



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTY-FIRST PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2021

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Wednesday, 15 September 2021

# Legislative Assembly

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

## ECONOMICS AND INDUSTRY STANDING COMMITTEE

*First Report — Turning to India: Investing in our future — Speaker's Response —  
Tabling — Statement by Speaker*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [12.03 pm]: I table the Speaker's response to the first report of the Economics and Industry Standing Committee titled *Turning to India: Investing in our future*.

[See paper [499](#).]

## PAPERS TABLED

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

### CONSTITUTIONAL AND ELECTORAL LEGISLATION AMENDMENT (ELECTORAL EQUALITY) BILL 2021

*Notice of Motion to Introduce*

Notice of motion given by **Mr J.R. Quigley (Minister for Electoral Affairs)**.

### HEALTH AND DISABILITY SERVICES COMPLAINTS OFFICE — TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health)** [12.05 pm]: I rise to inform the house that 16 September 2021 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the inception of the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office. Originally called the Office of Health Review, the office was established under landmark legislation, the Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act 1995, on 16 September 1996. The Health Services (Conciliation and Review) Act was developed to improve the quality and accountability of the Western Australian health system and provided a new way of handling health complaints. It recognised the importance for all parties to be involved in the resolution process and allowed deficiencies in the health delivery system to be identified, and improvements and changes implemented. Since its inception, its remit has expanded. In 1999, the office took on responsibility for handling complaints about disability services. In 2014, mental health complaints were added to its scope, and now, with the implementation of the Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2019, it can receive complaints about the VAD process— one of the important safeguards in that legislation. Following a review of the act in 2003, the revised Health and Disability Services (Complaints) Act 1995 came into effect in 2010. This resulted in the office having access to negotiated settlement as a resolution option, as well as a name change for the agency to what it is now known, the Health and Disability Services Complaints Office. In the first year of operation, it employed 13 people and received 671 complaints. Today, HADSCO operates with a team of 17 and receives over 2 800 complaints a year. Since its inception, the office has received over 50 000 complaints. This state is making great strides in continually improving health services. Complaints are a valuable tool in helping achieve this. On behalf of the house, I would like to say thank you to all HADSCO staff, past and present.

### WA COUNTRY HEALTH SERVICE — MIDWIVES — MIDWEST

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health)** [12.08 pm]: Yesterday, WA Country Health Service midwives began transitioning their high-calibre maternity skills back to Geraldton Health Campus after their services were temporarily relocated as part of WACHS' COVID-19 response. The transition of all maternity services is to be completed by the end of the month. Midwifery teams from Geraldton Health Campus were relocated to St John of God Geraldton Hospital as a protective measure and to allow for additional capacity in case of a surge in patients related to the COVID-19 pandemic. This decision was made during the stressful and unpredictable early stages of the pandemic. It was important that the hospital had capacity to respond to large numbers of COVID-positive patients. Staff from both sites worked quickly to make this happen in a way that did not disrupt or interrupt patient care. Expectant families should be assured that they will be closely supported throughout the transition. Services reverting to Geraldton Health Campus will have no impact on the exceptional care provided by WACHS Midwest midwives. Our wonderful world-class clinicians are excited to be once again safely delivering midwest bubs back home at Geraldton Health Campus.

Although this pandemic has created many challenges over the past year, it has also provided us all with an opportunity to think outside the box. I believe this partnership has been a great demonstration of a public and private collaboration

to meet community need. I would like to acknowledge the entire team at St John of God Geraldton Hospital and thank them for their support in these challenging circumstances. WACHS Midwest and St John of God Geraldton Hospital will continue to work closely together on opportunities that deliver benefits to the midwest community.

***MINISTERIAL EXPERT COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORM: FINAL REPORT***

*Statement by Minister for Electoral Affairs*

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Minister for Electoral Affairs)** [12.10 pm]: On 28 April 2021, I appointed the Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform. The committee's terms of reference were, firstly, to make recommendations as to how electoral equality might be achieved for all citizens entitled to vote for the Legislative Council and, secondly, to make recommendations for the distribution of preferences in the Legislative Council's proportional representation system.

The committee was chaired by Mr Malcolm McCusker, AC, CVO, QC, who is well known to all members as Western Australia's thirty-first Governor. The rest of the committee was constituted by Professor John Phillimore, Professor Sarah Murray and Associate Professor Martin Drum. Professor Phillimore is a former Rhodes scholar who has been the executive director of the John Curtin Institute of Public Policy since 2007. Over the past 30 years, Professor Phillimore has advised and conducted research and consultancy projects for numerous international, Australian, state and local agencies. Professor Murray is an expert in constitutional law, electoral law and court innovation at the law school of the University of Western Australia. Professor Murray has published widely in Australia and internationally, and was recently elected to the Australian Academy of Law. Associate Professor Drum is director of public policy and associate professor of politics and international relations at the University of Notre Dame Australia. Associate Professor Drum is a member of the Australasian Study of Parliament Group and has participated in a range of commonwealth and Western Australian parliamentary government inquiries.

The committee published a discussion paper on 14 May 2021, and received 184 submissions from interested members of the public and organisations. The committee also consulted the Western Australian, South Australian and New South Wales electoral commissioners, and election analyst Mr Antony Green, AO. I would like to thank the chair and each of the members of the committee for their work. They have done an exceptional job. I now table the committee's final report, and commend the report to the house.

[See paper [536](#).]

***INDEPENDENT REVIEW INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES' POLICIES  
AND PRACTICES IN THE PLACEMENT OF CHILDREN WITH HARMFUL  
SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS IN RESIDENTIAL CARE SETTINGS***

*Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

**MS S.F. MCGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection)** [12.13 pm]: I rise to speak regarding the *Independent review into the Department of Communities' policies and practices in the placement of children with harmful sexual behaviours in residential care settings* report, tabled this afternoon on behalf of the Commissioner for Children and Young People.

When I first became aware of the case of "Macie" and "Lee"—not their real names—last year, I was deeply concerned about what had occurred. The then Department for Child Protection and Family Support, now the Department of Communities, made the decision to put these two young people together in a residential group home, and that simply should not have happened. Soon after the case was brought to my attention, I asked the Commissioner for Children and Young People to immediately undertake an independent review of issues arising from the case that could be addressed to safeguard children and young people in WA's residential care homes.

I would like to thank everyone involved in the preparation of this report. I would also like to acknowledge the young woman at the centre of the report, who wanted her voice to be heard to improve safety for young people in out-of-home care. This process has no doubt been difficult for "Macie", who has since turned 18 and aged out of care. I want to reassure members that she continues to be offered support, including counselling, to help get her through this challenging period.

Since these events in 2017, significant changes have occurred to strengthen practice and safety planning for children in residential care. This includes additional training for residential care workers in identifying, understanding and responding to harmful sexual behaviours displayed by young people, the development of a child-friendly complaints policy, and resources to support young people to speak up when they feel uncomfortable or unsafe. The McGowan government is resolute in its commitment to responding to the findings of the landmark Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and has committed significant funding and resources to implement its recommendations. It is noteworthy that the royal commission specifically addressed issues canvassed in this review, including the challenges, but necessity, of providing a safe and therapeutic environment for children and young people in residential care, as well as responding to children and young people with harmful sexual behaviours.

I reiterate that, as a government, we have committed to implementing all the relevant recommendations from the royal commission. As part of this report addresses the issue of harmful sexual behaviours in children, I want to emphasise that

this is an emerging area of research and practice that no individual, state, jurisdiction or country has fully tackled or resolved. In our own efforts to build better knowledge and practice in this area, the McGowan government has invested \$2 million over two years to the WA Centre for the Pursuit of Excellence in Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect, and \$2.3 million over five years to contribute towards the National Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse.

It is a reality of child protection work that we care for children who display inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviours, and a small number who are reportable offenders, as was the case in this situation. I can confirm that there are no children or young people who are reportable offenders residing in the department's residential care homes with other children. I can also now advise the house that the Department of Communities will not knowingly place reportable offenders in a residential care setting with other children. I thank the commissioner for tabling this report today, and everyone involved in this important review to ensure young people in Western Australia feel safe and protected.

### **INNOVATOR OF THE YEAR**

*Statement by Minister for Innovation and ICT*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Innovation and ICT)** [12.16 pm]: It is with great pleasure that I stand today to talk about the WA Innovator of the Year program. The WA Innovator of the Year program is the state's flagship innovation program, which was created in 2006 by the Carpenter Labor government. The Innovator of the Year program is part of the McGowan Labor government's plan to support innovators and entrepreneurs while promoting job creation and economic diversification in Western Australia.

The WA Innovator of the Year program has showcased innovative and entrepreneurial individuals, businesses and creative minds for nearly 15 years. The major aim of the program is to acknowledge and reward exceptional innovators in Western Australia who have developed an outstanding innovative product, technology or service that is at the emerging innovation or growth phase of development. The WA Innovator of the Year program is consistently discovering remarkable innovation in our state. The Innovator of the Year program has been funded under the new industries fund since 2017. So far, 17 businesses have received \$480 000 in funding, and 48 businesses have received extensive commercialisation training and networking opportunities.

Since winning three awards in 2019, TENSA Equipment has raised \$5 million from Blackbird Ventures to fund its innovation, Roborigger—a device that improves crane lifting safety and efficiency by keeping personnel away from under the crane load, where they might be injured. The team has grown from five to 15 employees since receiving its awards. Since completing the program in 2018, overall innovator of the year, uDrew, has established new patent agreements for Australia and New Zealand. In addition, it has leveraged \$750 000 from investors, \$508 000 from the accelerating commercialisation grant, \$25 000 from the SPUR location grant, and has created 11 full-time jobs. uDrew provides tools for home owners and contractors to enable them, without any technical skill or experience, to instantly design, engineer, manage and approve their own custom building project from start to finish.

