senior staff and it does not help them. It takes about two years before a nurse or midwife who has come out of university can work at capacity on those different wards.

Our strong record in health goes well beyond pay. We knew that we needed to dramatically rebuild the health system after Labor destroyed it, which is what they are part of the way through doing once again in this place. I will go through some of the record of our previous coalition government in providing facilities for the state. As I said, there was a massive increase in the budget itself. Our emergency departments saw about 1 million patients in 2016. That was up from 25 per cent in 2008–2009. That was a significant increase in the load.

Again, the government carried on about COVID, but what we actually saw in the hospitals with COVID was, in fact, a drop-off of a lot of the demand, because people were not going to hospitals. The former coalition government saw a significant increase. Our doctors and nurses were the best paid in the country. We made an unprecedented investment in redeveloping our entire hospital system. I was fascinated to hear the pathetic attempt today to talk about the claims of what Labor did. They mentioned something from some years ago and suddenly they said that was their project. Let us go through the reality.

Fiona Stanley Hospital cost \$2 billion. It was a major new tertiary hospital. It had 643 beds, and a 140-bed state rehabilitation service that opened in October 2014. The Perth Children's Hospital cost \$1.2 billion and had 298 beds. It was being built to replace the 250-bed Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and the state's paediatric tertiary hospital. The expansion to the Joondalup Health Campus cost \$230 million, which was completed in 2013 and increased the number of public beds from 280 to 498. The 30-bed mental health unit at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital cost \$31 million and was opened in June 2015. There was also the 307-bed Midland Public Hospital, which cost \$360 million and opened in November 2015.

Unlike this Labor government, with their obsession with the western suburbs and building more facilities at the QEII Medical Centre, we established a major tertiary hospital in Midland. What a fantastic hospital it is. It was established through a public-private partnership with St John of God. That hospital takes as many emergency patients as Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. We provided that in the eastern suburbs, not in traditional Liberal territory. We actually established a major tertiary hospital out in the eastern suburbs, which is now a critical part of our health system.

In the regions we invested hundred and \$170 million in the Albany Health Campus, which opened in May 2013. Another \$120 million was invested into the Busselton Health Campus, which opened in March 2015. The redevelopment of Kalgoorlie Health Campus cost \$59.6 million, and was completed in August 2015. At the time, the government had gone to the election and had also commenced the construction of the new \$207 million Karratha Health Campus, and the \$31.3 million Esperance Health Campus redevelopment. There was also the \$26.8 million development at the Carnarvon Health Campus, as well as the Onslow Health Service, which was, at that stage, a \$42 million redevelopment.

In addition, the Liberal–National government made major investments in improving health and aged care facilities and services under the southern inland and north west health initiatives. Again, they were major investments in the regions of Western Australia. The coalition government also introduced and expanded the telehealth initiatives, which enabled 33 500 regional patients to have assistance from health practitioners via teleconferences. Additional money was invested into medical research, with \$30 million allocated over four years in the 2013 budget for the future health medical research initiative. That was a previous commitment, in addition to \$58 million already committed to health and medical research.

We were a government that managed for the whole state, not the tribal punishing politics that this government practices. Through negotiation and agreement with Curtin University, the absolutely historic development of opening Curtin Medical School in Midland was made. The government carries on about having to assemble some trains out in Midland. Imagine actually establishing a whole tertiary campus for training doctors in Midland so that youth in the eastern suburbs, students that face intrinsic barriers to medical school attendance at existing universities, have their own campus out in Midland to bring a whole new cohort of people into medicine. It was the previous Liberal government that did it. The government committed \$22 million to the land for that project.

This was a coalition government that introduced a whole range of other programs, immunisation programs and the like. That was a government that was focused on this state. If members want to sit in this chamber and dwell on

the past, then I suggest that Labor members actually look at the achievements of the last government and compare them with the pathetic efforts of this government. When government members come into this place and talk about their record investment, it is a joke.

[Member's time extended.]

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I have come into this place and heard members say, "Yes, there were those investments" and give the criticisms they ran with publicly at the time around Fiona Stanley and the children's hospital. It is quite fascinating to see how members want to blame a previous government for issues due to construction during that period, issues which no minister could have possibly had any control over. Yet, the debacle of the Forrestfield–Airport Link involved massive safety issues and issues with the construction and the Minister for Transport said, "It's nothing to do with me." Members can have it one way, or they can have it the other. Either ministers are responsible for construction issues, or, that is in fact something that is beyond ministerial control. We have said in this place that the critical factor is what the minister does in response to issues.

In December 2020, the Labor government announced—they are good at making announcements—a new world-class \$1.8 billion hospital to be built in Nedlands to replace King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. In February of this year it was still in the design phase. When are we going to see that hospital? In fact, we should have another major tertiary hospital in Perth on top of a replacement women's and babies' hospital; in fact, we have neither from this government. The government announced the reopening of beds that it had closed before, as was pointed out by the shadow Minister for Health. The hospital is being located in Nedlands—not on any public transport route—where it will be extremely difficult to access, and where there are already major issues with traffic and parking that affect residents all through the area. Murdoch University would have been a good location for that hospital, or another location that would be more accessible to people from across metropolitan Perth. That is where the Liberal government located its hospital. The middle of Nedlands is not accessible to a great many people. It is an area that people find extremely difficult to access. We have been through that issue and raised questions in this place; again, we get dismissive or no answers to our questions. As I say, we still have no idea when that women's and babies' hospital will be delivered. It will be fascinating to see what will actually be delivered by this government. On every capital project, this government fails to deliver on time and definitely fails to deliver on budget.

As I said, I have been through a number of those projects. Under the previous Liberal government, there was a massive increase in our hospital system's capacity and a massive improvement in service delivery, not only in our own electorates, but also across metropolitan Perth and regional Western Australia.

**Dr J. Krishnan** interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I am not quite sure what the member said but I am sure it was insightful. In 2018–19, the asset investment program under the Barnett government saw \$5.9 billion in funding for critical assets across Western Australia. That was the previous government's investment over its two terms. Between 2018–19 and 2021–22, in half the time that the government has been in power, what have we seen from this government? We have seen an asset investment program of around \$1 billion. That is 16 per cent of what we saw under the previous government. Do the numbers; go through the budget papers. Health is five per cent of the capital program. Metronet is 18 per cent of the capital program. That is this government's priority. They are telling figures. It picks apart —

**Ms A. Sanderson:** We know you hate public transport; you've already made that clear.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I value the health of the community above a project that has a 30 per cent rate of return, let me tell the minister that. A new children's hospital is being brought in; it should be there now. I value that a lot more than purely vote-buying exercises in government members' own electorates. They do not care about women and children. They do not care about the pregnant mums who were turned away from the maternity hospital because there was no room. They were redirected to other hospitals that they did not want to go to. Government members do not care about that. They want to stand beside the Minister for Transport wearing their hard hat and fluoro vest, and boasting about how they are going to build something in five years' time; meanwhile, something that is critically needed for the health of women and children in this state is not being delivered by this government. The government is not committed to that investment. Its priorities are purely political. It is purely about what votes members can get at the next election—not about the health of people in Western Australia.

As I said, the system is under enormous distress. If we look at the period 2009–10 to 2017–18 again, we saw a 77 per cent increase in operating expenditure. I have already talked about the total increase over that time. If we look at the current government, we see that there has been only a 32 per cent increase in spend. Any contention that this is somehow a record increase in expenditure is clearly untenable.

We can look at regional health and the issues in regional areas. I am sure my colleagues will cover this in more detail, but we have a simple example in Toodyay with the Alma Beard Medical Centre, which has operated since 2012 but is going to close. Anybody who has been through Toodyay would realise that there has been a massive expansion of the population in that area. About 4 600 people are going to lose their only GP. It is the role of government to make sure that those services are delivered in that community. It is the role of government to oversee that and make sure that those services are provided. We know about the GP vacancies in rural areas. There are record vacancies

in the system. Let us be clear about the shortage of doctors, nurses and midwives: this government stopped them coming into the state. Western Australia is critically dependent on a steady stream of health professionals—doctors, nurses, midwives and other professionals—coming into this state. This government, for the pure chest-puffing politics of being strong on the borders, stopped doctors, nurses and midwives coming into the state for two years. What a farce that was, because plenty of other people came in. Let me tell members that plenty of billionaires in this state—there is a good number of them—could travel at will around the world with the approval of this government, but the government stopped critical health workers coming into the state. That was a farce. We clearly accept that the government did not want people coming into the state for idle purposes, but to stop key health workers and other critical workers from coming into the state was absolutely ludicrous. As I say, it seemed like their mates could come and go as they pleased, but people who were actually going to save lives were kept out of the state of Western Australia. That is one of the reasons we have this problem now. I am sure the government was approached about this. I was approached by numerous people who work in the medical system who said that this would be a disaster. They said that, post-COVID, we would have a massive shortage of health staff in this state. That shortage was entirely predictable, and it sits at the feet of this government. The government can wave its hands and try to blame someone else, but it stopped that pipeline of workers for that period for just pure, crass political reasons and not for any practical purpose, even though it was warned that that would cause problems in the future. That was an absolute disgrace.

This government is good on public relations. It does not seem to have any trouble recruiting more journalists to its ministerial offices. I do not know whether they give their special office a name—the COVID information office, or whatever it is. There are 55 staff up there monitoring my social media 24/7 and sending little letters down. I give a shout-out to them, by the way. I am sure they will be listening to this. They will be able to come back with something pithy.

Every week in this state, we see ordinary Western Australians suffering because of the mismanagement of the McGowan Labor government and this health minister. The government has hidden behind COVID for the last two and a half years and used it as the excuse for every failure of this government, but those failures are being revealed. This government is failing patients and the people who work in our hospital system. I will pass on to someone else.

**MS M. BEARD (North West Central)** [5.17 pm]: I rise to support this motion. It will be no surprise that I will speak from a regional perspective on the many health issues and challenges that are faced by people across our state. I think members will appreciate that as we get further away from Perth, services become less reliable, and as we get further away from a regional centre, they also become less consistent. That happens for lots of reasons. We understand that there are challenges with distance and remote areas, but we need to remember that those areas still need services and facilities. The people living in those areas contribute in a large way to our economy and our state.

I asked a question today about Paraburdoo Hospital. Obviously, it is vitally important that patients, staff and residents are catered for with important infrastructure and the ongoing development of hospitals. When I asked my question about Paraburdoo in question time today, I was surprised that the minister was surprised that I was raising it, and also that I was commenting about a lack of investment in parts of the north west. What I was alluding to, which the minister may have been confused by, is that although work on Meekatharra Hospital may be underway, it has still not started. Tom Price Hospital has apparently stalled. Residents are still waiting to hear when the project will start and there is no clarity around when it might be delivered. I tried to meet with people from Paraburdoo Hospital when I was in Paraburdoo but, unfortunately, they were not able to make that possible. Paraburdoo Hospital allegedly has scaffolding, is in disrepair and needs urgent upgrades. Paraburdoo Hospital is important to places like Tom Price because, if anyone is airlifted out of Tom Price, they have to travel by ambulance to Paraburdoo, which is 80 kilometres away. They will often have to spend time in Paraburdoo Hospital, so it is very important for the region. There needs to be a time line for the project upgrades that were mooted to give people confidence that the upgrades will happen. Comment was made around the fact that I am always talking down the town. As a person who is living in, has grown up in and is invested in the regions, I am very aware of the opportunities in the regions but these cannot be maximised without robust services and facilities. The growth that is going to happen or could happen will not happen without these vital services.

Aged care is another area in which we had some wins in the regions but some areas still need improving. People in Tom Price want to stay in the region, which means that families will stay there. It is the same in Exmouth and Kalbarri. We need to find a way to accommodate these people who want to stay in their towns with aged care and for the seniors who want to remain in their homes or move to some kind of care so they can stay in the regions. That will keep their families in the regions too.

There is an increasing level of activity across the regions with mining, industry and a lot of new businesses. There is also an increased amount of tourism. Tourism WA is marketing the area widely. It is encouraging people to travel to the regions, yet nursing posts are struggling, particularly in Yalgoo and Cue. Although we understand the difficulty in resourcing these nursing posts, there was a death four years ago and we are still no closer to making sure it does not happen again. We are stretched with the number of volunteers. The nursing posts in Cue and Yalgoo need to be upgraded. Shark Bay is another example. I am sure everyone is well aware that around 700 residents live in

Shark Bay and that figure swells to 7 000 people in holiday periods. I have friends who went there and to the equivalent in Coral Bay, which swells to 5 000 people. It has one nursing post. Someone was bitten by a snake in the middle of nowhere. I think anyone in this house in that situation would appreciate the stress levels that people reach and the impost on the very few people in those settlements who have to deal with these situations, which are life and death in many cases. In Shark Bay, there are long waits for appointments and there is a heightened need for at least nurse practitioners to be on the ground if that is possible. It has a visiting doctor but, with numbers of people like that visiting, it is a deficit that needs to be plugged.

The patient assisted travel scheme is also being exacerbated. It is more difficult for people to get to services and appointments. They are struggling to get on flights because there are no seats. On top of that, seniors are faced with increased fuel costs and it is around \$100 a night when they travel away. It is very difficult. A lot of people here would have booked accommodation in Perth. It is pretty hard on a pension to facilitate travel and line that up with accommodation they can afford for that price. Patients are forced to travel long distances. They need to find accommodation. Some patients are cancelling appointments they should be attending. Unless it is a crisis, they are putting off these things. The PATS is definitely something that needs to be looked at in line with the cost-of-living increases that have happened. There has not been an increase. Many people are taking long journeys, often by road, especially pregnant people or people who need before and after treatment for operations. It is 1 000 kilometres return from Carnarvon to Perth and it is 1 400 kilometres from Exmouth. If they can get on a plane, that is well and good. If they cannot, they will miss appointments as well. We need to have some reprieve in that space.

The services in the regions are becoming acutely under-resourced. Silverchain does an amazing job. It really does hold families together in these towns but, unfortunately, it needs to be bolstered because in some instances people have no care over the weekends if it does not have enough people. There are not enough facilities so people are being forced to leave. Part of the Silverchain service means that people are able to stay in their homes and stay where they are with their families.

I have raised in the house access to breast screening and support services, which are absolutely critical to people in isolated locations. Everyone needs to have access to them. I went to the Breast Cancer Network Australia event last week and I met a regional survivor who made it very clear that she was forced, 20 years ago, to move to Perth because she did not have access to services. I would like to commend —

**Ms A. Sanderson:** It was 20 years ago!

**Ms M. BEARD:** She is no different because 20 years ago she still had breast cancer and went through the same thing that people are going through today. She is saying that, even now, nothing has changed.

**Ms A. Sanderson:** It's not the same.

**Ms M. BEARD:** It is the same. My mother was one of them. The BCNA is critical to people in regional areas and I commend it for its service because people can access support services and networks through online facilities and services.

Another issue is renal dialysis. There is a growing list of people within the regions and a very long waitlist for people who cannot access a chair. They are having to move away, off country, or wait for a chair at the expense to their health. A person in Kalbarri I spoke to recently is going to need to travel to Perth. Some patients are undertaking education so that they can administer their own dialysis in their homes, which is a stressful proposition in itself because it is fraught with dangers. These are the extremes people are going to try to mitigate the need for a chair. They need support with accommodation and being able to find a chair when they do move to the south for the six-week period they need.

We all know there is this shortage of specialist anaesthetists, but, given the tyranny of distance, anaesthetists are an essential service, at least within regional centres, for people who have all sorts of issues, including those who have car accidents, emergencies, or whatever might be going on in whichever area. It is a long way to travel and I know the Royal Flying Doctor Service is flat out doing transfers daily. It flies in and out of towns on a consistent basis to airlift people out because these services are not available. Maternity services fit into that same category. It is not a luxury but a fundamental health service that we need to be able to provide in every region. We clearly have another issue with staff who are battling extreme burnout. In Port Hedland, Hedland Health Campus had acute understaffing. In regional health facilities, we are struggling with the added pressure of no housing and, particularly in some of the hotspots in my electorate and I gather all through the state in the north, the issue of crime is making it extremely difficult for people to be sourced to fill positions. We need to take an approach that is going to remediate some of those issues. Groups of kids are running the streets and terrorising some of these people in their homes. Some of them are nurses who are working very hard and doing an amazing job in our health system. I am alluding to the situation at Banksia Hill Detention Centre and what is happening on the ground in these towns definitely not being mutually exclusive. It is having major knock-on effects to our health services.

Mental health is also a major issue, as we all know, particularly with the crime situation. It is crucial, critical and increasingly necessary. We have a high rate of suicide and domestic violence across the regions and we need to focus on and bolster access to the services through some form of mechanism. Drugs and alcohol are in that same bucket.

With the crime situation in Carnarvon, Meekatharra and many other towns across the regions, the mental health of victims of crime is at a point at which residents really need some help and they really need to be offered help. It needs to be provided to them if they want to take it. I have received calls and texts as recently as the middle of last night, close to midnight, with people telling me, “I’ve had enough. I can’t leave my house. I’m a prisoner in my own home. Three houses in my street have just been trashed.” They are financially and mentally stretched. We need to do something about it before we are faced with a tragedy, and additional resources need to be afforded to that group of people.

Lastly, I know that the minister—more than one of them—has said that I am talking down the town. In actual fact, there is no way I am talking down the town. It is a beautiful region. It has been my home for most of my life. I make no apology for asking the questions I have been asking, and I will continue to do so. These are things that are important to our communities. These are things that are affecting our communities. People should be able to live a peaceful life and have the services and facilities that they need. I think it is staggering that people would assume that I have no idea about this. It is actually a bit confronting. It does not make sense to me that people would think that, and I want to put that to bed.

Some of the people who live and breathe these issues are now reaching breaking point. Parts of the region are in crisis, and it seems the government is not listening. There seems to be a disconnect between the government and some of the regions. I would be more than happy to host any government minister willing to come and have a look to get a grasp on exactly what is happening on the ground and what might be required. We need to make a change. I know people have mocked my inaugural speech and completely misconstrued it. I am happy to talk to anyone about that as well. I want to reiterate that I am not raising these issues because they are not real.

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition)** [5.32 pm]: I am very happy to contribute to this debate. I commend the member for Vasse for her hard work in continuing to raise these areas of concern in the health portfolio. I think her contribution had great depth. She provided statistics and analysis of what we have seen over the last 12 to 24 months—even longer than that—under the watch of this government and the impact of the government’s mismanagement of health in Western Australia. The member for Cottesloe and the member for North West Central added to the debate, and I would like to do the same and raise some issues in my electorate. We want to assure the minister and members that we do see the challenges that are emerging as a result of the mismanagement and lack of investment, and we want to share the feedback we get from people who work within the system. As the member for Vasse pointed out, there are nurses, midwives and allied health service providers—those who work on the front line—who feel utter despair about the system that they are now a part of.

We understand that health is a complex portfolio and there are no simple solutions, but there is no doubt that this government has dropped the ball on investing in infrastructure and the workforce and ensuring that the conversations that need to be had with our federal colleagues are being had. It is a complex ecosystem between aged care, doctors and the services that are provided directly by the state government.

I can point to any number of cases of regular issues being raised by the opposition over the course of the last 12 months. At the very least, there is the ongoing and protracted negotiations with nurses and the record ambulance ramping that the member for Vasse spoke of. It hit an all-time record in November this year. I understand that ambulance ramping is now five times as bad as it was when the government was in opposition and calling it a complete crisis. The numbers do not lie about the failure to manage what we all know is a challenge with the hospitals, not the ambulance service. Substandard procedures and protocols in emergency departments have come at the cost of people’s lives, in some cases, and the shortage of staff and beds across the system puts an enormous amount of pressure on the staff who are left. That is the concern we have. We have regular contact with staff members who say they are reaching the end of their tether.

In a regional context, there are unique challenges, particularly with the attraction and retention of staff. The member for North West Central talked about it within the context of some of the challenges that we see in regional communities, particularly in the north west. The crime and dysfunction in those communities is most certainly having an impact on staff attraction and retention. Outside the north of the state, there are issues relating to housing and the ability for staff, whether staff within the health system or doctors in private practice, to access professional support and be safe in the hospital and in the community.

It is difficult to access GP and specialist services in regional communities. The patient assisted travel scheme, which we have raised on a number of occasions, is no longer hitting the mark. It has not been hitting the mark for some time, but in the context of rising fuel prices that is creating great challenges for community members in regional areas to access the services they need. These are specialist services that they cannot get in the regions they live in. They must travel. As the member for North West Central pointed out, it is equally difficult to find affordable accommodation in the metropolitan area. I will share an example of that with members as I go through my contribution.

Then there are the long wait times for access to specialists, something that Hon Donna Faragher and the member for Vasse have done quite significant work on, particularly when it comes to child and adolescent health services and education services. Everybody knows that early intervention is key with significant health challenges, particularly

with child health, allowing people to avoid ending up at the more expensive and challenging end of our health system. We do not want people landing in the emergency department. We want them to be able to access health services, preventing illnesses and challenges from escalating.

There is a significant wait time for access to specialists. In fact, I have examples of country people having to travel from distances as far as Esperance and the north of the state, only for the surgery to be cancelled at very short notice. For people living in the Perth metropolitan area, that is an inconvenience, and it certainly causes great distress. For people in regional Western Australia who have gone through the process of booking accommodation and arranging travel, whether driving or flying, it is easy to imagine the distress caused when they arrive and are told within a matter of hours or even a day that they are no longer on the list for the surgery. They have to travel back to their community, wait for a new appointment and then go through the whole process again. Unfortunately, I have had more than one person contact me for whom that has happened not once or twice but three times. To be addressed, it usually takes the intervention of a member of Parliament raising it with the minister's office, saying, "Surely there needs to be an understanding that these people cannot continue to travel at their own expense and in great discomfort, in some cases, on a regular basis." We know that surgery lists are cancelled for any number of reasons, but they have certainly been put on hold and the backlog has not been addressed, due to the shortage of staff, and that creates even more challenges.

I would like to furnish the Parliament with some examples so that the minister and members can see that there are indeed shortcomings in the system and that more needs to be done. I am sure that, when the minister and members of the government stand up, it will be all about the investment they believe they are making that will make a difference. We just want to put on the record that there are gaps. There are many gaps in regional communities, but there is no shortage of gaps in our major metropolitan hospitals, either.

Before I go on, I would like to address the ongoing negotiations with nurses and midwives and the threat of imminent industrial action. The government has made four offers of pay and conditions. The shortages and conditions that nurses and midwives in particular have been operating under have no doubt exacerbated an already very difficult job. I received an email from a midwife a couple of weeks ago. She shared with me what she has to do on the floor as a midwife and why nurses are arguing so passionately for the staff-patient ratios. She said that the government is not listening to nurses' and midwives' concerns about that issue. She writes —

I could show you so many posts and replies today from Midwives who are now so frustrated and are considering leaving our profession because we are at our wits end ...

Her very lengthy email goes through in great detail what midwives need to do in their observations to manage mothers and babies. Seven paragraphs talk about what they have to do on a regular basis to make sure that the mothers and babies in their care go home safely. There are things that do not fit within the criteria that they do to make sure that the system works. She finishes the email by saying —

I am writing this to at least highlight that there is so much more to midwifery and that only approximately 15–20% of babies need only basic observations and basic Midwifery input. It is so important that if cares are given after the birth and monitored correctly it reduces the cost to the system for readmissions that can occur 1–2 days after discharge if Midwives are under pressure and miss crucial signs and symptoms.

...

It is scary working as a Midwife at the moment and honestly we leave each shift glad that the heavy patient loads and limited care we were able to give did not result in any deaths. This is so sad, and I know my unit has had 17 very experienced Midwives leave the profession altogether due to PTSD, Vicarious Trauma plus exhaustion and frustration from such heavy patient loads. They have gone into jobs such as real estate, fast food, waitressing and customer service. These are midwives with 10–20+ years of experience who are magnificent at their jobs but they're just done. I know of 7 others looking at leaving pending the results of the EBA. And this is only 1 level 2 Government health service. For me I've been a Midwife for over 10 years and I am just so sad with how the Midwifery profession has declined and I am tired from working so much overtime and extra shifts to just ensure my coworkers and the women are not put at risk. Plus dealing with my PTSD all of these things has me considering leaving the profession not for better pay but for better conditions.

I will not share the name of the individual who wrote to me, but I assure the minister that we have received a number of communications from people who are working in the health system. I urge the government to do everything it can to ensure that this situation is resolved as soon as possible so that nurses and midwives have access to the remuneration and conditions of which this woman speaks.

I have an example of the surgery issue that I raised, which is not uncommon. This example is representative of the communications that the offices of many members would receive from regional constituents. This constituent, JE, contacted me with her experience in the health system. She is based in Esperance, and the member for Roe very quickly followed this up. I understand that there has been contact with the minister's office to resolve the challenge. Without identifying the individual, I will outline exactly what happened. She had to attend a metropolitan hospital for surgery at the end of October. She booked her accommodation. Forty-five minutes after she checked in, she was



contacted by the hospital, which had cancelled her surgery. This was her third trip concerning the same medical condition. The lady and her husband have to drive to Perth; it is a 16-hour return trip to Esperance. Her husband is also unwell and her condition means that it is very uncomfortable for her to travel, so they take two days to get to and from Perth. The first appointment was with a specialist. She was told at that appointment that she could have had the appointment over the phone with telehealth rather than going to Perth. The same thing happened a second time after a 16-hour round trip. After having the date shifted from the end of October to the beginning of November, she rebooked the hotel. When she booked into the hotel, she was told that there were five cancellations at the hotel due to the cancellation of surgery lists. She explained in her email not only the frustration of not being able to get through the surgery list, but also the impact that fuel costs were having on them, having to constantly drive up and down from Esperance and having to keep the vehicle roadworthy for long trips. As I said, the trip had to be done over two days because her condition did not allow her to sit for too long. She finished the email by saying that she feels utterly traumatised by this experience.

That is not a good reflection of the health system. Surely, we can do better for regional patients. Certainly, I am always dismayed when I hear that people have had that experience because when someone is already under pressure, I can imagine what it is like for them to go back home without having their medical issue resolved, knowing that it may happen again and again.

The final thing I want to talk about is the meeting that I had with Rural Health West this morning. The minister may say that the recruitment of doctors and the provision of doctors in regional communities is not the job of the state government—the WA Country Health Service and various governments have said exactly that—but the recruitment of doctors in the Western Australian health system is crucial to the running of regional hospitals and the wellbeing of our communities. I know that WACHS has conducted internal investigations and reviews into GP recruitment and that reports exist within the WA Country Health Service on exactly this matter. I will be very disappointed if the minister says that this does not need to be addressed by both the state and federal governments and that there is no role for the state government to play. The Rural Health West representatives who spoke to us this morning said that they have never been so concerned by the lack of doctors in regional communities. They talked us through the statistics and what communities are facing at the moment.