As Minister for Innovation and ICT, I am focused on ensuring that this program and other initiatives of the McGowan state government's new industries fund provide strong, practical help for our homegrown innovators. The jobs of tomorrow are being dreamt up today, and the Innovator of the Year program ensures that those ideas become a reality.

### **FISHABILITY — MV FISHABILITY**

*Statement by Minister for Fisheries*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Fisheries)** [12.19 pm]: On Friday, 27 August, a new wheelchair-accessible vessel was launched by Fishability at the Mandurah Offshore Fishing and Sailing Club. The members for Mandurah and Dawesville, who are great supporters of the organisation, both attended the event. Fishability is a not-for-profit organisation that promotes inclusive and active participation by people of all abilities in recreational fishing opportunities. Since 2003, it has delivered fishing experiences for people requiring support and provided advice on universally accessible fishing locations and facilities to help make fishing an accessible pastime for all Western Australians.

The *MV Fishability* is the third vessel in the fleet, with two others based at the Royal Perth Yacht Club and the Princess Royal Sailing Club in Albany. The new vessel will provide estuary fishing trips to six participants and their carers once a week, and marks the next step in Fishability's capacity to provide quality accessible fishing experiences to members of the community of all abilities. Over the 2020–21 season, the Mandurah Fishability program catered for 1 020 participants and 776 carers, and involved 2 794 hours of volunteering, making this program a huge asset for the community. The new vessel was funded by contributions from the McGowan government as well as the commonwealth government, local governments and the local community. Putting fishing licence fees to work through the recreational fishing initiatives fund, the WA government contributed \$52 000 to this project. The WA government proudly provides regular funding to Fishability to ensure the continuation of its important work and contribution to the recreational fishing experience in Western Australia—all at no cost to participants.

The efforts of the dedicated volunteers and supporters in working together to allow many people who might not otherwise have the chance to experience the joy of a day out fishing have built a highly respected and valued organisation, and I commend their efforts.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS***Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MR D.R. MICHAEL (Balcatta — Parliamentary Secretary)** [12.21 pm]: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable private members' business to have priority from 4.00 to 6.00 pm on Wednesday, 15 September 2021.

Obviously, with this week being budget speech week, the suspension of standing orders will give precedence to private members' business for two hours this afternoon. We will then have a dinner break, with budget speeches to recommence at 7.00 pm.

Question put and passed.

**BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE — DINNER SUSPENSION***Statement by Acting Speaker*

**THE ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife)** [12.22 pm]: I inform the house that consequent upon the motion that has just been carried, there will be a dinner break between 6.00 and 7.00 pm this evening.

**POSEIDON NICKEL AGREEMENT AMENDMENT (TERMINATION) BILL 2021***Introduction and First Reading*

Bill introduced, on motion by **Mr R.H. Cook (Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)**, and read a first time.

Explanatory memorandum presented by the minister.

*Second Reading*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade)** [12.23 pm]: I move —

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this bill is to ratify an agreement made on 4 August 2021 between the state and Poseidon Nickel Ltd, which I will refer to as the termination agreement. This bill is necessary in order to amend the Poseidon Nickel Agreement Act 1971 to provide for the ratification of the termination agreement, which will terminate the Poseidon Nickel Agreement, a state agreement that was entered into on 27 July 1971. A key purpose of the termination agreement is to provide Poseidon with greater flexibility to progress the development of its projects under the general laws of the state, which has the potential to create jobs in the goldfields region.

To put this termination agreement in context, I will provide some background on the state agreement. Nickel was first discovered at Mt Windarra, about 18 kilometres north-west of Laverton, in 1969, heralding the start of the Western Australian nickel boom. The purpose of the state agreement was for the development of a nickel mining and treatment project at Mt Windarra. A second nickel mine commenced at South Windarra in 1974. Collectively, the two mines are referred to as the Windarra nickel project, or WNP. Western Mining Corporation Ltd, or WMC, took 100 per cent ownership of the WNP in 1983.

Between 1981 and 1984, nickel mining volumes at Mt Windarra and South Windarra varied. To ensure full concentrator capacity, incidental to the primary nickel purpose of the state agreement, gold ore from the nearby Lancefield and Beasley Creek tenures was treated at Mt Windarra in a modified nickel circuit. Mining at Mt Windarra ceased in 1990 and at South Windarra in 1991. Processing of nickel sulphide ores from WMC operations at Leinster continued at Mt Windarra until 1993, and processing of gold ore continued until 1994.

In December 2005, BHP Billiton Nickel West Pty Ltd, previously WMC, sold its interest in the WNP and assigned its interests to Niagara Mining Ltd, which later became Poseidon Nickel Ltd. In 2007, the state agreement was varied to require that Poseidon submit development proposals and commence construction by certain fixed dates and provide reasonable evidence of its financial and marketing capacities to fulfil and implement proposals approved under the state agreement. These changes meant that the state agreement, and the tenure held pursuant to it, would cease and determine should Poseidon not be able to meet the deadline dates.

Since that time, the cyclical conditions in the nickel market have been such that Poseidon has been unable to develop the project as required under the state agreement. Poseidon formally requested the termination of the state agreement to enable it to pursue alternative business options. Parliamentary ratification of the termination agreement will provide greater flexibility for Poseidon to progress the development of its projects at the WNP under the general laws of the state, which has potential to both create jobs in the goldfields region and for the retreatment of nickel tailings to extract gold.

I now turn to the provisions of the bill and the variation agreement outlined in the explanatory memorandum. The provisions of the bill essentially set out to terminate the state agreement by ratifying, authorising and attaching the termination agreement, otherwise referred to as schedule 3, to the Poseidon Nickel Agreement Act 1971. The key provisions of the variation agreement are as follows. The first is the continuation of the mining lease under the

Mining Act 1978, the continuous authorisation of mining operations upon the termination of the state agreement, and the application of the Mining Rehabilitation Fund Act 2012 to the mining lease, under clause 4(4). The second key provision is that the company will indemnify and keep the state and its agents indemnified in relation to its operations under the state agreement, and that this indemnity shall remain in force for a period of 20 years from the date of cessation of all operations originally established pursuant to the state agreement or a period agreed between the state and the company. This comes under clause 4(6) and (7).

The third is the cessation of the bank guarantee, held under the deed of covenant, and for the unbroken provision of a mining security under the Mining Act in the amount of \$3.5 million as an unconditional performance bond applicable to the mining lease, which is under clause 5. The fourth is the release of the company from its obligations, under clauses 3.2(a) and 3.2(b) of the deed of covenant for implementation of the 2005 mine closure plan, and completion of closure finalisation works, which is under clause 4(2). The fifth is that Poseidon will remain liable for its activities and its indemnities under the state agreement and the deed of covenant, which is under clause 4(3).

Ratification of this bill by Parliament will have a positive impact on the local economy and will facilitate the development of the resources sector in the goldfields region. It will enable Poseidon to progress its development strategies focusing on nickel and gold with greater certainty and commercial flexibility with the near-term prospect of creating over 50 regional jobs.

I earlier tabled the explanatory memorandum, which contains a description of the provisions of the bill and termination agreement, for the consideration of members.

I commend the bill to the house.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife):** I thank the minister for that erudite contribution.

A member interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I know they do.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Dr D.J. Honey (Leader of the Liberal Party)**.

**APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2021–22) BILL 2021**  
**APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2021–22) BILL 2021**

*Second Reading — Cognate Debate*

Resumed from 14 September.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [12.31 pm]: I rise to contribute to this debate, but before I get into the substance of my contribution, can I say what a sad day it is for Western Australia and what a tawdry effort we have seen from this government manifested today in the presentation of the *Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform: Final report* to the Parliament. Here we have a Premier sitting opposite who denied seven times before the election that electoral reform was on the agenda, yet we see a report before this Parliament that will, if its recommendations are enacted, gut regional representation in Western Australia. It is an absolute disgrace, and an absolute betrayal of regional Western Australia. If ever there was a time for regional Labor members to stand up, now is it—stand up and reject this destruction of regional voting in Western Australia.

Several members interjected.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I now move on to my substantive reply to the budget. The budget presented by the Treasurer last Thursday is both a lucky budget and a lazy budget. It is lucky because of the massive surplus. In addition, the retention again in the budget of dividends inside the government trading enterprises is due entirely to windfall royalty revenues and the GST fix delivered by the federal Liberal government. It is lazy because outside a firehose of cash to put out self-created crises in health, education and housing, the budget completely misses the opportunity to prepare our economy for the inevitable downturn that will follow the current resources boom. In essence, this government believes that managing the COVID-19 pandemic has been its only requirement over the last four years. Managing COVID has been important; however, it does not excuse the complete mismanagement of nearly every other sector of the economy.

In a normal time, health, law and order and education are the top priorities for any government. All these important sectors are in crisis. In addition, the government has completely mismanaged the public housing sector, directly leading to a homelessness crisis that is now contributing to the loss of people's lives. One area in particular is an unforgivable failure in this budget and that is the complete lack of any economic vision for the state of Western Australia. It does nothing to deal with the headwinds facing Western Australia in the short and longer terms, such as a reduction in commodity prices, ongoing trade tensions and the global unwinding of the fiscal stimulus packages that have been implemented because of COVID.