In 2017, there were 80 GP vacancies; in 2022, there were 115 GP vacancies. There is also the concerning trend of an increasing number of GPs retiring and the recruitment of GPs into the system is not keeping track. I am happy for the minister to correct me, and I am also happy to say that mistakes were made at the federal level by our colleagues in the previous government when they turned off the tap for overseas-trained doctors too early. The promise was that a significant number of Australian-trained doctors were coming through the system. The former federal government increased the number of training placements, but the transition has not gone well and there is a significant gap, which is having an impact on the entire health system in regional communities because without a doctor, primary health care is not being done, which could prevent people from entering the acute end of the health system. The system is not able to staff hospitals and EDs and there are challenges with the recruitment processes of WACHS and GP practices because the government is paying far more to recruit doctors in regional hospitals. The poaching that is going on is causing additional stresses. There are some solutions, but they will require the state and federal governments to work together. It takes 18 months to recruit an overseas-trained doctor—that is too long. We need to do whatever we can to speed up that.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Decreasing that time frame will certainly address some of the challenges.

Again, I am going to be magnanimous: I think blame lies on both sides. The Liberal–National coalition government started it but the Albanese government has carried on with the changes to distribution priority areas—the DPAs—which are the places that international medical graduates can apply for. For those who do not understand what I am talking about, the modified Monash —

**Dr J. Krishnan:** Model.

**Mr S.A. Millman:** Model.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Look at that—it is a chorus. Members do understand what I am talking about!

It is the Modified Monash Model. The places where international graduates can be placed are now competing with what are essentially metropolitan areas. When a place like Wyalkatchem or a hard-to-staff area like Meekatharra or Paraburdoo tries to recruit a doctor, that doctor can go there potentially or they can go and work in Yanchep or somewhere in the outer metropolitan area. A doctor going into a community also has concerns about their professional development, the support network they have around them and their family. Doctors face these challenges when they go regional, but with the decision made by the previous federal government—this came into play in early 2022—they can be placed anywhere in the MM 2 to MM 7 districts. That is playing out in some really rural and remote areas, and they do not have access to those doctors. I think that is very challenging. It is certainly a policy change that I would like to see the state government take up with the federal government. We are having that conversation with our colleagues as well.

There are a range of other challenges in attracting and retaining doctors. I know that the state government has a GP generalist pathway. It is very hard to attract people into the GP profession when they see the bright lights and higher pay of specialist professions, but we need to somehow address the remuneration package through Medicare, the overseas recruitment piece and the policy levers the government has at its fingertips. Part of that is access to housing and access to administrative support for these doctors—those solo GPs who find it very challenging to operate in isolation. I think more can be done at a state level because certainly that support is provided when doctors are recruited by hospitals and when they are in the local community.

I am concerned that Rural Health West, which exists to recruit GPs to Western Australia, is telling me that it is worse than it has ever seen. When I first started as a member of Parliament, I went to any number of town hall meetings at which local governments were being berated and belted around the ears because they were unable to attract a doctor to and retain them in their community. As a result, many of our regional local governments pay significant and exorbitant fees to attract a doctor. It is a bidding war whenever a doctor leaves a community. We have to be more creative. When we were in government, there were localised incentive payments, but as soon as those incentive payments ceased, those doctors dissipated and this challenge re-emerged. I think the member for Cottesloe mentioned Toodyay. The practice that was in Toodyay was an offshoot of a practice that operates out of Northam—that is, the Wheatbelt Health Network. It is experiencing challenges recruiting doctors to manage its practice in Northam, let alone a practice in the neighbouring town. It has left the community without a doctor. Some may say that Toodyay is just 20 minutes down the road, but it is a significant population centre in the electorate that has an elderly population. Again, people not having access to primary health care makes it very difficult to prevent them entering the health system in the first place and ending up at the acute end. I think we would all agree that needs to be a priority for government.

They are some of the issues we have coming across our desks. I also raised with the minister that, in addition to the comments from the member for North West Central about staff feeling unsafe, I have had a number of fly-in fly-out and locum nurses who travel to some of the remote communities in the north in particular tell me that some of the accommodation and the security provided is substandard. In fact, they have been under attack going from the hospital back to their nurses' accommodation. One of the nurses was very distressed. She came to see me. She was no shrinking violet. She has been a long-term member of the medical profession and a nurse, and has lived remotely and regionally. She answered the call to go back into the system because of the shortage. She did the right thing. I do not think we will see her back in the system because she felt very unsafe in the accommodation provided. Certainly as I travel around the state, I see nurses' quarters and accommodation for nurses that needs significant upgrades to meet a standard that I think would make it easier to attract and retain the staff that the government is looking to recruit into those regions. It is just one of the solutions, but it needs to be done with urgency in the challenging context of an overheated market. Without that piece of the puzzle from the Minister for Housing, through Government Regional Officers' Housing, I think we will find it very difficult to attract those people to the regions where we need them.

They are the issues I wanted to raise. Again, I urge the government and the minister to do absolutely everything they can to resolve the issues between the Australian Nursing Federation and the government on the enterprise bargaining agreement negotiations. I know it is complex, but the people who are being left out in this process are the nurses and midwives we talked about today who feel they are not being recognised for the very complex work that they have done on the front line with reduced services and support. It would be really unfortunate if we saw the situation escalate to the action nurses are threatening to take on Friday. If we cannot see that resolved after four offers from the government, it has taken too long for those offers to be made. Certainly, it is not good enough that the people who have supported us through COVID are getting to the point at which they need to threaten industrial action, because I do not know any nurse who really wants to do that. They certainly do not go to work wanting to make it more difficult to provide care to their patients. With that, I will finish my contribution. I look forward to the minister's response.

**MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health)** [5.56 pm]: I rise to respond to the motion moved today and address a number of the comments made by opposition members. I will start by saying that it is quite impressive for the opposition to speak on health for two hours and not once mention COVID. I am impressed—and they did it with a straight face! They did not once mention the challenges of the global COVID pandemic. It was quite incredible. Credit where credit is due, they did an outstanding job of having one eye open and refusing to acknowledge the reality of the state.

The Leader of the Opposition gave the most coherent speech, and I largely agree with many of the things that she said. I can, first of all, absolutely provide assurance to the community that the safety of our regional staffing is a big priority. I have certainly made it clear to the WA Country Health Service executive that we will provide them with whatever they need in terms of securing staffing and making sure they have everything they need. WACHS has had a significant funding uplift in the last 12 months to upgrade accommodation. During every regional visit, I make a point of visiting the staff accommodation so that I can see it myself. I totally agree that one bathroom between six bedrooms is not the standard that we would expect. Laverton is one example where that is the case, and there will be new staffing accommodation with the redeveloped Laverton Hospital.

I am aware that numerous sites have challenges because I travel the state and talk to people. I talk to staff without health or hospital executives present. Every visit, I sit down with staff in a room to hear from them directly because that is how you get the best information about what is really going on in a workplace. I also hear about a lot of really positive work and dedication, and the incredible support that they provide our community.

There are other members who want to speak on this debate so I will not take up all the time. There are members in this house who have a deep commitment to health, particularly public health. Our commitment to public health services is actually why many of us joined the Labor Party to start with.

I will run through some of the comments the opposition has made. The first was from the member for Vasse, who quoted a whole range of statistics from over the last 12 months but made absolutely no mention of the COVID-19 pandemic, which we know has skewed all the performance data. I challenge her to name one jurisdiction around the world whose performance data improved whilst dealing with a COVID peak. That is what we dealt with this year. I challenge her to do that. In fact, we are working with all key stakeholders around emergency access. One of those really important groups is the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, which has been really constructive in its engagement with the government. The president of that college, Dr Peter Allely, an outstanding emergency physician at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital, has himself been part of the ramping task force that has been working with the government on solutions. He has said that it is not just about more beds. In fact, he went on the record in November this year and said that in terms of the rest of Australia, WA is actually doing very well. He said that emergency department overcrowding is a worldwide phenomenon. There is a response for opposition members! If they talk to the clinicians at the coalface, they will find out that the work the government is doing within the system is starting to ease pressures.

The member for Vasse also claimed that we have cut corners in funding the health system and cut funding and significantly underinvested in the health system, and then linked that to the death of Aishwarya, which, frankly, was in poor taste. There has been a 30 per cent year-on-year increase in funding since we were elected. That claim by the member for Vasse was completely incorrect. There has been a 30 per cent increase in funding. The member for Cottesloe acknowledged the 30 per cent increase, but said that it is not enough and that we have not kept pace with the demand for services. Emergency presentations increased by about half that amount, so our funding has actually been double the increase in demand. What we are seeing are issues with complexity and length of stay.

The member for Vasse also claimed that after closing beds, we are now trying to reopen them. Which beds did we close? What beds is the member talking about? We have significantly more beds now than there were in 2016–17. That was not true; it was a complete and total fabrication. We delivered 483 beds in 12 months through the deployment of new modular build techniques. That is the equivalent of a new tertiary hospital, member for Cottesloe. That is what we did. I recently went to a forum hosted by the Australian Medical Association, in which it invited discussion and suggestions around managing some of the challenges and their pinch points. Not one person from the AMA said that more beds were needed. Not one person said that that was part of the solution. No-one said that. That is not where the solution lies. We are providing an increase in the number of beds.

The member for Vasse claimed that there are different policies around how code yellows are managed, but when we look at the data, it is a similar level. Code yellows are not a performance statistic—we have said this over and over. They are used for internal communications. They can be called by a single staff member at any time, and multiple times. They are not a performance statistic. That is why that information is not reported on the live performance statistics website on which we publish statistics every day.

The member for Vasse made some claims about a lack of transparency around the reporting of ramping. The Department of Health reports what is called transfer of care. It is exactly the same thing; it is just a different name! Transfer of care is the amount of time it takes for a patient to be transferred from the care of a paramedic into an emergency department, also known colloquially as “ramping”. It is the same thing. That information is published by the Department of Health, along with live emergency department data. The member claimed that we are somehow burying these statistics. The Department of Health is one of the most transparent government departments. Complete nonsense is being peddled.

I have to say that I am finding it distasteful that the member for Vasse is interfering in live contract negotiations. The government is in live negotiations for a big contract with our ambulance provider, yet she comes in here asking for information and making commentary about it, which could be seriously detrimental to the outcome of those negotiations on behalf of Western Australian taxpayers. That is what she is doing. We know that the member for Vasse does not listen at all. We have explained that emergency access block is not about the emergency department, which is why we have invested \$250 million in a package and task force that is overseeing a comprehensive strategy. We have invited the likes of the Australasian College of Emergency Medicine, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and representatives from primary care, emergency care and aged care—all the components that feed into our hospital system—to work through the blockages and how we will address them, so that we make sure that our community has access to that care. The member for Cottesloe claimed that the task force is costing money. The task force does not require any money; it is bringing people together. It is bringing the boards together. It is bringing the devolved system together. That is exactly what it is doing.

The member for Vasse claimed that we had launched an inquiry into the ambulance service to deflect attention from the real issues. What inquiry was that? Was she referring to the one started by the independent committee of the upper house that had an opposition member on it, who unanimously agreed with the recommendations? Is that the committee inquiry that the member for Vasse means—the one that had Hon Colin de Grussa on it, who agreed with the recommendations? I did not see a minority report! That was a whole-of-committee report with very clear recommendations. To make some kind of claim that we launched some kind of underhanded inquiry is absolute nonsense.

The member for Vasse also claimed that even though the Premier thinks investigations are talkfests, the announcement of senior police officers and health officials being embedded at St John Ambulance has failed. That was a total conflation of the issues! It was an example of complete confusion by the member for Vasse. Let me be clear: a multiagency support team was put in to support St John Ambulance through the COVID period Absolutely—we were very transparent about that. Before we put experts in emergency management into St John, St John's crew numbers were 40 per cent below establishment levels—40 per cent!—and with no reasonable explanation. St John had not implemented all its business continuity plans and protocols, and we saw the terrible impact of that on the community. I have met with the families who were impacted by that. Before the government took the bold decision to put people in there and take control, and make sure that the organisation was doing what it needed to do, crew numbers were 40 per cent below establishment levels. Now, they are at record levels; it is almost green. St John is meeting its targets with existing resources. It had a significant funding uplift—16 per cent over two years. It is now meeting all its targets with existing resources. The member for Vasse claimed that this is somehow a failure. Show me the evidence that this multiagency support team has failed! I want to see the evidence. Start backing up your claims with some facts! That is absolutely what the member for Vasse fails to do every time.

The member for Vasse also claimed —

... the minister ... refused to say whether a gag order would be imposed on St John, preventing it from reporting ramping data or ... commenting on ... McGowan government policies.

That is completely dangerous and speculative information in the middle of contract negotiations. I caution the member for Vasse to be very careful.

The department already publishes data on transfer of care, which is the same thing as ramping. The Department of Health also publishes daily reports on the number of attendances and admissions, and median ED waiting times, including by triage category. The live activity is where people can see the average wait time for triage 4, which is the semi-urgent patients.

We also released the *Your safety in our hands in hospital* report, which is published annually and provides information on the number and type of clinical incidents across the system. There is the monthly report on median wait time for elective surgery cases by category, specialty and hospital site, along with the total cases on waitlists and percentage within boundary. There is transparency in our system. We absolutely provide that information and to say that somehow we are constantly trying to hide information is complete rubbish.

The member for Vasse quoted from the Auditor General's recent report about the long-stay patient fund, claiming there were some very troubling home truths about the government's management of long-stay patients. According to the Auditor General, without better data —

... WA Health will struggle to ... make well-evidenced value for money investments.