This budget needed a WA plan for economic diversification, but there is nothing of substance in the budget that shows any serious effort to achieve this outcome. We have seen a massive income growth. We have seen an enormous amount of self-congratulatory commentary from the Premier; Treasurer about the outstanding fiscal management that has led to the current operating surplus. Yesterday in question time, in answer to a question from his own side,

we heard the Premier lambasting the previous Liberal–National government for its economic failures and praising himself for his outstanding effort in restoring the budget surplus. In fact, the surplus has occurred despite this Labor government, not because of it.

Let us have a quick examination of the difference between forecast and actual government revenue leading into this period and from the previous government. We have seen with this government just in the last year unprecedented revenue growth of 25 per cent alone. Over the four years, this government has enjoyed a 60 per cent unbudgeted increase in revenue due to GST and iron ore royalty revenue. If we look at the final estimates of 2016–17, we see that the total revenue estimated out to four years from that estimate was \$25.299 billion. What did we actually see? We saw revenue, which this government had nothing to do with—it had nothing to do with a single thing that this government did—of \$40.175 billion. That is an eye-watering 58.8 per cent increase in revenue. That is the only thing that has contributed to this outcome. It has nothing whatsoever to do with the performance of this government. If we look at health —

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** One thing the member should do is actually read the budget papers and not rely on the press releases of her own Premier. The press releases of her own Premier, firstly, cannot be trusted and, secondly, put spin on this topic.

The single most important and concerning item in this budget is expenditure on health. The Treasurer has boasted of an additional \$1.9 billion to deal with WA Labor’s health crisis. The public of Western Australia is being led to believe that \$1.9 billion more will be spent on health over last year’s expenditure—that is, a cumulative total over the next four years. In fact, this total can be derived only by comparing it with forecast expenditure from the 2020–21 budget. This budget allocates only around \$150 million above the 2020–21 actual expenditure. The Treasurer is saying that he is adding \$1.9 billion over the next four years to what he initially planned to spend last year. However, as we have seen with the dreadful health outcomes in WA over the last four years, the amount he initially planned for the WA health budget last year was woefully inadequate. Members may cast their minds back to 2018 when the Premier, the Treasurer and the Minister for Health at the time were boasting that they had cut health expenditure. Look at the consequence we have seen of that—all the crises that face our state now.

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

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The actual expenditure from the 2020–21 budget was obviously impacted by the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as the member raised. That required additional medical personnel in quarantine facilities, vaccination centres and COVID testing centres. The assumption underpinning this budget is clearly based on the assumption that these resources can be diverted to dealing with the crisis facing our health system—record ambulance ramping, staff shortages, the utter exhaustion of frontline health workers, delays in critical surgeries and inadequate maternity services. In fact, this budget only allocated money for the COVID crisis going out two years. After that, there is no particular allocation for that. My great concern is that the assumption that somehow that additional expenditure that was allocated to COVID will suddenly be converted into additional resources in general medical services is completely unrealistic.

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

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** That is completely unrealistic. In particular—I think this is a major concern and should be a major concern for everyone in this chamber—the assumption that we will not need an ongoing increase in the number of health workers to deal with the COVID epidemic is completely unrealistic.

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Expert health professionals have made it abundantly clear that COVID-19 will be present as an ongoing risk to our community for decades—not months; not a couple of years. Despite vaccinations, COVID-19 will continue to mutate and spread around the world. Vaccinations will reduce the rate of infection and the severity of COVID symptoms. Vaccinations will reduce the rate of disease spread in an open society; however, they will not prevent the spread of the disease. Some people who have been vaccinated will catch COVID, and, tragically, some people who catch COVID will become seriously ill and some will die, despite being vaccinated. By its nature, a highly infectious disease like COVID-19 will require a larger amount of medical resource than most other illnesses; hence, once we return to more normal border controls, our health system will face an inevitable increase in workload from ongoing COVID-related illness. The budget appears to completely ignore this risk. I am absolutely fascinated to know what modelling the government carried out to underpin its budget assumptions, particularly its assumption that it could effectively eliminate additional COVID expenditure and turn that into general health expenditure. What additional medical resources and services will be required to manage the increased workload on our health system due to COVID-19? What additional resources will be required to deal with our current medical crises in addition to these COVID-related illnesses?

My suspicion and concern is that the health system will require an ongoing substantial investment simply to cope with the increased workload due to COVID-19-related illnesses. If that is the case, how is the government intending to fund the additional health workers and resources needed for the ongoing management of COVID-19? Even with the significant funding injection in 2021, Western Australians under a Labor government still had record ambulance ramping, regular code yellow internal disasters in hospitals and cancelled elective surgeries, and had a burnt-out and stressed workforce. The truth is that this Labor government has continually underspent on health over the past four and a half years. If we compare health expenditure in 2016–17 with the projected expenditure in 2024–25, expenditure has only increased by around 2.5 per cent a year. What the budget actually shows is that total health expenditure, including the COVID response, only increases by around \$140 million in 2021–22 above the 2020–21 actual. If the “COVID-19 response” line item is removed from the total underlying health expenditure, then, in this financial year, the increase is \$322 million, which is 3.2 per cent; in 2022–23, the increase is in fact less than one per cent, that is \$90 million; in 2023–24, the increase is \$269 million, around 2.7 per cent; and in 2024–25, the budget shows an increase of \$418 million, which is four per cent. Over four years, the budget total only increases by 11.3 per cent. Many members in this place will know that health professionals believe that the cost of health services has a growth rate of around four per cent a year. Current expenditure is substantially below the required level. As I said, the expected growth over four years at four per cent is around 17 per cent, hence there is a 5.7 per cent gap between the budget forecast increases in expenditure and the likely increases of around \$555 million. If that estimate of a four per cent increase is correct, then the gap between that and the expenditure over that four-year period is quite eye-watering. In fact, over this budget and the next three years, the cumulative gap between what the government has planned to do and that four per cent level is \$1.54 billion. Members, that is the problem that we have seen over the last four and a half years—the government believing that it could simply reduce health expenditure by telling health bureaucrats that it was cutting its budget, and us ending up with a chronically underfunded health system.

It may be possible to achieve that if the government had any stated plans to improve the efficient delivery of medical services. However, we have not heard one thing from the Minister for Health or the Treasurer, or seen one thing in this budget, that shows any effort whatsoever to improve the efficient delivery of service. Furthermore, this Labor government has shown a complete incapacity to improve the efficiency of any services. Remember the wasted \$300 million investment to reduce the public service by 3 000 people? What did this government do? It spent the \$300 million. The public service went up by 7 000 before COVID. It was reduced by 3 000 and went up by 7 000, a net difference of 10 000, and the government spent the \$300 million, so a number of public servants got handsome payouts. The government actually increased the public service. It has shown no capacity to increase the efficiency of our health services.

Members may philosophically think that is a good thing to increase public service; I am not going to debate that matter right now. What I am saying is that the typical growth in health expense is at least four per cent per annum. That has been true for an enormous period of time. Treasury uses two inflation figures for cost—one for health and one for everything else. Health is always greater. This government’s increase in expenditure does not go anywhere near that. What I am predicting out of this budget in the next three and a half years of this government is an ongoing and worsening health crisis in this state. The government has underestimated the effort that is going to be required to manage COVID in this state and has significantly underestimated the effort that is required to cope with just the normal growth in the cost of health services facing this state, and that is exactly why we have a health crisis now.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Member, that is exactly why we have a health crisis now.

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

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The government has not done this properly; it has not done the work. The minister has not done the work. This budget is inadequate.

I will go on. I ask: how is the government going to cope? At the moment, we see that the government copes by having people left sitting in ambulances. The really egregious thing is that we saw this contribution to the health —

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife):** Member for Belmont, I call you to order for the first time.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** What we see now is a direct consequence of this government mismanaging the health services of Western Australia. Who pays the price? This government runs around slapping itself on the back saying what a wonderful job it has done with COVID.

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Belmont, you have been called to order once. I suggest you take that seriously.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Thank you very much.

We are seeing seriously ill people sitting in ambulances; that is now up above 6 000 hours a month. We are seeing people who cannot get critical surgery. I have spoken to people who require surgery but are stuck in their houses. They literally cannot get out of their house because they are elderly and immobile.

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** They cannot access scheduled surgery. They have waited two or three years for this surgery; now they are being told they cannot have it. This is making their life a misery. How the member can interject on that point is utterly beyond me. She clearly does not care about those people.

Let us move on to the flagship project of this government, Metronet. At the 2017 election, WA Labor costed its flagship Metronet project at \$2.945 billion.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Because of the COVID crisis, many Western Australians would be unaware that this budget reveals that under WA Labor, if we include the moneys that have already been spent, Metronet has more than doubled in price to at least \$7.365 billion.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I can tell the minister that I have been through that detail and taken all of that in. He can cut this any way he likes, but the cost of the original stated project has more than doubled. The Minister for Mines and Petroleum is a man who likes detail. The cost has more than doubled for the original scoped project. The minister can try to weasel his way out of it and he can try to say that federal money —

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Mines and Petroleum, the Leader of the Liberal Party has the call. I would encourage the Leader of the Liberal Party to direct his remarks to the chair, and also the minister to cease interjecting.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Thank you very much, Acting Speaker, and I will do so.