Firstly, WA is a national leader in this space. We are absolutely leading the way in this space. The aged-care sector sees us as a leader, the disability sector sees us as a leader and the Minister for Disability Services sees us as a leader. We are purchasing supports that the commonwealth government should provide so that we can make sure our long-stay patients have a better quality of life. The data issue is challenging. I take members opposite back to 2016, with a bill passed in this place that established the current government's arrangement for the health system. We just passed the Health Services Amendment Bill 2021, which was a tidy up of that rushed legislation just before the 2017 election. We already had to go back and tidy it up. I support the devolved governance arrangement, but not enough time and investment was put in place by the former Liberal Minister for Health and his government to establish the consistencies required around the system. Every health service provider was allowed to go off and establish their own policies, data collection, staffing arrangements and clinical guidelines, instead of emboldening the system manager to have consistency around that. I agree with the independent governance review about consistent data. Guess who criticised that review? The member for Vasse roundly criticised that review before even reading it. She was in here criticising the review on governance, whilst today she was supporting its claims about data. It is the schizophrenic life of the member for Vasse. She cannot think and her left brain and right brain just cannot engage. You have to have, at least, a consistent position.

The member for Cottesloe made a range of claims around funding and infrastructure and so on and so forth. I want to address some of those claims because they are wrong, which is fairly consistent. The member for Cottesloe claimed today in question time, and also in this debate, that the Liberal-National government had a \$4.3 billion asset investment program over five years that was larger than the current government's \$1.6 billion. Let us unpack that for the chamber. The previous Liberal-National government completed the construction of Fiona Stanley Hospital,

which was commissioned by the former Labor government that had already set aside \$1.76 billion of funding debt free. We set aside that funding, as we have with the women's and babies' hospital. He acknowledged that on top of the \$1.6 billion capital investment, we have committed \$1.8 billion for the women's and babies' hospital. He did not acknowledge that we are delivering 530 beds into the system, the equivalent of building a new tertiary hospital, and that the previous Liberal–National government did not build any of that into its asset investment project.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** You did not. You did not acknowledge the 530 beds, the tertiary hospital that the member claims we need.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** We have actually opened that. We have opened 483 of those beds within 12 months. The member did not include any of these. Major hospital redevelopments include Geraldton Health Campus, Joondalup Health Campus, Fremantle Hospital, Bunbury Regional Hospital, Peel Health Campus, Laverton Hospital, Tom Price Hospital, Newman Health Service, Meekatharra Hospital and many more. Many are receiving significant investment. Also not built into its investment is the significant staffing uplift that we have seen of 12 per cent. I get challenged by my cabinet members for the significant staffing uplift that the Department of Health gets in FTE.

**Ms S.E. Winton:** Be proud of it.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** I am proud of it!

We have had a 12 per cent significant staffing uplift in the last two years alone. That is an investment. Investment is not just about buildings; it is absolutely about people.

The former Liberal–National government absolutely threw money at projects; there is no question about that. They were botched and mismanaged. Also, money can be spent on asset investment, but it is not the same as effectively delivering major infrastructure. It is not the same. Perth Children's Hospital, which accounts for a large component of the \$4.6 billion referenced, was so poorly managed that it took a Labor government to open it.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Cottesloe!

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The Langoulant report described it as “plagued by one problem after another”. The \$4.3 billion —

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms R.S. Stephens):** Member for Cottesloe, please stop interjecting.

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo!

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Don't you remember Mike Nahan saying that the problem at the hospital was a pipe under a road?

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Yes, I do.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** It was not; it was actually the taps they had installed in the building.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Correct—and the asbestos in the roof.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Cottesloe!

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** The \$4.3 billion contract to Serco with no cost–benefit analysis was astonishing. Serco took a few members of the backbench out for dinner, and by the time those members came to cabinet, Serco had a contract of \$4.3 billion. Mike Nahan and Joe Francis enjoyed the wining and dining of that particular organisation and they ended up with a multibillion-dollar contract that this government brought back in-house. There was the dodgy deal to outsource the Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre car park, paying \$16 million in compensation; \$81 million in unnecessary IT services; and no genuine reform in health other than an ideological obsession with privatising those services. That was the only reform. Under this government, the health budget increased by 30.9 per cent. That is an average of 5.5 per cent per annum. That is our commitment to public health services. It is about people, it is about funding and it is about recurrent spending. The 2022–23 budget alone committed \$2.5 billion to our health and mental health system. That takes the overall investment to \$5.7 billion in just eight months. There has never been more investment in our system and I am proud of that investment. Public Sector Commission data shows that under the Liberal–National government the health workforce grew by 1.7 per cent over eight and a half years. That is how many people it put in regional WA and across the metropolitan area—1.7 per cent. Over five years there has been massive growth under the McGowan government.

The opposition never has any constructive ideas. Why not spend more money? We increased health funding by 30 per cent since 2017. Why not build more beds and a new tertiary hospital? Guess what? We did that with 483 new beds. Why not hire more staff and pay them more? Absolutely. We have had an increase of 12 per cent of staffing in the health system. We are increasing their wages and introducing historic and significant reform for our nursing and midwifery staff, which is the introduction of nurse-to-patient ratios. That is real workforce reform in our health system.

I go to our more recent Liberal Minister for Health, Kim Hames, who said, this year alone —

... it's easy to sit outside and say how it should be done, it's a lot harder from inside and I know they are trying to do some of those things.

Members can see from our investment our absolute commitment to working across the system as a whole. We are working on the front door with appropriate diversion strategies. We are committed to working with our commonwealth partners on how we lift the value of general practitioners and on their attraction and retention.

I will go through some of the comments made by the Leader of the Opposition. WA Health is absolutely acutely invested in how we increase our GP numbers. In Western Australia, we pay our GPs well and we will continue to do that. In fact, I got criticised by two GPs in Margaret River who said that the WA Country Health Service was paying GPs too well.

**Ms M.J. Davies:** It is creating a bit of a bidding war.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** Yes, it is a bidding war. A national locum price would resolve that bidding war. We are urging the commonwealth to engage in a single national locum price so that we do not get the constant ratcheting up of the locum price and the sense of frustration of people on the ground who live in the communities and provide health care. What is best for communities is to have the jobs there and an even playing field. A single national locum price is one way to achieve that and we are advocating for that strongly as part of the national reforms.

I have talked a bit about the emergency department package. I will reflect again on some of the comments from Peter Allely, the president of the Australian College for Emergency Medicine, about the emergency department package that has been criticised by the two Liberal members in this place. The ideas for all those initiatives actually came from clinicians. They came from the staff on the floor, just like the idea for the Midland emergency access clinic came from staff on the floor. The emergency consultants and the nursing consultants said that they had a solution and this government provided them with \$3.4 million to give it a go, and it is working. The package that members opposite just criticised has come from clinicians on the floor. The president of ACEM has said that it is very encouraged by the package, that it has been working closely with government to provide advice and recommendations and that the recent increase in bed stock is very, very welcome.

I will finish up soon because I know that other members want to contribute. I will finish on comments around the workforce challenges and the current negotiations. I am going to be very cautious because we are in negotiations at the moment. Firstly, the opposition has said that somehow the government's position is driving away nurses and no-one wants to work in WA Health, but it is the opposition's negative rhetoric that is driving it down and making it sound like no-one wants to work in Western Australia. The reality is that health system FTEs have increased by 12 per cent over the last two years. Yes, people might be retiring and people might be tired and in need of a change, but people are flooding to our system to work. The claim that we did not let a single health worker into the state during the COVID pandemic is just a falsehood. That is absolutely wrong. Firstly, the commonwealth government controls the international borders; I have said this many times in this place. Secondly, healthcare workers were consistently being given approval to come into the state, into quarantine and into our systems. It is absolutely not true that we locked out everyone for two years—absolute rubbish! Between July and September this year, a period of three months, we grew the mental health workforce by 195 workers, 105 allied health staff and 101 medical practitioners. We are incredibly grateful for the work that our nursing and midwifery staff have done and continue to do. I support ratios, full stop. This government supports ratios.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** The first government to do it.

**Ms A. SANDERSON:** We are the first government to do it. I notice that the opposition has not provided a position on ratios. The opposition spokesperson for health has provided no position on ratios or the proposed pay rise. This government supports that reform and we support including babies in the midwifery workload. That is what we have offered and put on the table. We have sought to meet nurses' and midwives' key demands at every point; that is how this government has conducted these negotiations, and at every point the key demands have moved. That has been the great challenge of resolving these negotiations. I am deeply and immensely grateful for the work that our nursing and midwifery staff do in our health system. They do a fantastic job. I implore them to continue to work with us to negotiate in good faith and bring the Australian Nursing Federation back to the table. That is in stark contrast to the position of the opposition that has given no message of support around the reforms that we are putting on the table and the pay rise.

I have many more areas to cover, but I will sit down because I know that members want to speak, including the member for Collie–Preston who wants to make some comments about regional health care. This is a shambles of a motion. It is a nonsense. It is full of falsehoods. The claims of members opposite are not true and they are simply not backed up by evidence.

**DR J. KRISHNAN (Riverton)** [6.25 pm]: I applaud the remarks of the Minister for Health and I commend her for the fantastic work that she has been doing. If anyone can speak to the maximum extent about healthcare workers, with only 25 years' experience working alongside nurses and doctors, it is me. I hear about it the most. Every day I get calls about the engagement of the current Minister for Health with the health workforce and the effort that she is putting into engaging with them and taking action.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Cottesloe!

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I will reply to the comments made by opposition members and the shadow Minister for Health. Let me go through them one by one. I am sure that this will be an educational process for the shadow minister.

Let me share my experience of commonwealth funding for general practitioners. We had nine years of a federal Liberal government that refused to engage with GPs. What happened when the Albanese Labor government came into power? It started to engage with GPs. Last week, discussions commenced with the Strengthening Medicare Taskforce. A federal Parliamentary Friends of General Practice group was formed. The federal Minister for Health and Aged Care participated in that meeting to engage with GPs to bring in reforms. Action is taking place, but change will not happen overnight. The shadow health minister made the statement that this government is throwing money at the problem with the hope of fixing it. No, this government is not throwing money at the problem. It is strategically investing the money into the areas of need with a plan to move forward. The current average length of stay in WA for an aged-care patient is 13.1 days. The average length of stay for a mental health patient is 16.9 days. Investment into transitional care and alternative pathways will free up beds taken by long-stay hospital patients to enable a smooth transition of patients into hospital, eventually resulting in quicker access to care and a reduction in the so-called transitional ambulance ramping. Members opposite continue to harp on about it.

As the health minister said, not one member opposite mentioned the COVID pandemic and the impact it has had. As a clinician, let me tell members that during the COVID period, many people with chronic disease avoided going to their general practice for fear of contracting COVID from other patients. Those underlying chronic diseases have now surfaced and we are seeing an unexpected load in the demand for emergency and chronic disease management, which we are managing efficiently. To make no mention of COVID is pathetic from the shadow health minister. Elective surgery wait times have increased due to postponed surgeries during COVID, resulting in an additional demand post-COVID and a plan to manage it.

The minister also spoke about a strategy that will open theatres and have hospitals function over seven days, making them more efficient and reducing the waiting lists, instead of building a brand new tertiary hospital. In one year we have provided 483 additional hospital beds, which is equal to the number of beds in a tertiary hospital.

The final comment from the member for Vasse, the shadow Minister for Health, was about the pay dispute for nurses. She made a statement that the strike on Friday is inevitable. Is this what we tell our healthcare workers? The shadow health minister said that the nurses have lost. They have not lost! I have been working alongside nurses for only 25 years. I have interviewed a lot of medical students. People who come into the healthcare workforce have a passion to care. They have a passion for clinical governance. The reform that is being brought in by this government and this health minister to bring revolutionary change to the patient–nurse ratios is close to nurses' hearts. It will result in long-term better care for every patient who comes into hospital, and it is a big, big win for every healthcare worker. It is definitely not acceptable to talk that down.

I come back to the comments of the member for Cottesloe. The Leader of the Liberal Party claimed that ambulance ramping is now five times higher, and then the Liberal Party claimed that there is no data and no transparency. Where did this come from? There was no mention of COVID. COVID did not happen! The Leader of the Liberal Party spoke about the hip operation waitlist. Let me tell the Leader of the Liberal Party that it is not about operating on a person who has had a fall and replacing that person's hip. This government is putting more focus on preventing the fall in the first place. After nine years of lobbying, nothing happened with the federal Liberal government.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** Now, funding has already come. Funding has already been reached and it is now going to be distributed in preventive activities, which are more critical in the long run, rather than mopping the floor and not fixing the roof.

The Leader of the Liberal Party said that we need to talk to health workers. Yes, we are talking to them; I made that clear previously. He spoke about the Liberal Barnett government doing this and doing that. The real statistics are that from March 2014 to March 2017, there was actually a reduction of 916 full-time equivalent healthcare workers in the WA health system. I repeat: there was a reduction of 916 full-time equivalent healthcare workers between March 2014 and March 2017. After eight years in office, the previous Liberal Barnett government increased the number of healthcare workers by a very shocking 1.4 per cent. That was the increase in healthcare workers under the previous Liberal government over an eight-year period—1.4 per cent.

The Leader of the Liberal Party somehow has this imagination. He says that there is a lack of training for nurses because they are all working. For the information of the Leader of the Liberal Party, in 2022, 1 449 new nurses and midwives graduated. Does he imagine that they went onto a computer and learnt everything online without nurses' training? He should not speak without rightly validating what he says. He gave a big list of investments that were made under the Liberal government.

**Mr P. Lilburne** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Carine!

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** From that list, it looked as though he was campaigning in an election. He said that the Liberal government contributed \$22 million towards the land for Curtin Medical School. For the information of the Leader of the Liberal Party, Curtin Medical School has invested nearly 100 times more into the medical school there. I am proud to be part of Curtin Medical School, and today I am an adjunct associate professor.