That budget has more than doubled for the original scope. The Treasurer and the Minister for Transport have overseen the largest cost blowout of any capital project in the history of this state. Only one thing has been coming out of that project. Have we seen an inch of line laid under the proposed Metronet project that was not commenced by the previous government? We have not seen one inch, but there have been plenty of announcements. Is there one station that people can go to and say, “Yep, I’m getting on a train.” We are four and a half years in, and there is not one station that they can walk into.

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The Ellenbrook rail line is not done. We see all this work —

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members!

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Belmont, member for Victoria Park and member for Wanneroo! I really do want to impress on members that yesterday, speeches on the budget were largely heard in an orderly fashion.

**Ms J.J. Shaw** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** I will not be interrupted, member for Swan Hills. I call you to order for the first time. Government members of this place should also be aware of the numbers in this place and therefore give the Leader of the Liberal Party an opportunity to speak. I will not be interrupted while I am on my feet.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Thank you very much, Acting Speaker.

Here we are in the fifth year of the Labor government and none of that has been delivered for the people of Western Australia. The Minister for Transport, as Minister for Planning, has been so focused on removing any community input into planning decisions that she has completely lost focus on managing the Metronet project and budget.

Again, this is a secretive government. It has not articulated any of the detail of the cost of this project, the cost blowouts of this project or the scope of this project. This is something that is invisible to the people of Western Australia. It is the hallmark of an obsessively secretive government. We on this side of the chamber are seeing that increasingly. Whether it is through requests for information or through questions, particularly in the Legislative Council, we are seeing a government that progressively refuses to provide information to us and to the public of Western Australia.

This government has no economic plan for the future of Western Australia. It did not take any economic road map to the recent state election and it has not delivered any economic reforms or visions in this budget. There is no plan in this budget or under this Labor Treasurer to diversify our state economy and open up new international markets, given our current over-reliance on the iron ore industry. Now we are seeing a dramatic reduction in the price of iron ore, which I suspect is due to action by the Chinese government around the winter Olympics. It is also a portent of things to come. We can anticipate that there will be a substantial reduction in the price of iron ore, and that has been predicted by a number of forecasters.

We have also seen enormous damage to international and interstate tourism businesses. Education, hospitality and services in certain sectors of that market have been decimated by COVID. Other sectors have been hit by interstate trade restrictions and border controls, which are stopping even vaccinated Western Australians from coming home. It is clear that this Treasurer does not have the capacity, or maybe the will, to deliver meaningful economic vision. There are numerous economic headwinds facing Western Australia that we need to be prepared for. As I have said, iron ore revenue will be impacted by a significant fall in the price of iron ore. We have a chronic skills shortage in the housing, construction, agriculture, mining and hospitality sectors that is not being addressed, and the WA Labor Treasurer is unable or unwilling to find solutions. What we needed in this state budget was an urgent and significant focus on economic diversification, including building the new global industries of the future, such as the international advantage that our midwest region has for future jobs in hydrogen and renewable energy, critical rare earth minerals, new manufacturing industries and value-adding services.

I want to dwell on that a little bit. Yesterday in response to some questions, the Premier and others referred to the investment of \$60 million into the hydrogen industry. The government is making an investment of \$60 million. What do we see in terms of a substantive commitment by this government to initiate and build new industries in the midwest of Western Australia? We see a roundabout to nowhere. The only budget commitment for Oakajee, which the government has said is going to be the epicentre of a new hydrogen-based industry in Western Australia, is \$7.5 million for a roundabout to nowhere.

**Ms J.J. Shaw** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Swan Hills!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I will tell the member what that roundabout will do.

**Ms J.J. Shaw** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Swan Hills, the Leader of the Liberal Party has the call.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Thank you very much, Acting Speaker; I know that you care.

That \$7.5 million roundabout to nowhere will not do one thing to encourage one single business to set up in the Oakajee estate. I am certain that the Minister for Mines and Petroleum would have seen—he must have had some representation from BP—that BP did a detailed study of whether it could establish in that area.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** BP said that, yes, there was an economic case for developing hydrogen-based ammonia and other downstream processing at that site, but that it could not do it without the enabling infrastructure in place. I have spoken to a large range of businesses —

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** No, you haven't.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I have spoken to a large range of businesses —

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** That's untrue.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** — that are considering building facilities in that area and I can tell the Minister for Mines and Petroleum that those industries, to an industry, have all said that the lack of enabling infrastructure at Oakajee will prevent them from developing at that port. As a consequence, we see projects announced at Kwinana and Karratha, but we will not see —

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Mines and Petroleum!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** We will not see any significant development in that estate during the term of this government. That is what the government will not see, because it does not have the 330-kilovolt tie-in, it does not have the roads and it does not have the water or other infrastructure that that estate needs to go ahead.

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

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Mines and Petroleum!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The minister can interject all he likes; the proof of the pudding will be in the eating. He will achieve nothing and that is the simple truth of it.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** You have no idea what you're talking about.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I will tell the minister what.

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** I have four minutes to go, minister, and I want to get on to the rest of my speech. There will be no person in this house —

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

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Acting Speaker, please?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Minister for Mines and Petroleum! If there was an actual contribution to be made between the two speakers, I might entertain interjections, but it does not seem like there is. I think the point has been made. The Leader of the Liberal Party to conclude his contribution.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Thank you very much, Mr Acting Speaker.

There will be no person in this Parliament happier than I if we see substantive development on that site. Unfortunately, I believe that that is simply a wish. It will not happen because this government has not made the contribution it should be making in that industrial estate and other areas. A few million dollars thrown around for cooperative resources centres and projects is not what industry needs to commence and make a major contribution in that area. Mining companies will, of their own volition, commence energy projects, but downstream manufacturing at Oakajee is a pipedream at the moment. The government is focused on an outer harbour where we already have a harbour. It is planning to invest billions of dollars on that harbour when those billions of dollars could be spent to create tens of thousands of new jobs and exciting new industries for Western Australia.

I referred to state debt at the start of my contribution. This government has received around \$15 billion of additional windfall revenue, which is effectively \$15 000 for every single household in Western Australia. What is that money being used for? Where has it gone? How has it helped to put Western Australia ahead? Where is that social dividend investment? I remember when Labor talked about the debt monster. That was outlined by the Leader of the Opposition yesterday. Labor was going to pay debt down like a mortgage, but what do we see? We see that across the four years of this budget, debt is going up again. Those eye-watering windfall gains have not gone into debt reduction. We have heard nonsense in this place about the debt that was carried over by the former Liberal–National government, but the simple truth is that the debt forecasts were based on a substantially reduced income stream for the government at that time. This government talks about smoothing capital projects—we heard this nonsense yesterday. There is only one reason that it talks about smoothing capital projects and that is because it is completely unable to execute them. When we look at what has happened over the past four years and compare the Labor government’s planned capital spend with its actual spend, there is a \$4.2 billion gap between what it said it would do and spend and what it has delivered. This government is incapable of delivering on its own stated capital projects and that will be the case in this budget.

This budget fails the people of Western Australia. Essentially, nothing in the budget deals with violent crime. On the issue of homelessness, the government has re-announced an \$800 million spend from last year, yet we know that it will build only 2 000 homes. This government has failed to deliver for the people of Western Australia.

**MS K.E. GIDDENS (Bateman)** [1.02 pm]: I am very pleased to stand today to make my contribution to the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021. This is the first budget that has been handed down since I became a new member of the forty-first Parliament of Western Australia. Like so much about this forty-first Parliament, this state budget will be remembered in history. Some key points about the budget include the \$5.6 billion operating surplus, economic growth of 5.6 per cent since the start of the pandemic and the lowest unemployment rate in the state’s history. Moreover, Western Australia is the only state whose economy did not contract in 2019–20; indeed, it has one of the strongest economies anywhere in the world. We just heard the member for Cottesloe’s contribution directly before me in which he referred to “revenue this government had nothing to do with”! Forgive me if my economic credentials are missing the point, but I make the obvious suggestion that the revenue received by the government is a direct result of economic activity that has been driven by business confidence; indeed, Western Australia has the highest confidence rating of any state in Australia. It is the kind of confidence and revenue that has not been enjoyed by New South Wales, Victoria and the federal government. In claiming that the state’s revenue has nothing to do with this government, the member for Cottesloe continues to miss the point and demonstrates the tin ear of the Liberal opposition. The people of Western Australia are happy that they have jobs. They are happy that they can go out and spend their earnings on renovating their house, buying a television, a car or a caravan to wander out yonder and enjoy all the great things that this state has to offer. This is a remarkable budget, and it is made even more remarkable by the fact that it was forged in the shadow of a global pandemic.

In my inaugural speech in March this year, I said that we should not be in the service of the economy; rather, the economy should be in the service of us. Budgets are not just economic documents; they articulate the values and priorities of the government. This budget reflects the key Labor values of fairness and equality, with a commitment to core areas of service delivery. For example, an additional \$875 million will be spent on social housing, bringing the total spend on social housing in the budget to more than \$2.1 billion. The budget provides a massive \$1.9 billion

boost in spending on health and mental health. It also provides investment in education, training and workforce development, and police, including refurbished and expanded police stations and additional resources to support the record 950 additional police officers that will be delivered by this McGowan Labor government. Good governance and good budgets have a clear eye to the future and investment initiatives that bring about the kind of state and community that we want for ourselves and future generations. I will expand on this later, but I will start closer to home by unpacking some of what this budget means for my community in the electorate of Bateman. Before doing so, I note and acknowledge that this week marks six months since my election as the member for Bateman. The last six months have been an immense privilege and I take a lot of pride in representing my community. I would like to thank the people of Bateman for being so welcoming of me in this new role. I already knew that I was a member of a special community, but visiting schools, community groups, constituents, sporting clubs and other community organisations over the past six months has demonstrated just how amazing the people in my community are. Some of the highlights of the last six months include delivering on most of my election commitments. The only exceptions are those currently going through building or planning approvals, and I look forward to delivering them all as quickly as possible.

I was able to bring to the people of Bateman the Premier and cabinet ministers in the form of a community cabinet. It was a wonderful opportunity for the Premier and cabinet ministers to hear directly from the people in my community. The community cabinet was a packed two days. I shared this with my colleague the member for Bicton. We held forums on women in sport, healthy rivers and seniors and safety. We had a volunteers' lunch and a small business breakfast. It was a fantastic opportunity for the people of my electorate, and I hope the Premier enjoyed his visit to the wonderful electorate of Bateman.

**Mr M. McGowan:** It was great —

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** We enjoyed it.

**Mr M. McGowan:** — especially the breakfast!

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** Breakfast was good.

I have also had the pleasure of supporting different community initiatives, including the Melville Men's Shed, which I supported through a petition. I thank the community for putting its support behind this great initiative. I also extend my thanks to the City of Melville for committing to purchase a building to host a men's shed in Melville in my electorate of Bateman. This has been a long time coming—about 12 years of effort—and it is fabulous to finally see it coming to fruition. I am proud to have been a part of that in some small way.

Another highlight of my first six months in Parliament has been the opportunity to support our really important community groups through provision of a first aid course, which I ran in my electorate office. It is one of those simple things I can do for people who give their time in our community. The cost of a first aid course can be prohibitive. It is another thing that people have to organise and arrange in their busy schedules. I was really pleased to arrange to deliver that course. I could fit only 13 community members into my office. I will run it again as a result of the demand. If people missed out, I ask them to please rest assured as I will get around to ensuring they have the opportunity to attend the first aid course.

I mentioned the local election commitments. Those 13 commitments relate directly to local initiatives in my community, ranging from the \$200 000 committed to the Tompkins Park nature playground upgrade, canoes for the Bateman Winthrop Scout Group and a spectator marquee for the Palmyra Rugby Union Club. I am particularly proud to support netball in my community. Netball is a really huge participation sport, particularly for young girls and women. The facilities do not keep up with demand. I made two commitments. The first was to members of the Kardinya Netball Club, who train on old bitumen courts that get slippery, which can be dangerous. I am really pleased to be delivering, in partnership with the City of Melville, upgraded netball courts. I look forward to that work taking place soon. Hopefully, it will be in place for next season. The other commitment to support netball in my area is to the Tingara Netball Club. That is a shared commitment with Brentwood Primary School. This will greatly benefit students by allowing them to enjoy new and upgraded facilities and support the netball club at the same time. When I visited Brentwood Primary School recently, a group of year 4 students came running up to me, asking, "Aren't you that person we saw on the signs?" I said, "Yes, that's right. I'm the member for Bateman." They said, "Didn't you make a commitment to get us new basketball courts?" I said that was right. They asked when they were getting them. I promised them that we are working on it very hard. Those school students will keep me accountable to that commitment. I promise them that I am going as fast as I can to meet that commitment. I would like to give a shout-out to the principal and the administration staff at Brentwood Primary School for working so sensitively and listening so carefully to the needs of Tingara Netball Club to ensure they get the best outcome for the school, the students and the club. I appreciate their efforts. They are just some of the commitments we made.

I turn now to the funding announced in this budget. As a former teacher, it may figure that one of my great passions is quality education. That is why I am really excited that \$486 million will be invested in new education infrastructure, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics education, over the next five years. Some of the schools in my electorate that have benefited from this include Kardinya Primary School. I will be at that school

later this evening for its open night, which I look forward to. I attended an assembly to announce that about \$25 000 will be allocated to Kardinya Primary School. The students jumped for joy; it was really exciting to see their enthusiasm. Likewise, Winthrop Primary School will be receiving \$25 000. Ardross Primary School will benefit from \$40 000, which will support not only new science equipment, but an upgraded or refurbished science classroom. Bateman Primary School will receive \$40 000. Brentwood Primary School, which I already mentioned when I spoke about the election commitment for upgraded netball courts and playing surfaces, will receive \$25 000. That money is on top of funding that has already been delivered to many schools in my electorate in the last term of government.

An initiative of direct interest to my electorate is the \$400 million investment in strategic land acquisition for priority industrial lots and road corridors for Westport. Western Australia is a trading state within a trading nation. A modern, efficient port is essential infrastructure to support the future growth of our state's economy, and thus will benefit all Western Australians. Westport is important to my electorate for another reason. The development of a new outer harbour in Kwinana will remove the majority of trucks that currently reach the port of Fremantle via Leach Highway.

I would like to put on record the following in relation to Leach Highway. In its first term, the McGowan Labor government increased freight on rail, taking well in excess of 100 000 truck movements off Leach Highway every year. Construction of the High Street–Stirling Highway intersection is well and truly underway. I visited that site with the Premier, Minister Saffioti and the member for Bicton during the community cabinet. A huge and significant amount of work is taking place at that intersection. It will go a long way towards improving the flow of traffic, in particular truck traffic at that intersection.

The government has invested in several new intersection upgrades along Leach Highway. As I use that highway with my family every day, I can speak to the improved traffic flow that has resulted from those upgrades. The new Fremantle Traffic Bridge and new rail bridge will create even more capacity for freight on rail, taking more trucks off our roads. The real long-term solution to Leach Highway is to build a genuine east–west freight connection through our industrial heartland to a modern port. Not only will this \$400 million investment to progress Westport signal the McGowan government's serious commitment to delivering on the outer harbour, but also it eclipses the \$135 million that the Liberals allocated in their pre-election budget to build Roe 8. I will say that again: the Liberals committed \$135 million in their pre-election budget to one of their core commitments—a project with a price tag rounding up to \$2 billion. Even taking into account the contribution of the federal government, that would have left a shortfall of \$565 million to this key commitment that the Liberals made during the 2020–21 election campaign. I know where I will be putting my trust when it comes to deciding who will decide on key infrastructure projects for this state.

In my inaugural speech, I spoke about three key themes—economic diversification, trade with Asia and climate change. I am thrilled that this budget contains a raft of initiatives, including \$100 million for an investment, attraction and new industries fund; \$105 million to build a new state-of-the-art film studio in Fremantle; \$120 million to streamline Western Australia's approvals system, and in doing so, unlock billions of dollars' worth of new projects; and a \$750 climate action fund.

Our world is currently grappling with two emergencies: the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. On the first, the world has responded quickly, relatively speaking. Who would have thought they would have seen scenes of city streets largely empty, planes on tarmacs and entire industries shut down or that we could respond to this threat with a number of vaccines within a year of the first outbreak? Yet this is exactly how large parts of the world responded to COVID-19. On climate change, action has not been nearly so fast. There have been five mass extinction events on earth: one, 450 million years ago, in which 86 per cent of all species died; 380 million years ago, 75 per cent of species died; 255 million years ago, 96 per cent died; 205 million years ago, 80 per cent died; and 70 million years ago, 75 per cent of all species were wiped out. All but one of those extinction events involved climate change produced by greenhouse gas. Of the one 250 million years ago, the earth warmed by five degrees Celsius and 96 per cent of life on earth perished. Estimates suggest that we are currently adding carbon to the atmosphere at least 10 times faster than during this mass extinction event. As if that were not sobering enough, I would like to quote David Wallace-Wells in the grimly titled—it is a grim read too, by the way—*The uninhabitable earth: The story of the future*. I quote —

Many people perceive global warming as a sort of moral and economic debt, accumulated since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution and now come due after several centuries. In fact, more than half of the carbon exhaled into the atmosphere by the burning of fossil fuels has been emitted in just the past three decades.

We cannot let the inaction of other jurisdictions be the doona under which we comfort ourselves over our own failure to act. The time for leadership is now. That is why I am proud of the McGowan Labor government's climate action fund.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms K.E. GIDDENS:** This \$750 million investment includes ending logging of our native forests from 2024; investing \$350 million over 10 years in softwood plantations, sequestering at least 7.9 million tonnes of carbon; \$50 million for renewable projects, including standalone power systems and wind turbine manufacturing; \$50 million to support the development of the renewable hydrogen industry; and \$144 million in climate response measures, such as addressing coastal erosion and capacity for future initiatives.

I believe that we have the technological solutions to address the challenge of climate change and, in doing so, securing not only our environmental future but also our social and economic one. If COVID-19 has shown us anything, it is that Western Australians care about each other, our community, our state, our nation and our world. We are not driven by self-interest; rather, we are prepared to make personal sacrifices for the common good. We have everything we need to meet the challenges of our time, and I look forward to getting on with the job as part of the McGowan Labor government. I commend the budget to the house.

**MS D.G. D'ANNA (Kimberley)** [1.21 pm]: I rise to speak on the McGowan Labor government budget that is delivering on our commitments for the Kimberley. This budget delivers a strong surplus, which enables us to deliver major investment, including infrastructure, hospital and mental health services, social housing and climate action initiatives. This budget funds our plan for the Kimberley. Whether it is the expansion of the eligibility criteria to access the patient assisted travel scheme, improving our roads or upgrading our schools, communities in the Kimberley will benefit from this budget.