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Cottesloe!

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** I am teaching the next generation of doctors. I was involved with the Australian Medical Council interview for Curtin Medical School to gain its accreditation. I know everything about Curtin Medical School, so do not make a statement like that. That \$22 million is not about a solution to the workforce shortage. From the first group of graduates, 51 have become interns.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, please have some respect for Hansard!

**Dr J. KRISHNAN:** One pathetic comment the Leader of the Liberal Party made was about the new hospice in Nedlands. Accessibility was the biggest excuse he gave. I suggest he go and see people in hospices, see what condition they are in and what they really need, and how desperately we need to build this facility. For him to be obstructive to that and find an excuse is pathetic and definitely something very bad.

I want to go on for longer, but, unfortunately, there are other members who want to talk; I need to leave an opportunity for them, so I will jump to the member for North West Central. Madam Acting Speaker, I accept responsibility for whatever I do. Let me start my opening remarks about the comments of the member for North West Central by referring to her closing remarks. It sounded to me as though she was offended about me making a contribution saying that she was speaking about crime when she is the shadow tourism minister. If that has offended her, I take my remarks back. I am not afraid or ashamed to do that. She has the right to raise her voice on issues in her electorate; I have no issues with that. At the same time, when people make valuable contributions, I am never afraid or hesitant to acknowledge or accept them. She made comments about rural hospitals, aged care needing more support, nursing posts needing to be increased, and exploring the possibility of nurse practitioners being recruited in rural areas. She was advocating for travel allowances for seniors and tertiary care needs. These are all things that the government is doing. Let me reassure the member that we are working towards them. At least there was a contrast with the Liberal Party in that she was making some suggestions towards solutions rather than having no suggestions at all. The members for Vasse and Cottesloe made no suggestions in their contribution. In a debate about such an important issue, they made zero contribution towards suggesting any improvements.

I come to the Leader of the Opposition. Of course, she was magnanimous in acknowledging that health is a complex portfolio and there is no simple solution. That is the reality. She also suggested that we work with our federal colleagues. Let me reassure the Leader of the Opposition that there is closer engagement with the federal government than ever before. We are working with our federal colleagues to get things done for the state, and there are much better things to look forward to. She also spoke about her meeting with Rural Health West. In my past life, I worked in the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners and managed practices. A lot of staff who worked alongside me then now work for Rural Health West. She spoke about the distribution priority area. I completely acknowledge the issue. There are measures being taken. She also spoke about the time line for processing GP recruitments. There is a plan; we are engaging with the federal health minister to bring in a single-window approach to recruitment so that people will not need to go through different departments and therefore it will not take as long to process. All that is happening. This is just for the Leader of the Opposition's information and reassurance.

A lot of work is being done. There is genuine interest and intent in solving the issues and working hard to get things done. When members opposite make statements like "We don't trust this government", it is very insulting. When they make statements that this government does not care about healthcare workers, it is even more insulting. I oppose this motion, and I thank you for the opportunity, Madam Acting Speaker.

**MS J.L. HANNS (Collie–Preston)** [6.38 pm]: I rise this evening to make a short contribution and to refute the opposition's motion on the health system. The first thing I want to say and have on record is the word "COVID". Minister, I will be mentioning that in my contribution tonight. In saying that, I put on record my absolute gratitude and thanks to the doctors, nurses and ancillary staff in the metropolitan region and right across the regional and



remote parts of Western Australia for the way that they have dealt with the COVID pandemic. It is definitely a one-in-100-year challenge for health systems worldwide. I think that I should remind the opposition that the minister made some absolutely amazing comments about the fact that no health system in the world has actually grown while dealing with this challenge. People thank me on a regular basis for what this state government has done on behalf of the health system in keeping people in Western Australia safe through a one-in-100-year pandemic.

I want to briefly mention the fact that I think Dr Jags should have his own podcast or something! We could call it “Facts according to Dr Jags”, because the opposition certainly listened. I really hope opposition members take on board a lot of the things he said. We talk about being on the “coalface”—the irony for Collie!—but we should all be listening to the expertise of a doctor on the frontline in the hospital and health systems in Western Australia. I know that the Minister for Health definitely is.

I want to pick up on a couple of points made by opposition members around the health system. I want to start by acknowledging the fact that this government has contributed \$14.7 million of investment in upgrades to regional health in my community. That is in addition to the \$200.1 million that is being invested in Bunbury Hospital. Many of my constituents access Bunbury regional hospital because it is closer than Collie Hospital. I am very fortunate that we will have significant upgrades for people in my region. I was really blown away when the Premier and I visited and had a little bit of a site tour of the progress at Collie Hospital. A community consultation group works very closely with the project managers around that. All the community members who have visited and all the project workers at Collie Hospital are saying that they are producing absolutely world-leading facilities. There are state-of-the-art operating theatres in the regions, and that is an incredible win for regional health. It is happening in not just Collie, but also many other locations across regional Western Australia. A lot of people have really been excited about the fact we have invested \$1.8 billion into the new women’s and babies’ hospital. When I was doorknocking in Collie, I went across to a person’s house and I knocked on their door not knowing that their son is a leading child health expert at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women. They said he is very keen to see the progress of this long overdue upgrade to caring for women and babies in Western Australia because, obviously, some regional people who have babies or experience issues around pregnancy will also end up in that facility. It is incredible to see these upgrades happening. We look forward to a first-class, world-class women’s and babies’ hospital here in Western Australia.

I want to talk a little bit about BreastScreen WA because the member for North West Central mentioned it today. I think she queried the Minister for Health about it and the opportunities for people in her electorate to access that service. I want to acknowledge the fact that BreastScreen WA, through the WA Health system, provides over 120 000 screening mammograms each year to Western Australian women. Part of that, particularly for regional and remote women, is the mobile service that visits locations. It visits 100 rural towns every two years and some are annual visits. Those visits are carefully planned depending on the location and the needs of the people who live there. I want to let people know that the following locations are already scheduled for 2023. I found this information by googling it. I think any opposition members who are interested in where the BreastScreen WA locations will be could google it and potentially let their constituents know. In 2023, it will visit: Augusta, Beverly, Bidyadanga, Boyup Brook, Bridgetown and Brookton—I have been going in alphabetical order and skipping out quite a few, but I am still under the letter “B”; I apologise! It continues: Bruce Rock, Busselton, Christmas Island—I did not know the BreastScreen van travelled to Christmas Island! Further, Coolgardie, Corrigin, Cottesloe and Cranbrook will be in 2024. It will visit Goomalling in 2022, so perhaps the member for Moore could let his constituents know it will be there within the next week or two. He might want to double-check and let people know about that one. It will be in Carnarvon in 2024. As I said, all of that information is freely accessible on the WA website. I just googled “BreastScreen WA locations”.

Another amazing service we provide for rural and regional health is the Royal Flying Doctor Service. I went out to visit it with a couple of other regional members of Parliament—the member for Kimberley and the member for Mining and Pastoral, Hon Peter Foster. We had an incredible visit. The people at RFDS do an amazing job and provide an amazing service for regional Western Australians. They recounted to us their experience at the Horizontal Falls incident, which they dealt with this year. They were responsible for evacuating 20 patients in just that incident in a location that was 250 kilometres from Broome. It had no phone access and was accessible only by air and boat. To uplift all those people and have very good health outcomes was incredible. I also want to mention the fact that there are RFDS GP clinics, nurse clinics, dental clinics and clinic transfers, in addition to all those services that are in regional Western Australia. I asked why there were dental clinics. I had no idea but the RFDS people told us that if people do not have good dental care, it can lead to gastrointestinal problems. The doctor in the house could explain it a lot better than I could.

**Mr P. Lilburne:** The good doctor.

**Ms J.L. HANNS:** The good doctor—but it is absolutely imperative to have good dental care. In the Kimberley last year, 2 283 patient transfers were conducted by RFDS. In the midwest, there were 1 823 total patient transfers. In the Pilbara, there were 1 687 patient transfers. In the goldfields, there were 1 474 patient transfers. That is transferring someone from that location for follow-up care at another location. In the great southern, there were 843 transfers.

In the wheatbelt, there were 825. In the south west, there were 495 transfers, which is obviously much closer to the resources located in the metropolitan area. I want to finish my remarks there because I know the member for Mount Lawley would also like to make some remarks. I can absolutely refute all the claims by the opposition about the healthcare system. I am very pleased to be able to talk about some of the amazing work that our healthcare workers do in caring for the people of Western Australia. I thank the Minister for Health for her ongoing support of those people.

**MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [6.47 pm]: In the time that remains, I rise to make a contribution on this astounding motion that has been brought by the opposition. I need to respond to the litany of Liberal lies from the lightweights opposite. I would like to start by saying it is absolutely incorrigible for the member for Cottesloe to suggest that the previous Liberal government left to this McGowan government a gold-standard health system. We will take every opportunity we can to remind the people in this chamber and this state that we inherited a health and hospital system that has required an inordinate amount of work and inordinate amount of discipline and focus. The only solution proposed by members opposite in their contributions was to spend more money—money they would not have had if their budget had continued on the trajectory that they left us. They say how good they are at spending money.

Several members interjected.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** I did not make one interjection. The fact of the matter is opposition members want to spend the surplus that the discipline and fiscal responsibility of this government has delivered to the benefit of the people of Western Australia. Not one suggestion was made about how to improve the health system that did not involve spending that surplus, a surplus that they could never have delivered because the evidence is on the books. When we came to government, the trajectory of state debt was to hit \$45 billion. Perhaps it was the former Liberal–National government’s negligent management of the state’s finances in its second term of office that is the reason why the health system lost nearly 1 000 workers—1 000 workers shed from our health system over the last three years of the Barnett government. It was an outrageous and unprecedented attack on the state of our health system. How dare the Leader of the Liberal Party say that the former Liberal–National government left us a gold-standard health system. The money that the former government spent on Fiona Stanley Hospital was money that we had provisioned for; we planned and organised that hospital because we wanted it built. It was you lucky Liberal lads who came in and cut the ribbon on the hospital. Even then, there were hundreds of reports—a library full of reports—on just how badly the former government managed the commissioning of Fiona Stanley Hospital. The only thing we needed it to do was to finish construction and open the hospital, but so hopeless at managing health was the former Liberal–National government, it could not even do that. But it is okay, because it had the opportunity to build its own hospital, Perth Children’s Hospital. Let us have a look at how that project went. If I had the front, arrogance and audacity to say that we left the next government a health system that was of gold standard, I, for one, would not want lead in the water and asbestos in the ceiling at Perth Children’s Hospital. When people go to hospital to get treated and become healthy, the very last thing —

**Dr D.J. Honey** interjected.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** The Leader of the Liberal Party is a joke. He is so wrong; his contribution was so wrong. He is such a lightweight. He can never say that the former Liberal–National government left us a gold-standard health system, with Perth Children’s Hospital having asbestos in the ceiling and lead in the water. The former government was going to expose Western Australian children to that. How contemptuous! Do you know what? The Minister for Health referred to the unanimous report from the upper house. Hon Dean Nalder had the opportunity to say that the previous Liberal government had, in fact, managed that contract appropriately. That report contained scathing criticism of the previous government, but Hon Dean Nalder signed up to that unanimous report. The Leader of the Liberal Party will have that hanging around his neck for as long as I am in this place. How dare he say that he left us a gold-standard system, with nurses and doctors leaving the system, shocking management of projects, asbestos in the ceiling and lead in the water—absolutely outrageous. The temerity, audacity and arrogance of these Liberals! There is absolutely no credibility in their argument. I was astounded as I sat here and listened to them. I sat and listened for two hours, with the exception of about five minutes during the member for Cottesloe’s contribution. I had to splash some water on my face to wake myself up because his soporific contribution was sending me to sleep!

I missed a couple words of what he said. The only time he mentioned COVID was when he tried to undermine our COVID response by saying that our hard border caused the problems that we now face. I do not know to whom he is nodding and winking. Is he trying to appeal to that far-right fringe of COVID and vaccine deniers? After the March 2021 election, Liberal members said that they accepted, hand on heart, that the reason they were pulverised, obliterated and annihilated at the polls, and the reason that they suffered the most embarrassing defeat in the history of the Liberal Party in Western Australia, was because the people of Western Australia acknowledged the great work that Mark McGowan and his government had done in steering the community through the COVID pandemic, one of the worst pandemics in the history of humanity. Yet, when they stand up and try to make an argument about our health system, the credibility of their argument is completely undermined because they do not mention COVID. It would have been more mature, fairer, appropriate and, frankly, more respectful to say, “We acknowledge that

there are difficulties and challenges in the health system and they are a legacy consequence of the COVID pandemic.” None of the opposition members who spoke said that. The only person who had anything sensible to say was the Leader of the Opposition. I do not know how she does it. I am not sure how she stands up straight day after day, carrying, as she is, all the members on the opposition bench. She has five people on her back. The poor old member for Roe is not here. He is the only other one who puts in a day’s work, and I am not sure where he is. The Leader of the Opposition is carrying the whole team. She recognised some of the —

**Ms M.J. Davies** interjected.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** I am trying to compliment you, Leader of the Opposition.

The Leader of the Opposition recognised some of the realistic challenges faced by every health system. We are not exempt from those challenges.

One of the things that she may have liked to have added, of course, is that WA receives the lowest funding per capita from the commonwealth for GPs—of all the states, we have the lowest number of GPs per person, which places more pressure on our hospitals. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition; we need to expedite the onboarding of GPs in Western Australia.