After being elected this March, this is the first budget for me as the member for Kimberley. Therefore, I will talk about some of the particular budget items of this government that will benefit the Kimberley. As all members know, the electorate of Kimberley is very big; it is around the size of two Victorias. It is home to many remote Aboriginal communities, small towns and the most beautiful country in this nation, in my biased opinion! The Kimberley is where I have always lived, and it is my home. I am so pleased to see that through this budget we will invest billions to create quality local jobs, fund a pipeline of infrastructure works and deliver key services like health and education.

Speaking of health, throughout the coronavirus pandemic we are so lucky in the Kimberley to be essentially untouched by the virus. But this is not luck. It is the result of this government's action to keep our borders shut and our remote communities shut, and it is all of us in WA and the Kimberley working together, following the rules and keeping our community safe and our economy strong. As I mentioned, the Kimberley is home to many small and large remote Aboriginal communities. We know that Aboriginal and other vulnerable people can be at higher risk in any public health emergency, and this one is no different. Aboriginal people living in remote communities are at greater risk of COVID because of higher rates of other health issues; it is harder to access health care; overcrowding in houses; and the remoteness of some locations. All these reasons are why the vaccine rollout is so important for my electorate of Kimberley.

The Minister for Health came up to the Kimberley last week to deliver the budget. He delivered the budget in a public forum and talked about the incredible \$1.9 billion boost for health and mental health funding across the state, and visited local health services. The minister and I also took the opportunity to visit Bidadanga community. He referred to Bidadanga this week in Parliament. We promoted and encouraged all the local mob to roll up their sleeves to get the COVID-19 vaccination to keep themselves and the community safe, with the WA Country Health Service working with the local Aboriginal Medical Services and other services. It has been inspiring to see the Aboriginal health workers across the Kimberley rolling out the vaccination to our mob. There is a real spirit of cooperation and a shared sense of purpose amongst all the health services. It is hard to explain how complicated it is for these services to coordinate the logistics. Things such as lots of planes flying around and doing hundreds and thousands of kilometres to deliver precious eskies or mobile fridges of vaccines to teams that will go from house to house to vaccinate families. We are tackling misinformation, complacency and hesitancy with passion and hard work.

I take this opportunity to shout out to all the awesome health workers from Kimberley Aboriginal Medical Service, Royal Flying Doctor Service and WACHS for their ongoing work travelling to our remote communities to administer vaccinations. In this budget, we are funding the Royal Flying Doctor Service \$10.9 million to upgrade aircraft engines. The service is extremely important for people living in the Kimberley. It is an absolutely essential service for our regional area. I have spoken in this place previously about the great works of RFDS and I cannot sing its praises more. It recently saved the life of one of my family members.

Another announcement in this budget that hits close to home is the allocation of \$19.7 million towards expanding the eligibility criteria and a boost for accommodation payments in the patient assisted travel scheme. The accommodation allowance will be increased from \$60 a night to \$100 a night, which will make an incredible difference for those who access the service from my community. When this was announced, I received messages of gratitude and requests for more details, so I know it was well received in the community. The eligibility will be expanded to patient support escorts for patients from vulnerable or disadvantaged groups as well as maternity patients.

This budget puts regional Western Australians at its front and centre, with a record \$9.1 billion infrastructure investment over the next four years. The Kimberley is such a remote part of our state, and infrastructure investment is key to unlocking opportunities for not only the employment of local people, but also better services closer to home, and to make sure that people are getting the same opportunities as those who live down south. The roads are key to our lives in the Kimberley. If members have ever travelled around the Kimberley electorate, they will know how important the roads are for our community to access services and industries to thrive. It is awesome to see \$4.5 billion in this budget for major job-creating road projects and safety programs across regional WA.

We will see over \$39 million invested through the regional road safety program to upgrade more than 2 600 kilometres of Kimberley roads with road safety treatments. This includes shoulder sealing and audible edge and centre lines. We will also see \$98 million for upgrades to Great Northern Highway at Ord River in the East Kimberley. This upgrade is very important for the section of Great Northern Highway between Halls Creek and the Victoria Highway turn-off. Previous network assessments carried out in the Kimberley region identified this section of the Great Northern Highway as substandard. Its narrow road width and excessive edge width meant that traffic needed to pass with minimal separation and forced vehicles onto the unsealed road shoulder when passing. This upgrade will make it safer for many people who drive this stretch of road, and provide employment for local people and businesses.

I recently had the pleasure of touring East and West Kimberley with Minister Saffioti, Minister for Transport, to visit local people in those jobs in the communities. Not only are local people being employed as road traffic controllers, but the small local businesses that own civil works—who employ people with tickets to drive water trucks and graders—expressed appreciation for the ongoing work. The quality of the road is fantastic now. I have driven on those roads my whole life and some of those roads were terrible.

The Kimberley is a stunning and unique region and one of its biggest industries is tourism. We are lucky to have so many cultures and such a vast country in the Kimberley. I have had countless conversations with locals this dry season about how busy tourist destinations are across the Kimberley. It is great for business and for our local community. Aboriginal culture is an integral part of Western Australia's history and it should be celebrated and promoted. That is why I am proud to say that this budget is funding \$12.1 million towards regional Aboriginal tourism initiatives. Tourism represents a significant opportunity for Aboriginal people to secure sustainable economic, social and job outcomes.

This budget funds a range of tourism initiatives based on our election commitments in the Kimberley that include \$4.5 million for facilities and upgrades in the Yawuru conservation estate, \$1.75 million for a boat docking station in Danggu Geikie Gorge National Park, \$850 000 to develop a long-distance trek through the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges and \$400 000 for a visitor plan for the Dampier Peninsula and Buccaneer Archipelago, which comes after this government's massive investment into the sealing of the Broome Cape Leveque Road on the Dampier Peninsula. Tourism represents a significant opportunity for Aboriginal people to secure sustainable economic, social and job outcomes—whoops, I think I repeated that! There is something for everyone who comes to the Kimberley for an experience. I promise everyone that the sights, sounds, tastes and traditions of local culture will encourage people even more to wander out yonder and experience the uniqueness of the oldest living culture.

One of the other exciting election commitments that this budget funds is the Broome Aboriginal-led specialist family violence court that will address the recommendations of the *Enhancing family and domestic violence laws: Final report*, which was prepared by the Law Reform Commission of Western Australia. This will meet our election commitment to improve family and domestic violence outcomes. It will provide a family violence intervention service offering support to Aboriginal women who have experienced family violence, and their partners or ex-partners who have been referred to the court. This court is based on a similar specialist family violence court in Geraldton called the Barndimalgu Court. The Broome court will be co-designed with the involvement of the local community.

This budget recognises the importance of education. This budget is about education and includes \$1.5 billion to be spent each year to provide regional students with a quality education. It is an incredible investment in Aboriginal communities, for our children are our future. This is in addition to \$427.5 million over the next four years for refurbishments, upgrades and new builds for regional primary and secondary schools. Halls Creek District High School will receive \$10 million for new classroom blocks and a new food and textile classroom. Broome Senior High School will receive \$4.4 million for canteen and STEM upgrades. I am also excited that \$3.7 million will go towards the solar schools initiative that includes installing solar panels on 18 schools across the Kimberley.

Lately, in my visits around the Kimberley, there has been a lot of talk about crime, particularly youth crime. Community safety is important. However, this is a systemic issue that we are not going to fix overnight. These issues come from entrenched disadvantage, intergenerational trauma and historical events such as the forced removal of children, ongoing displacement, drug and alcohol abuse, and family and domestic violence. There are a lot of complex issues to unpack in this area. We need our services to work collaboratively with each other, whether at a state or federal level, or from the not-for-profit or business community. We all need to work together to address this issue.

I have spoken to many ministers in this place about the concerns that the community and I have. I thank these ministers for always giving me the time of day to hear about my community's concerns and their creative and innovative ideas on how to address these concerns. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Minister Johnston for listening to the representations from the Kimberley community and me, and for his commitment in this budget to put an additional \$5.1 million towards the Kimberley juvenile justice strategy. This further investment will contribute to the continuation of existing night patrols and structured safe-place activities, the establishment of a night patrol in Fitzroy Crossing and the co-design to develop options for a scoping document on the location, functionality requirements and operating models for a safe-place residential facility. It will also provide for a dedicated staff member to coordinate the co-design process for new priority initiatives, because we have all said that we will always work with the community and take advice from it on how to best address this issue. Local place-based solutions are

always best. As I have said before, I am very passionate about the children of the Kimberley and sending these kids to Banksia Hill Detention Centre is definitely not the solution. We need holistic approaches and I look forward to continuing to fight like a Chihuahua for the Kimberley region.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** Like a “chi-chuana”!

**Ms D.G. D’ANNA:** Yes, a “chi-chuana”!

It is not all doom and gloom for the youth of the Kimberley. Last week I had the privilege of going to a Kimberley theatre show. This is one of the positive stories of youth doing great things in our communities. After a long day here last week, I flew home and attended a few engagements around the community, so the last thing that I wanted to do was to go to a 6.30 show at night to show support. But I took my granddaughter and my son along and I am so glad that I went because I was absolutely blown away by the quality of the theatrics, the acrobats and the energy that that show produced. I would like to acknowledge Theatre Kimberley, all the young ones from the Beagle Bay school who participated in the outreach program and contributed to the show, all the backstage lighting crew, and the teachers who took the time to train everyone and put this show together, including making the props. I really wanted to mention that because the quality of theatre performances in the regions is something special. I am glad that this government has also committed to regional arts and theatres.

In conclusion, this government is delivering on election commitments—creating local jobs, investing in infrastructure works and community safety, and supporting vital services like health and education. I am proud to be part of this government that is continuing to build strong and resilient regional communities such as those in the Kimberley. I commend this bill to the house.

**MR K.J.J. MICHEL (Pilbara)** [1.39 pm]: I rise today to support the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021 and what this means for the Pilbara economy and local communities. I must commend the Premier on delivering his first state budget as Treasurer and for his strong leadership as Premier during the COVID-19 pandemic. As a former owner-operator of a small business, I am proud to be part of the McGowan Labor government that has demonstrated sound financial management to get the state’s finances back on track. I congratulate the Treasurer for delivering this budget. Thanks to the Minister for Mental Health; Aboriginal Affairs; Industrial Relations, Hon Stephen Dawson, MLC, for coming to Port Hedland last week, and the Minister for Regional Development; Hydrogen Industry; Agriculture and Food, Hon Alannah MacTiernan, who presented the 2021–22 budget in Karratha. The Pilbara is the engine room of Australia, and I am proud that the McGowan government recognises that in this budget with its huge investments in jobs, health, education, training, roads and other services across our region.

One policy I would like to discuss on behalf of my constituents is the \$19.8 million regional airfares zone cap to begin next year that was announced as part of this budget. This policy will change the lives of many Pilbara residents who simply cannot avoid to travel to and from Perth. I thank the Minister for Transport for working with regional members and communities since 2017 to deliver on a promise that Pilbara residents have wanted for many years. In 2017, after eight and a half years of no action, no funding and no hope from the Liberal–National government, our government got into action and undertook a parliamentary inquiry into regional airfares. Since then, Qantas, Virgin and Rex Airlines have delivered affordable residential community fares. These include routes across the state, but in the Pilbara we worked with BHP and Alliance Airlines to launch \$299 community airfares into Port Hedland and Newman, representing over 15 000 affordable seats for locals every year.

Airlines increased the frequency of happy hour sales with discount tickets. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, we worked with Qantas to cap return airfares for Pilbara residents at \$800. Over the past four years, the hard work we have done to reduce airfare costs has resulted in great outcomes for our Pilbara communities. But we go further with this policy to cap prices for all regional locations for local residents. Airfares will be capped at \$199 one way for locations within 1 000 kilometres of Perth, and at \$299 one way for locations outside that range. This policy will ease a huge burden on local Pilbara residents and I look forward to seeing this roll out next year. I thank again the Minister for Transport and the McGowan government for working with me on this issue that is close to the hearts of many Pilbara residents.

There is a range of investment into many areas in this budget. I will now focus on Pilbara health. The \$1.9 billion investment to improve services throughout Western Australia and to ensure more doctors and nurses in the regions is very welcome news to the Pilbara community. The lack of doctors in the regions is no new issue, and the supply and retention of GPs is primarily a federal government responsibility. However, it is fantastic to see that the McGowan government is responding to this challenge within its capability. The \$14.8 million investment to construct a step-up, step-down facility in South Hedland is also welcomed, and works on the Karratha facility are still in progress.

*Visitors — Beaconsfield Primary School*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms M.M. Quirk):** Member, can I interrupt you briefly to welcome the Beaconsfield Primary School students. I hope they have had an enlightening visit to Parliament, including hearing from the member for Pilbara.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr K.J.J. MICHEL:** Thank you, Madam Acting Speaker.

The \$19.7 million investment in the patient assisted travel scheme is also fantastic. Local residents often speak to me as a member of Parliament about the need to expand the eligibility of patient support escorts and maternity patients, so this expansion is very welcome news to a lot of residents. It is also fantastic that accommodation subsidies for PATS will be raised from \$60 a night to \$100 a night. Our state government will also invest \$10.9 million to upgrade Royal Flying Doctor Service aircraft, which is vital for the Pilbara communities. At the Fortescue Festival in Newman recently, I spoke with some of the excellent St John Ambulance volunteers who were very pleased there would be an additional three full-time paramedics in town.

**Mrs L.A. Munday:** Great people.

**Mr K.J.J. MICHEL:** Thank you; I know the member for Dawesville is also a paramedic and would be happy about that. St John volunteers in Karratha will also welcome the extra allocation of 2.5 paid paramedics. These volunteers do an amazing job every day to service our community, and this announcement of additional paramedics will be a massive boost to the work they do.

I would also like to discuss the investment into making our Pilbara communities stronger and safer. The budget includes a \$1.78 billion investment into the Western Australia Police Force—an investment that will put more police on the streets and support the WA Police Force with new equipment. Our government will also invest an additional \$17 million into regional youth justice services in the Pilbara and Kimberley. This program was established in 2011 to help divert young people from custody by providing bail support services, case management and supervising young people on community-based supervision orders. Our government is working hard to help divert young people in the Pilbara and Kimberley away from the justice system to try to get youth on a positive path away from crime. Investing in our youth by creating future employment opportunities within the Pilbara, ensuring wraparound services are available for troubled youth, and investing in education is how we can create safer communities in the Pilbara for local families.

I am proud that our government is investing in quality education for young people in the Pilbara. I will go through some of the commitments that are funded in this budget. The commitments include \$5.5 million for a new classroom block at Baynton West Primary School in Karratha; a \$3.5 million expansion of Baler Primary School in South Hedland; \$4.5 million for a new classroom block at Cassia Primary School in South Hedland; \$1 million to upgrade air conditioning and refurbish the music hall at Dampier Primary School; \$750 000 for upgrades at Tambrey Primary School in Karratha; \$700 000 to transform a classroom into a science, technology, engineering and mathematics classroom at Newman Senior High School; and \$876 000 for the Solar Schools initiative that includes the installation of solar panels on 10 schools across the Pilbara.

The Solar Schools initiative is something that I am particularly proud of advocating for in our region. The Minister for Education and Training launched this program late last year with me at Port Hedland Primary School. According to Horizon Power, this initiative will reduce school energy bills by around 27 per cent, which is a huge deal for schools in the Pilbara. Schools in the north are forced to have their air conditioning systems working overtime to keep students cool. In the Pilbara, we need to keep our air conditioners running for almost three-quarters of the year. The results of having their systems running constantly means higher electricity bills and maintenance costs. As someone who had an air conditioning business and used to be an air conditioning technician before being elected, I understand more than most that those maintenance costs can get out of hand very quickly. Since I was elected, I have advocated for this initiative in our schools up north—to have solar panels installed, to reduce the cost of electricity. The schools that will benefit from this initiative include Baler Primary School, Cassia Primary School, Hedland Senior High School, Port Hedland Primary School, South Hedland Primary School, Karratha Primary School, Karratha Senior High School, Millars Well Primary School, Pegs Creek Primary School and Tambrey Primary School. This really is a fantastic initiative for our Pilbara, and I want to thank the Minister for Education and Training for working on it with me.

The government is also investing in science resources for primary school students across the Pilbara, including remote community schools, and an additional \$1 million over five years in the successful Better Beginnings program, which will expand this award-winning State Library of Western Australia initiative to the Pilbara, including remote communities. These commitments show the McGowan government's dedication to setting our Pilbara classrooms up for the future. They come on top of the near \$17 million investment in Hedland Senior High School; \$42 million to redevelop Roebourne District High School; and \$27 million for building new workshops and classrooms at the South Hedland and Roebourne TAFEs.

On the topic of our TAFE sector, it is great to see the lower fees, local skills program continuing. I am pleased to report to the house that this year the program has seen an increase in enrolments in the Pilbara of 31 per cent. Our government is investing \$25 million in new state-of-the-art TAFE equipment, \$29.8 million to provide 8 000 additional vocational education and training places in schools across WA, \$19.2 million in a VET career taster program for year 9 students and \$37 million towards the employer incentive scheme in regional WA.

I have heard a lot of positive feedback from local Pilbara businesses about the employer incentive scheme, which is an excellent financial incentive for employing apprentices or new-entrant trainees. As a former owner and operator of a small business during the boom, I know that finding and paying to employ apprentices was very difficult, and I think this incentive scheme is a fantastic boost for local jobs, our local economy and skills for our kids in the future.

Our government has also committed in this budget to continuing the fantastic regional economic development grants program. I am proud to report to the house that since 2018, the RED grants program has invested more than \$2.3 million in 28 projects in the Pilbara, creating more than 325 local jobs. The RED grants have helped some fantastic projects in the Pilbara, including a brewery, a magnesium plant, an Aboriginal-owned and managed green waste company, a local engineering firm, and a marine tour and charter business, amongst many other projects. I get many emails from businesses and locals wanting to know when the RED grants rounds open; we are currently in round 4, with applications closing on 21 October. I look forward to seeing how this round of RED grants will help diversify our Pilbara economy and build the sustainability of our communities.

Our government is delivering the projects that Pilbara locals have wanted to see for a very long time, including the Port Hedland Spoilbank Marina and Newman Hospital. The government, in this budget, has now also committed to completing stage 4 of the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway, connecting Karratha with Tom Price, which will complete this \$380 million highway. We are also investing \$49 million, through the regional road safety program, to upgrade more than 720 kilometres of roads across the Pilbara to keep our roads safe and create local jobs. As someone who needs to drive around a large electorate, often for six hours at a time, this is fantastic news, and I know that many residents—particularly those in the East Pilbara—will appreciate these safety upgrades. There will also be an investment of \$120 million to upgrade and seal 100 kilometres of Marble Bar Road, and \$36 million for the Port Hedland Airport deviation. These are fantastic projects that continue our government's record investment in regional roads.