I will make a couple of points about the things that we are doing that are beyond the simplistic Liberal Party response of just spending the surplus that it did not have the courage, talent or ability to achieve when it was in government. The first thing we need to do is to engage constructively with the federal government. Happily, we can now do that because we have a federal Labor government. We need to engage with GPs. We need to respect the role that GPs play in our society.

**Dr J. Krishnan:** Hear, hear!

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** The member for Riverton would say that!

We also need to respect the role that they play in our health system. When GPs are attacked and undermined by cuts on Medicare and criticism from the former federal Liberal–National government, is it any wonder that these days, not as many people are pursuing a GP career? We need to find ways to make it a more attractive proposition—to get people back on board and into GP practice. We are working on everything that we can do to promote the cause and work of GPs. We also need to revitalise the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS was a signature improvement and project of the former Rudd–Gillard Labor government, but for eight and a half years it was left languishing by an ideologically-opposed conservative government. It did not want to spend any time, money or effort on the NDIS. The new federal Minister for the National Disability Insurance Scheme, Hon Bill Shorten, visited Western Australia to look at one of our long-stay patient pilot programs. One of the challenges we face is that there are too many people in hospital who are not clinically indicated to be there. We have to get them to places in the community, aged care and disability care. We are running pilot programs, which is a sensible, logical response. Hon Bill Shorten visited the pilot program and referenced it as the most successful long-stay pilot in the nation. It is a more nuanced and intelligent response to the challenges that our health system has created. The Liberal Party, which did not have the money, wants to throw money at the problem. The Labor government, which has exercised fiscal responsibility and put money aside, is not only spending money; it is also looking at new and innovative ways of making sure that patients get the care they need.

We also need to invest in aged care. The minister has already referenced this. Other states’ aged-care providers look at the collaborative ways in which aged-care providers and the Western Australian health system work together and they say that it is best in class. It is a template for other jurisdictions to improve the way they do aged care.

I want to finish on a really important point. Health sits in a broader ecosystem. We are not just investing in health and we are not just developing new and innovative methods of care and treatment, because we are also putting emphasis on medical research. We are changing the culture of the organisations that are involved in the health ecosystem to put greater emphasis on research. Last night, I had the great honour of representing Hon Stephen Dawson, the Minister for Medical Research, at the Spinnaker Health Research Foundation awards ceremony. One of the keynote speakers was Clinical Professor Adnan Khattak, who is a medical oncologist with special interest in gastrointestinal cancers, melanoma and lung cancer. He gave an incredible and moving speech about the incidence and consequence of lung cancer affecting our community. He is at South Metropolitan Health Service. He said that the CEO of the South Metropolitan Health Service, Paul Forden, who has been there for about five years, has changed the culture at Fiona Stanley Hospital. The chair of South Metropolitan Health Service, Adjunct Associate Professor Robyn Collins, was in the room to hear Clinical Professor Khattak say that Paul Forden and Robyn Collins have changed the culture at South Metropolitan Health Service and Fiona Stanley Hospital so that the clinical professor is now confident to do the medical research that he needs to do to provide the best clinical care for his patients in Western Australia.

Liberal Party members, it is not just about throwing money at a problem; it is about being smart and innovative and seeing where things sit within the entire health ecosystem. That means working with the federal government.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

**LAND AND PUBLIC WORKS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

*Appropriations*

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

*House adjourned at 7.00 pm*

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### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

#### ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT, ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS PLANNING AUTHORITY AND ABORIGINAL LANDS TRUST

**558. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

- (1) I refer to the *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2022* and related regulations (ACH regulations):
- (a) How much has been expended on the delivery of the ACH regulations; and
  - (b) How many staff are employed to directly deliver the ACH regulations?
- (2) I refer to the Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority (AAPA) and the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT):
- (a) Is a new ALT strategic action plan currently being developed;
  - (b) If yes to (a), when is the new ALT strategic action plan expected to be finalised;
  - (c) Will the strategic action plan be implemented over a two year period or a four year period;
  - (d) When was Roanna Edwards appointed as Chairperson of the ALT and did Ms Edwards apply through OnBoardWA;
  - (e) Does the Minister intend to keep board members appointed on four year terms; and
  - (f) How many ALT reserves are currently proclaimed under Part III of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972* or any relevant legislation which applies to the AAPA and the ALT?

**Dr A.D. Buti replied:**

- (1) (a)–(b) The co-design process and drafting is ongoing. A team of officers within the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage are working with stakeholders throughout the State on the co-designed Regulations, and with the Parliamentary Counsel’s Office on drafting of the Regulations.
- (2) (a)–(c) Yes. Work on the ALT’s next plan, including finalising its term, is underway and will be completed as soon as possible.
- (d) Ms Edwards was appointed Chairperson of the Aboriginal Lands Trust (ALT) effective on 8 November 2021. Ms Edwards was already a member of the ALT at the time of her appointment as Chairperson. She did not choose to register on OnBoardWA.
- (e) Appointments are for terms of up to four years, taking into account the circumstances of the appointee and the requirements of the ALT.
- (f) There are currently 81 ALT Reserves which have been proclaimed under Part III of the *Aboriginal Affairs Planning Authority Act 1972*.

#### METRONET — SEWERAGE

**560. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:**

I refer to planned areas for designate sewerage and deep sewerage systems and ask:

- (a) How many properties across Western Australia do not have access to deep sewerage systems? Please breakdown by local government area;
- (b) Of those in (a):
  - (i) How many are planned to be designate sewerage areas;
  - (ii) How many are in METRONET development areas; and
  - (iii) How many properties are in areas not rated for sewerage;
- (c) How many times has the Minister requested information relating to the Kenwick deep sewerage infill program; and
- (d) Given the Armadale rail line is being shut down in 2023 to facilitate upgrades to that train line, was any consideration given to facilitate works in the City of Gosnells so that residents in Kenwick would be able to connect to deep sewerage?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Water.

- (b) (i) and (iii) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Water.
- (ii) METRONET is working with the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and the Water Corporation to identify priorities for new or upgraded sewerage infrastructure to support urban development in METRONET Station Precincts.
- (c)–(d) These questions should be directed to the Minister for Water.

SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION — ADVANCED MANUFACTURING HUB

**565. Mr R.S. Love to the Premier representing the Minister for Regional Development:**

I refer to the South West Development Commission; Department of Jobs, Science, Tourism and Innovation; and the Advanced Manufacturing Hub:

- (a) What is the status of this project;
- (b) For this project, how much land to date has been:
- (i) Acquired;
- (ii) Leased; and
- (iii) Gifted in kind from Government;
- (c) Has the feasibility study been completed;
- (d) Will the feasibility study be released? If not, why not;
- (e) How much has been spent to date on this project? Please provide a breakdown of expenditure;
- (f) Regarding local consultation, who has been consulted by:
- (i) The South West Development Commission on the project since its announcement and when did that consultation occur;
- (ii) The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation on the project since its announcement and when did that consultation occur; and
- (iii) Paxon Consulting Group Pty Ltd on the project since its announcement and when did that consultation occur; and
- (g) Please table the Phase one – Preliminary Assessment Report on the South West Advanced Manufacturing and Technology Hub:
- (i) If not, why will the Minister not table this report; and
- (ii) Other than Paxon Consulting, who else helped to compile the report?

**Mr M. McGowan replied:**

- (a)–(d) Phases one and two of the South West Advanced Manufacturing Hub project have been completed, incorporating industry consultation and the delivery of a preliminary assessment report.

Phase three is now underway and involves undertaking a full feasibility study and business case. The feasibility study will be informed by several background studies related to market demand, site options, education and skills, a cost benefit analysis and a detailed project plan. The full feasibility study and business case will be guided by the South West Advanced Manufacturing Hub Steering Group, comprising an independent Chair as well as key State government agencies, including the Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation, the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, the Department of Treasury, South West Development Commission, Southern Ports Authority, Development WA and the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

The full feasibility study is expected to be completed in Q1 of 2024 and it is anticipated that the key findings will be able to be released.

- (e) As at 31 October 2022, \$265,862 has been spent on the project:

Phase 1:

Consulting	\$80,841
Project management	\$6,967

Phase 2:

Consulting	\$178,054
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- (f) (i) In January 2020, the South West Development Commission held an Advanced Manufacturing Roundtable Meeting with 30 industry and government stakeholders. Participant feedback informed the feasibility assessment and confirmed industry demand.

## Attendees represented:

Office of the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MLC  
 Member for Bunbury  
 AMWU  
 City of Bunbury  
 Shire of Dardanup  
 Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia  
 Regional Development Australia South West  
 Bunbury Geographe Economic Alliance  
 South West Development Commission  
 Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
 Southern Ports  
 Edith Cowan University  
 URBNSURF  
 BSC Solar  
 Hoffman Engineering  
 Prime Supplies  
 Iluka Resources  
 CIVMEC  
 Piacentini & Son  
 WesTrac  
 Albemarle  
 Talison Lithium  
 Laser Electrical  
 Geographe Enterprises

- (ii) The Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation (JTISI) has taken a strong, ongoing role in the process, and is working closely with the South West Development Commission to ensure the AMTECH priorities align with State policy.
- (iii) On 23 September 2021, the Paxon Group (Paxon) was awarded the contract to conduct a preliminary assessment for the AMTECH feasibility study. This included a number of market sounding sessions between October – December 2021, with over 25 stakeholders across various industry sectors, Local, State and Federal Government and education providers.
- (g) The Preliminary Assessment Report is publicly available on the AMTECH page of the South West Development Commissions website.

## PREMIER AND CABINET — CONSULTANTS

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

I refer to the Report on Consultants Engaged by Government for the six months ended June 2021 addendum and the Report on Consultants Engaged by Government for the six months ended December 2021:

- (a) On what date did Sue Ash AO stop providing “Independent Advice – COVID-19 Management” to the Department of the Premier and Cabinet:
  - (i) What did this advice entail; and
  - (ii) Please table the advice received;
- (b) What advice was provided by ‘Delivery Associates Ltd’ in relation to providing strategic advice on vaccine delivery; and:
  - (i) Who was privy to the strategic advice;
  - (ii) Please table the advice received;

- (iii) Did the Government engage any other consultants to provide strategic advice on vaccine delivery? If yes, please detail who those consultants were, period of consultation and amount paid; and
- (iv) Was this advice solely for COVID-19 vaccine delivery? If no, what other vaccines were subject to the strategic advice; and
- (c) For the strategic consultants who provided information to Infrastructure WA to ‘Assist in the development of the State Infrastructure Strategy’ please advise:
  - (i) The expert subject matter the consultants were contracted to provide, or the expertise support they were contracted to provide;
  - (ii) The total length of contract and total cost of contract; and
  - (iii) Whether those consultants are still contracted to provide expert advice?

**Mr M. McGowan replied:**

- (a) 21 January 2021.
  - (i) Ms Ash contributed to the undertaking of continuous improvement reviews of the public sector COVID-19 response.
  - (ii) The reviews considered by the State Disaster Council/Security and Emergency Committee of Cabinet and are therefore Cabinet in Confidence.
- (b) Delivery Associates provided a whole-of-state vaccination delivery plan developed in consultation with the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, WA Health, and the WA Police Force (Vaccine Commander).
  - (i) The Director General of WA Health, the Director General of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet, the Vaccine Commander, the Chief Health Officer and their senior support staff.
  - (ii) The plan was considered by the State Disaster Council/Security and Emergency Committee of Cabinet and is therefore Cabinet in Confidence.
  - (iii) The Department of the Premier and Cabinet did not engage any other consultants to provide advice on vaccine delivery.
  - (iv) Yes.
- (c) (i) Three consultants were engaged to provide advice in relation to:
  - The planning and the provision of transport infrastructure (Deloitte Financial Advisory);
  - The energy sector, particularly hydrogen (ARUP Australia); and
  - Infrastructure planning and coordination policy (PricewaterhouseCoopers).
 (ii)–(iii) All consultants were engaged from 2 February 2021 until 31 July 2021.

CLIMATE ACTION — PORTFOLIO

**569. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action:**

I refer to the portfolio of climate action and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER) Climate Action Unit:

- (a) Has the Minister declared any conflicts of interest with regards to the portfolio to date? If yes, please detail;
- (b) How many FTE are in the Climate Action Unit? Please detail how many employees are:
  - (i) Full time; and
  - (ii) Part time;
- (c) How many other staff across various government departments, Government agencies and Government trading enterprises are currently working with the Climate Action Unit on matters relevant to climate action in the portfolios of energy, transport, planning, primary industries, mines, jobs, tourism, health, education, environment, biodiversity, local government, emergency services, communities, water and waste;
- (d) Has the Minister kept the Ministerial Taskforce on Climate Action? If yes please detail:
  - (i) The Minister’s currently on the Ministerial Taskforce;
  - (ii) Dates the taskforce has met; and
  - (iii) Length of meetings;
- (e) Please detail current members of the Climate Action and Environment Portfolio Oversight Group, their role in the group and their usual occupation;



- (f) Has the Minister met with the following groups in their capacity as Minister for Climate Action and if yes, please detail the date and who they met with from:
- (i) Cleanstate;
  - (ii) Extinction Rebellion;
  - (iii) 350 Perth;
  - (iv) WA Forest Alliance;
  - (v) WA Farmers;
  - (vi) Pastoralists and Graziers Association;
  - (vii) Chamber of Minerals and Energy;
  - (viii) Regional Chambers of Commerce and Industry;
  - (ix) Chamber of Commerce and Industry Western Australia;
  - (x) Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association;
  - (xi) Electric Vehicle Association of WA;
  - (xii) RegenWA;
  - (xiii) State Soil and Land Conservation Commissioner; and
  - (xiv) Natural Resource Management Groups; and
- (g) Please provide an organisational flow chart of management associated with this portfolio?

**Mr R.R. Whitby replied:**

- (a) No.
- (b) 21 FTE. 17 FTE are currently filled.
- (i) 14
  - (ii) 4
- (c) The Climate Change Division works across Government as necessary to coordinate implementation of the *Western Australian Climate Policy* and the State *Electric Vehicle Strategy* and support the Ministerial Taskforce on Climate Action.
- (d) Yes.
- (i) Hon Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment; Climate Action (Chair);  
Hon Roger Cook MLA, Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development; Jobs and Trade; Tourism; Commerce; Science;  
Hon Alannah MacTiernan MLC, Minister for Regional Development, Agriculture and Food, Hydrogen Industry;  
Hon Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Mines and Petroleum, Energy; Corrective Services; Industrial Relations;  
Hon Rita Saffioti MLA, Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports;  
Hon Dr Tony Buti MLA, Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs, Racing and Gaming; Citizen and Multicultural Interests;  
Hon Dave Kelly MLA, Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth;  
With other Ministers invited to attend as required.
  - (ii) 28/02/2022  
28/03/2022  
30/05/2022  
27/06/2022  
29/08/2022
  - (iii) 1 hour
- (e) The current members of the Climate Action and Environment Portfolio Oversight Group are:  
Director General, Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (Chair)  
Director General, Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Director General, Department of Finance

Under Treasurer, Department of Treasury  
 Director General, Department of Communities  
 Director General, Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions  
 Director General, Department of Fire and Emergency Services  
 Director General, Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries  
 Director General, Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety  
 Director General, Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development  
 Director General, Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage  
 Director General, Department of Education  
 Coordinator of Energy  
 Chief Health Officer, Department of Health  
 Director General, Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation  
 Director General, Department of Justice  
 WA Commissioner of Police  
 Director General, Department of Transport  
 Chief Executive Officer, Western Australian Treasury Corporation  
 WA Chief Scientist

- (f) (i) No.
- (ii) No.
- (iii) No.
- (iv) Yes.
- |  |                             |            |
|--|-----------------------------|------------|
|  | Jess Beckerling – Convenor: | 25/02/2022 |
|  | Jess Beckerling – Convenor  | 23/06/2022 |
|  | Jess Beckerling – Convenor  | 20/11/2022 |
- (v) Yes.
- |  |                                       |            |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------|
|  | Trevor Whittington – CEO (Roundtable) | 10/05/2022 |
|--|---------------------------------------|------------|
- (vi) Yes.
- |  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
|  | Doug Hall – Policy Officer (Roundtable) | 10/05/2022 |
|--|---|------------|
- (vii) Yes.
- |  |  |            |
|--|--|------------|
|  | Paul Everingham – CEO:                             | 08/03/2022 |
|  | Robert Carruthers – Director Policy & Advocacy:    | 08/03/2022 |
|  | Anita Loguidice (Roundtable)                       | 10/05/2022 |
|  | Rebecca Tomkinson – CEO:                           | 17/10/2022 |
|  | Adrienne LaBombard – A/Director Policy & Advocacy: | 17/10/2022 |
- (viii) No.
- (ix) Yes.
- |  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
|  | Chris Rodwell – CEO:                          | 03/05/2022 |
|  | Aaron Morey – Chief Economist:                | 03/05/2022 |
|  | Anthea Wesley – Senior Policy Advisor:        | 03/05/2022 |
|  | Noelli Bariacto – Policy Advisor (Roundtable) | 10/05/2022 |
- (x) Yes.
- |  |  |            |
|--|--|------------|
|  | Claire Wilkinson – Director:             | 11/01/2022 |
|  | Claire Wilkinson – Director (Roundtable) | 10/05/22   |
- (xi) No.
- (xii) No.
- (xiii) No.

- (g) The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation reports through its Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to the Minister for Environment; Climate Action subject to the requirements of the *Public Sector Management Act 1994*.

TRANSPERTH — TECHNICAL ISSUES

**570. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:**

- (1) I refer to Transperth and technical issues with the network:
- (a) How many times since March 13, 2021, have there been technical issues with:
    - (i) Transperth Buses;
    - (ii) Transperth Trains; and
    - (iii) Transperth Ferries;
  - (b) In relation to Transperth Buses (a)(i) please detail:
    - (i) The dates those technical issues occurred and when they were resolved;
    - (ii) The service number/s affected;
    - (iii) Whether the issue was due to ageing infrastructure or mechanical parts; and
    - (iv) The type or series of bus and manufacturer / coach builder;
  - (c) In relation to Transperth Trains (a)(ii) please detail:
    - (i) The dates those technical issues occurred and when they were resolved;
    - (ii) The line being serviced;
    - (iii) Whether the detail resulted in trains not being able to operate on the line;
    - (iv) If a train was at fault, whether the train was an A series train or B series train;
    - (v) Whether the resolution was permanent or temporary;
    - (vi) Whether the technical issue was due to ageing infrastructure; and
    - (vii) Whether a bus service deployed as a replacement service and how long the temporary bus service was active for; and
  - (d) In relation to Transperth Ferries (a)(iii) please detail:
    - (i) The dates those technical issues occurred and when they were resolved;
    - (ii) The ferry name and year of deployment; and
    - (iii) Whether a bus service deployed as a replacement service and how long the temporary bus service was active for?
- (2) I refer to TransWA and technical issues with the network:
- (a) How many times since March 13, 2021, have there been technical issues or major delays (longer than 20 minutes) with:
    - (i) Transperth Coaches:
      - (A) GE1;
      - (B) GE2;
      - (C) GE3;
      - (D) GE4;
      - (E) GS1;
      - (F) GS2;
      - (G) GS3;
      - (H) N1;
      - (I) N2;
      - (J) N3;
      - (K) N4;
      - (L) N5;
      - (M) SW1;
      - (N) SW2;

- (O) SW3;
  - (P) SW4; and
  - (Q) Any legacy coach lines which have been cancelled or removed from active service;
- (ii) AvonLink;
  - (iii) The Australind;
  - (iv) MerredinLink; and
  - (v) The Prospector;
- (b) For (a) please detail the dates those technical issues occurred and when they were resolved; and
  - (c) For (a) please detail if a replacement service was deployed and if so, what the mode of transport was for that replacement service?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

The PTA operates over 340 railcars, 1,700 buses and coaches, and 3 ferries; on average over 7,000 train services and 17,000 bus services a day; and had over 102 million boardings last financial year.

If the Honourable Member has a more specific question, I will endeavour to answer it.

**TRANSPORT — YELLOW BOX JUNCTION MARKINGS AT SIGNALISED INTERSECTIONS**

**572. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:**

I refer to road safety and the yellow box markings at signalised intersections program:

- (a) How many iterations of the document ‘Policy and Application Guidelines: Yellow Box Junction Markings at Signalised Intersections’ have existed since the initiative was announced in 2016;
- (b) Please list the intersections marked, suburb or town of the intersection, number of accidents prior to demarcation and the number of accidents after demarcation in:
  - (i) 2017–18;
  - (ii) 2018–19;
  - (iii) 2019–20;
  - (iv) 2020–21;
  - (v) 2021–22; and
  - (vi) 2022–23 to date; and
- (c) For (b)(i)–(vi) please also detail the number of applications received by Main Roads for Yellow Box Junction Markings?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) One.
- (b) Yellow box markings were installed at four signalised intersections in 2016 as part of a trial, and a further 11 in 2017. The crash comparison is provided for a four-year period prior to year of installation and a four year period post-year of installation.

<b>Intersection</b>	<b>Suburb/Town</b>	<b>Number of accidents prior</b>	<b>Number of accidents subsequent</b>
<b>Mitchell Fwy / Vincent St / Leederville Pde</b>	Leederville	50	30
<b>Queen Victoria / Tydeman Rd</b>	North Fremantle	39	33
<b>Canning Hwy / Canning Beach Road</b>	Applecross	50	32
<b>Jon Sanders Drive / Herdsman Parade</b>	Glendalough	25	23
<b>Cedric St / Ellen Stirling Bvd</b>	Innaloo	56	49
<b>Albany Hwy / Liege St</b>	Cannington	107	97
<b>Canning Hwy / Preston Point Rd</b>	Attadale	39	31
<b>Ellen Stirling Bvd / Scarborough Beach Rd</b>	Innaloo	65	28
<b>Stephenson Av / Scarborough Beach Rd</b>	Innaloo	38	17
<b>Canning Hwy / Ardross St</b>	Applecross	28	24

<b>Orrong Rd / Wright St</b>	Carlisle	60	31
<b>Stirling Hwy / Bay View Tce</b>	Claremont	23	17
<b>Stirling Hwy / Leura Av</b>	Claremont	21	27
<b>James St / Meadow St</b>	Guildford	25	35
<b>James St / Johnson St</b>	Guildford	69	45

- (c) No formal applications have been received since the policy was issued in May 2021.

COMMUNITIES — DISTRICT LEADERSHIP GROUPS

**578. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Child Protection; Women's Interests; Prevention of Family and Domestic Violence; Community Services:**

I refer to District Leadership Groups (DLGs) and ask:

- (a) Please table a list of DLGs, including whether they are currently active or not;
- (b) For each DLG:
- (i) What is the budget associated to each DLG;
  - (ii) Who is the current chair, their occupation and employer;
  - (iii) Who is the current secretariat, their occupation and employer;
  - (iv) Who are the other members of each DLG;
  - (v) Whether there are any vacancies on each DLG; and
  - (vi) When did each DLG last meet;
- (c) Who in the Department of Communities is ultimately responsible for coordinating DLGs;
- (d) How do DLGs report on expenditure;
- (e) Has an online portal been created for DLGs? If yes, what is the link and how many unique site visits has the online portal had in the last week; and
- (f) Has the Minister considered splitting the Midwest Gascoyne DLG into two, to allow a more granular approach in the Midwest and Gascoyne regions?

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

I thank the Honourable Member for some notice of this question.

- (a) District Leadership Groups in the following regions are active:

- (1) Pilbara;
- (2) West Kimberley;
- (3) East Kimberley;
- (4) Goldfields;
- (5) Midwest Gascoyne;
- (6) Wheatbelt;
- (7) South West;
- (8) Fremantle (Imagined Futures);
- (9) Rockingham–Kwinana;
- (10) North West Metro;
- (11) Midland;
- (12) Western Metro (Mirrabooka); and
- (13) South East Metro (Armadale).

District Leadership Groups in the following regions are inactive:

- (1) Great Southern;
- (2) Perth;
- (3) Cannington; and
- (4) Peel.

- (b) [See tabled paper no [1705](#).] which includes a summary sheet for all active District Leadership Groups.
- (iv) Communities has provided a list of the organisations represented in the membership of each District Leadership Group. This is to respect the privacy of the members.
- (v) District Leadership Groups are not mandated to have a required number of members, therefore it is not possible to provide a number of vacancies. The membership of a District Leadership Group is determined at the discretion of the members.
- (c) The District Leadership Groups ultimately self-manage, however, the Department of Communities has a District Leadership Group project team that is responsible for providing a program of assistance to each region, which may include governance, decision-making, leadership development, and outcomes and priority-setting.
- (d) There is currently no mechanism for District Leadership Groups to report on expenditure, as there is no current budget allocation.
- (e) Yes, however, the link to the online portal is only accessible to District Leadership Group members. From 19 October 2022 to 26 October 2022, there were no site visits.
- (f) District Leadership Groups self-manage, and as such do not require Ministerial approval to alter their structure.

#### COMMUNITIES — IMAGINED FUTURES PROGRAM

##### 579. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer to the Imagined Futures program (<https://imaginedfutures.org.au/>) and ask:

- (a) What role does the Department of Communities undertake for the Imagined Futures program;
- (b) How much State Government funding has been budgeted for the program; and
- (c) How does the Imagined Futures program interact with the Fremantle District Leadership Group?

##### Ms S.F. McGurk replied:

- (a)–(c) Imagined Futures is recognised by the state government as the District Leadership Group for the South West Metropolitan Region. It is auspiced by St Patrick’s Community Support Centre Inc. and funded by the Department of Communities, the City of Cockburn, the City of Fremantle and the City of Melville.

The Department of Communities’ (Communities) District Leadership Group Project Team is responsible for providing a program of assistance to District Leadership Groups, which may include governance, decision-making, leadership development, and outcomes and priority-setting.

Communities has a current Service Agreement under the Empowering Communities Program with Imagined Futures to provide a service in the Davis Park Precinct of Beaconsfield. The Service Agreement, supported by St Patrick’s Community Support Centre, commenced on 1 July 2019 and will cease on 30 June 2024, for an estimated total value of \$388,748.30. This Service Agreement is not used to fund the day-to-day administration of the District Leadership Group.

For the calendar year 2022, Communities provided a discretionary grant agreement of \$140,405 to the “Imagined Futures Backbone Project”.

#### HEALTH — VACCINES

##### 581. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Health; Mental Health:

- (1) I refer to COVID-19 (Sars-COV-2) and ask:

- (a) How many of the following vaccines are currently in stock in Western Australia:
- (i) Moderna (Spikevax);
- (ii) Pfizer (Comirnaty);
- (iii) AstraZeneca (Vaxveria); and
- (iv) Novavax (Nuvaxovid);
- (b) Please breakdown (1)(a) by WA Health region;
- (c) How many of the following vaccines were administered last month in WA? Please breakdown as a week-by-week comparison:
- (i) Moderna (Spikevax);
- (ii) Pfizer (Comirnaty);

- (iii) AstraZeneca (Vaxveria); and
  - (iv) Novavax (Nuvaxovid);
  - (d) What vaccination education campaign(s) are currently underway to encourage uptake of vaccines within the under 11 year old cohort:
    - (i) What is the cost of those campaign(s); and
    - (ii) When do the campaign(s) finish;
  - (e) If there are no campaigns underway, are there any plans to encourage vaccination uptake before the end of 2022;
  - (f) With regard to wastewater testing:
    - (i) What is the cost to WA Health to continue wastewater testing and what has been the total cost to date;
    - (ii) Has there been any advice to end wastewater testing due to community prevalence of COVID-19; and
    - (iii) Does wastewater testing identify the subvariants of COVID-19;
  - (g) Does the state plan to order Omicron specific vaccine ‘Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron’, or mRNA-1273.214:
    - (i) If yes, how much of the vaccine will the State Government purchase; and
    - (ii) Will there be a specific vaccination education campaign to encourage uptake of the specific Omicron vaccine; and
  - (h) Please table any advice the Minister has received in relation to the Omicron specific vaccine ‘Spikevax Bivalent Original/Omicron’, or mRNA-1273.214?
- (2) I refer to Monkeypox (MPV clade II) and ask:
- (a) How much vaccine is currently in stock? Please break down by type of vaccine;
  - (b) How many vaccines were administered last week? Please break down by type of vaccine;
  - (c) How is the vaccine program currently being advertised and what is the associated cost; and
  - (d) Is the department undertaking or has the department requested Water Corporation test undertake wastewater testing for monkeypox? If yes, what is the cost of this program to the Department of Health?
- (3) I refer to Influenza and ask:
- (a) How much influenza vaccine is currently in stock? Please break down by type of vaccine;
  - (b) How many vaccines were administered last week? Please break down by type of vaccine; and
  - (c) How is the influenza vaccine program currently being advertised and what is the associated cost?

**Ms A. Sanderson replied:**

- (1) (a) The WA Department of Health can only report the stock of COVID-19 vaccines used in State-run clinics as part of the WA COVID-19 Vaccination Program. The State-run program has the following stock on hand (number of vaccines):
- (i) 500.
  - (ii) 125,659.
  - (iii) 90.
  - (iv) 1,074.

For stock of all vaccines in WA, the question should be directed to the Commonwealth.

- (b)

	Moderna (Spikevax)	Pfizer (Comirnaty)	Paediatric Pfizer (Comirnaty)	AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)	Novavax (Nuvaxovid)
Country		2,407	1,995		600
Metropolitan	500	68,760	52,497	90	474

(c) (i)–(iv)

	1 – 7 September 2022	8 – 14 September 2022	15 – 21 September 2022	22 – 28 September 2022	29 – 30 September 2022
Moderna (Spikevax)	1,610	1,445	1,106	636	363
Pfizer (Comirnaty)	7,052	5,774	5,267	3,289	1,746
AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria)	22	9	5	6	7
Novavax (Nuvaxovid)	239	230	231	134	89

(d) Continued stakeholder engagement with community organisations, schools and at targeted events to promote uptake of COVID-19 vaccinations for children; ongoing promotion via social media and website content; and a targeted email reminder campaign was issued via VaccinateWA.

(i) There are no additional costs for issuing VaccinateWA campaigns. COVID-19 vaccination campaigns were coordinated by the Department of the Premier and Cabinet.

(ii) Unpaid strategies undertaken using existing WA Health resources will continue for the remainder of this year.

(e) Campaigns are ongoing.

(f) (i) The total cost of wastewater testing to the WA Department of Health to date is \$1,465,057. The projected cost for 3 months up to 31 December 2022 is \$269,000.

(ii) No advice has been issued to end wastewater testing.

(iii) Wastewater testing includes testing for the presence of identified subvariants of COVID-19.

(g) No.

(i) Not applicable.

(ii) No.

(h) None received.

(2) (a) 588 vials of JYNNEOS<sup>®</sup> vaccine.

(b) 164 doses of JYNNEOS<sup>®</sup> vaccine.

(c) The Department of Health support the rollout of a vaccine program targeted to protect the community against the spread of Monkeypox (MPV clade II). The total associated advertisement cost from August to December 2022 is \$84,995.

A variety of paid and unpaid advertising strategies were utilised to promote the vaccine campaign including the following:

Social media promotion

Perth International Airport digital and venue billboards

WA Health and HealthyWA websites

Social media promotion

Stakeholder engagement packs (digital assets and messaging)

Wallet cards and posters mailed out to stakeholders

Targeted digital display – desktop and mobile banners, including specific booking with *Out In Perth* publication

Targeted digital advertising

(d) No.

(3) (a) There are currently 468,000 doses of influenza vaccine in stock.

(b) 1,881 influenza vaccinations doses were administered from 10 October 2022 to 16 October 2022. The vaccine brands of these doses are recorded in AIR as follows:

Brand	Stock
Afluria Quad	253



bioCSL Fluvax	1
Fluad	3
Fluad Quad	162
Fluarix Tetra	371
Flucelvax Quad	5
FluQuadri	285
Fluzone High-Dose Quadrivalent	1
Generic Influenza	9
Influvac Tetra	59
Vaxigrip	11
Vaxigrip Tetra	721

- (c) The 2022 Influenza vaccination campaign ran from April to August 2022 and the total cost was \$305,000. A variety of paid and unpaid advertising strategies were utilised to promote the vaccine campaign including the following:

Radio – metropolitan, regional and Indigenous stations

Digital – audio, broadcast video on demand and YouTube

Social media (Facebook and Instagram)

Outdoor of home – shopping centres, service stations, pubs, TV screens in Aboriginal community-controlled health services across WA

Press (state-wide) – The West Australian newspaper

WA Health and HealthyWA websites

Social media promotion

Direct mail out with posters, fact sheets and brochures to immunisation providers state-wide

Stakeholder engagement packs

#### FINANCE — MARKET-LED PROPOSALS

#### 582. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:

I refer to Market Led Proposals (MLPs) and ask:

- (a) As at 24 June 2021, how many were:
- (i) Lodged;
  - (ii) Completed;
  - (iii) Current;
  - (iv) Withdrawn;
  - (v) Referred to other Government processes; and
  - (vi) Declined;
- (b) For MLPs declined, as at 24 June 2021, how many were declined for not meeting the following:
- (i) Scope and priorities alignment;
  - (ii) Strategic alignment;
  - (iii) Public interest;
  - (iv) Value for money;
  - (v) Feasibility and capability of being delivered;
  - (vi) Risks; and
  - (vii) Other;
- (c) Can the Minister please provide a status update for:
- (i) MLP19008 Second Home Innovation Hub at Ainslie House;
  - (ii) MLP19026 Palliative Care Hub Osborne Park;

- (iii) MLP20002 Swanbourne Village Project;
- (iv) MLP20003 Graylands Hospital Site and Shenton Precinct;
- (v) MLP20005 Land Exchange Byford and Ellenbrook;
- (vi) MLP20019 Integrated Finfish Aquaculture Precinct;
- (vii) MLP20021 Mid-West Desalination Project;
- (viii) MLP21011 Collie to Coast;
- (ix) MLPPPOS36 Screen Production Facility;
- (x) MLP19014 Child Protection and Student Accommodation Land Swap;
- (xi) MLP20022 Lifeblood Microbiome;
- (xii) MLPPPOS15 Landgate Building;
- (xiii) MLPPPOS8 Rebuilding the Western Australian softwood plantation estate;
- (xiv) MLP20001 Solsan Development and Commercialisation;
- (xv) MLP19017 Mako Surgical Robot in Western Australia; and
- (xvi) MLP19027 Bullsbrook Intermodal Container Terminal;
- (d) For those in (c), which did not proceed past Stage 2 or Stage 3 and why did they not proceed;
- (e) For those in (c) which are complete, what long term outcomes have been realised;
- (f) For those in (c), did the Minister declare any conflicts of interest? Please detail which MLPs;
- (g) For those in (c), did any other Minister of Cabinet or senior leadership teams within the Department of Finance or the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage declare any conflicts of interest? Please detail who and the MLP/s; and
- (h) Will the Minister commit to tabling a quarterly report on MLPs and their status? If not, why not?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a)
  - (i) 58
  - (ii) 1
  - (iii) 23
  - (iv) 2
  - (v) 4
  - (vi) 28
- (b)
  - (i) 13
  - (ii) 2
  - (iii) 2
  - (iv) 4
  - (v) 3
  - (vi) 4
  - (vii) 0
- (c)–(e) (i)–(xi) and (xiv)–(xvi) I refer the Member to the ‘Market-led Proposals – Current and completed proposals’ page of the WA Government website. I table a copy of the webpage as at 21 November 2022. [See tabled paper no [1706](#).]
- (xii)–(xiii) I refer the Member to the ‘Problem and Opportunity Statements’ page of the WA Government website. I table a copy of the webpage as at 21 November 2022. [See tabled paper no [1707](#).]
- (f)–(g) In accordance with the Ministerial Code of Conduct, all Ministers are required to make declarations should they arise, in addition to any potential, perceived or actual conflicts of interest. As was the case under previous Governments, these declarations remain Cabinet-in-Confidence.  
  
The Director General of the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Chairman of the Western Australian Planning Commission advised of a potential conflict of interest relating to MLPPPOS36 Screen Production Facility, due to their membership on the Western Australian Planning Commission.
- (h) The Market-led Proposals web page is updated as appropriate regarding current status.

## FINANCE — MARKET-LED PROPOSALS

**583. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Finance; Aboriginal Affairs; Racing and Gaming; Citizenship and Multicultural Interests:**

I refer to Market Led Proposals (MLPs) and ask:

- (a) As at 24 June 2021,:
  - (i) Lodged;
  - (ii) Completed;
  - (iii) Current;
  - (iv) Withdrawn;
  - (v) Referred to other Government processes; and
  - (vi) Declined;
- (b) For MLPs declined, as at 24 June 2021, how many were declined for not meeting the following:
  - (i) Scope and priorities alignment;
  - (ii) Strategic alignment;
  - (iii) Public interest;
  - (iv) Value for money;
  - (v) Feasibility and capability of being delivered;
  - (vi) Risks; and
  - (vii) Other;
- (c) Can the Minister please provide a status update for:
  - (i) MLP19008 Second Home Innovation Hub at Ainslie House;
  - (ii) MLP19026 Palliative Care Hub Osborne Park;
  - (iii) MLP20002 Swanbourne Village Project;
  - (iv) MLP20003 Graylands Hospital Site and Shenton Precinct;
  - (v) MLP20005 Land Exchange Byford and Ellenbrook;
  - (vi) MLP20019 Integrated Finfish Aquaculture Precinct;
  - (vii) MLP20021 Mid-West Desalination Project;
  - (viii) MLP21011 Collie to Coast;
  - (ix) MLPPPOS36 Screen Production Facility;
  - (x) MLP19014 Child Protection and Student Accommodation Land Swap;
  - (xi) MLP20022 Lifeblood Microbiome;
  - (xii) MLPPPOS15 Landgate Building;
  - (xiii) MLPPPOS8 Rebuilding the Western Australian softwood plantation estate;
  - (xiv) MLP20001 Solsan Development and Commercialisation;
  - (xv) MLP19017 Mako Surgical Robot in Western Australia; and
  - (xvi) MLP19027 Bullsbrook Intermodal Container Terminal;
- (d) For those in (c), which did not proceed past Stage 2 or Stage 3 and why did they not proceed;
- (e) For those in (c) which are complete, what long term outcomes have been realised;
- (f) For those in (c), did the Minister declare any conflicts of interest? Please detail which MLPs;
- (g) For those in (c), did any other Minister of Cabinet or senior leadership teams within the Department of Finance or the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage declare any conflicts of interest? Please detail who and the MLP/s; and
- (h) Will the Minister commit to tabling a quarterly report on MLPs and their status? If not, why not?

**Dr A.D. Buti replied:**

Please refer to Legislative Assembly Question on Notice 582.

## AIRPORT RAIL LINE — ALL ABOARD CAMPAIGN

**587. Mr R.S. Love to the Minister for Transport; Planning; Ports:**

I refer to the “All Aboard” media advertising campaign to encourage patronage on the Airport Line (METRONET Forrestfield Airport Line):

- (a) Was a creative media agency hired to develop the advertisement or was the project entirely internal? If a creative agency was hired:
  - (i) What is the name of the agency;
  - (ii) What was the cost of contract; and
  - (iii) What is the length of the contract;
- (b) How much money has gone to the following platforms in advertising for the campaign:
  - (i) Tiktok;
  - (ii) Snapchat;
  - (iii) Meta:
    - (A) Instagram; and
    - (B) Facebook;
  - (iv) Online advertising;
  - (v) Physical media;
  - (vi) Television; and
  - (vii) Streaming services or catch-up television streaming services; and
- (c) Was there a specific budget for special effects and if yes, please detail the breakdown in spend?

**Ms R. Saffioti replied:**

- (a) and (c) The Public Transport Authority’s (PTA) existing creative media agency, Rare, developed the campaign, in association with internal PTA resources. This work was undertaken as part of their broader contracted scope of work within the agency.

The portion of the PTA’s existing advertising contract that was used to develop and produce the creative for the Airport Line advertising campaign was \$556,000.

The contract with “Rare” began on 9 December 2019 and runs until 8 December 2022. The initial brief to “Rare” for the Airport Line campaign was given on 25 February 2022.

- (b) (i) \$10,000
  - (ii) Nil.
  - (iii) (a) \$4,500
  - (b) \$\$20,000
    - (iv) \$6,000
    - (v) \$26,000
    - (vi) \$240,000
    - (vii) \$40,000
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