There are many other commitments in this budget, including more than \$360 million for the Pilbara Ports Authority's asset improvement program, \$10 million towards the Port Hedland sporting and community hub, \$5 million for improvements to visitor facilities at Conzinc Bay in Murujuga National Park, \$16 million to improve visitor facilities within Karijini National Park, \$45 million to expand the Aboriginal ranger program, \$10 million for the new Club Night Lights program for floodlighting at community facilities, \$12 million for seniors' safety and security rebates, and much more that will help keep our regional economy growing while delivering on our election commitments for the local community.

I am proud to say that the Pilbara community is happy to see a McGowan government that is financially responsible and has secured a budget surplus for our state's future. I would like to congratulate the Premier; Treasurer and ministers for delivering a budget that is keeping the Pilbara strong and vibrant, as well as setting our region up for the future. On behalf of the Pilbara community, I commend the bills to the house.

**MRS L.A. MUNDAY (Dawesville)** [1.56 pm]: I rise to speak to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021. I want to thank the McGowan Labor government for delivering this milestone budget with record investment for people all over Western Australia—particularly regional areas, like my electorate of Dawesville. With rapid population growth for more than a decade, and growing economic and tourism opportunities, there is a huge amount of potential for our area. As a result, we have seen an increase in demand for services and funding. This state budget has met demand from regional areas. We have seen record investments in areas such as health and mental health, community safety, education and training, infrastructure and more. This budget shows our strength as a state and also shows that we are using our success to deliver for our future. I absolutely support this budget, delivered by Mark McGowan, particularly for its focus on the Peel region. I thank the Premier for his strong, persistent and decisive leadership during this pandemic period.

I became the member for Dawesville six months ago. After nearly 20 years as an ambulance paramedic, and recently qualifying as a registered psychologist, my experiences in the areas of health, mental health and improving patient outcomes in our community were the reasons for my decision to enter politics. The McGowan Labor government has in this budget made a massive investment of \$1.9 billion in our healthcare system and mental health services across Western Australia. This package of funding will deliver more doctors and nurses to the regions, hundreds of new hospital beds and new, expanded services for patients right across our state. This will include a range of important projects in regional WA as part of the 2021–22 state budget. This is an area that is incredibly important to me, and it will have a huge impact on the people of Dawesville, with increasing demand on the healthcare system.

Our government is committed more than ever to putting patients first in regional WA. What does this mean for Dawesville residents? It means quality health care, closer to home. Over the last four years, the McGowan Labor government has invested \$265 million in regional healthcare infrastructure. A key part of this ongoing investment is \$152 million towards the redevelopment and expansion of Peel Health Campus. This will end the privatisation of services, which means that the health campus will be brought back into public hands. Redevelopment will deliver such things as 63 additional inpatient beds, 12 chemotherapy places, 20 mental health inpatient beds, one additional operating theatre, at least 15 palliative care hospice beds, more outpatient services, a new building for medical imaging services and the introduction of a 10-bed mental health care emergency centre. This is a massive win for both the electorate of Dawesville and for the entire Peel region.

Dawesville's ageing population faces more complex health issues and this commitment will greatly benefit my electorate and address the high demand for an expansion of health services in the area, something I have experienced firsthand as a paramedic. Another commitment to healthcare services for regional patients is \$2.2 million towards a women's community health service in the Peel region. This will connect women with health and support services and be a place where they can receive information on types of early intervention. This will provide a less intimidating option for women to get help if they are experiencing mental health illness, family or domestic violence, sexual violence, or have suffered from child sex abuse.

The McGowan government will fund all its mental health election commitments through the boost of a record \$495 million towards the Mental Health Commission in the 2021–22 state budget that will see the delivery of community beds and support. The provision of these mental health services for the community will mean that people can find appropriate care close to where they live and near families and support networks.

Investment in community infrastructure is something that has been needed in Dawesville and as the first Labor person in Dawesville since the electorate's inception, it has been a very long time coming for us. My electorate has experienced rapid growth over the last 15 years, which has put demand on the need for new social infrastructure, community facilities and services. Our population of 9 153 is expected to grow by 49 per cent by 2036. The McGowan Labor government has invested \$3 million towards the Dawesville Community Centre, a local multipurpose centre that will create a hub for community activity. It will include spaces for health services, community meetings, outreach services, recreational space and much more. This is a massive project specific to Dawesville and I know it will provide benefits for a long time to come.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 3999.]

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### ELECTORAL REFORM AND NATIVE FORESTRY — REGIONS

##### 523. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I refer to the release of *Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform: Final report* and the legislation about to be debated in this Parliament and the decision last week to shut down the native forestry sector. Given the Premier raised neither of these issues before the election and outright denied multiple times that electoral reform was on the agenda, what other attacks on regional communities can we expect from his government over the next three years?

##### Mr M. McGOWAN replied:

Just to address the question: we handed down the budget last week—\$9 billion of infrastructure will be spent in regional WA, the biggest road-building program in history across regional WA. Hospitals are being built all over regional WA. There is funding for an upgrade to the patient assisted travel scheme to provide people from the regions with additional resources to come to the city. More permanent full-time paramedics will be employed in regional WA, more full-time firefighters will be employed in regional WA and we will retain the royalties for regions scheme in regional WA. All those things are part of regional WA and on top of that there is a \$400 million package for softwood timber planting; part of that is a \$50 million transition plan out of native hardwood forest.

To address the forest issue, the forest management plan comes up every 10 years or so. We provided two years' notice of our intentions on the forest management plan and consulted people across the board in June this year. The overwhelming feedback was that people did not want us to log native forests anymore. From the questions asked by the Leader of the Liberal Party and the Leader of the National Party, they do want to log native forests again. They want to keep logging native forests. I will tell the people of Cottesloe that is the Leader of the Liberal Party's plan. I will tell the people of Vasse that the Liberal Party wants to continue to log these ancient and beautiful forests, and that is its plan.

We are investing heavily in regional WA. We will preserve native forests. We will invest \$350 million in new softwood plantations and, as the Minister for Forestry pointed out the other day, during the term in office of members opposite, in some years they did not plant a single tree. What does that mean? It means that in future years—admittedly very few of us will still be in this chamber at that time—there would be no supply. That is what that means. They did not put in place the effort to fund it, so we have used the state's good economic and financial management to fund that important program.

This government has many regional members in this chamber and in the upper house of state Parliament and we will continue to do the right thing by the people of regional WA.

#### ELECTORAL REFORM AND NATIVE FORESTRY — REGIONS

##### 524. Ms M.J. DAVIES to the Premier:

I have a supplementary question. Why did the Premier not raise these important issues before the election and give the people of Western Australia a chance to have their say? Are these two decisions not just an example of the massive and arrogant overreach of this McGowan Labor government?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The answer is clearly no. I want to explain to the member how things work. At the 2017 election, we did not take a policy of voluntary assisted dying to it—we did not, but it is an issue, so we addressed it. We put in place a select committee. Actually, Malcolm McCusker, QC, AC, did a review; a select committee worked on it and we passed voluntary assisted dying laws. We did not take a policy to the 2017 —

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Leader of the Opposition asked a question, will she let me answer the question?

We did not take a policy to the state election for overarching planning reform in 2017. But obviously COVID hit and we needed activity and we put in place planning reforms, which created activity in Western Australia. We did not take industrial manslaughter laws to the 2017 election. Obviously, there were numerous cases of people in the workplace dying horrible deaths—terrible things—and we reviewed the laws and brought in industrial manslaughter laws. We took none of them to the 2017 election. Do members opposite think that we took to the 2017 election laws to deal with COVID? No, we did not; but COVID hit and we dealt with the situation.

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

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Leader of the Opposition asked me the question; will she let me answer it, please?

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members of the opposition.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** We did not know at the 2021 election that someone from the Daylight Saving Party would be elected with 98 votes. I did not have a crystal ball and know that was going to occur. One Liberal Party candidate apparently got 27 000 votes and was not elected, yet Mr Tucker from the Daylight Saving Party got 98 votes and was elected. Obviously, that situation needs to be dealt with. We had an overarching review of the electoral system in the upper house and it came up with some great democratic, fair recommendations to improve the upper house and stop the rotting and the undemocratic practices up there. What has been going on in the upper house is a complete rot of the will of the people, a rot of democracy and an undermining of democratic practices that are out of place in the western world. The committee has called it out and we are going to reform it!

## STATE BUDGET 2021–22 — REGIONS

**525. Mr K.J.J. MICHEL to the Premier:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's strong financial management that is delivering record investment in the future of regional Western Australia. Can the Premier outline to the house how this government is using its strong budget surplus to invest in job-creating infrastructure to support the community to deliver quality frontline services and secure royalties for regions?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I thank the member for Pilbara for the question and I congratulate him on his outstanding success at the state election. I congratulate him once again, because I think it needs to be said, on the 2017 result when he defeated Brendon Grylls. What an outstanding outcome!

The budget delivers a record investment in regional Western Australia. There is \$9.1 billion for infrastructure specifically in regional WA and \$4.2 billion for royalties for regions. The two only slightly overlap, so there is a massive infrastructure and services spend across regional WA. Then there are billions in statewide programs for regional and metropolitan that we cannot separate out, but countless billions of dollars will be spent in regional WA on infrastructure and services. It is actually a record spend in regional WA.

Regional roads are getting \$4.5 billion. We are supporting the freight industry, with \$200 million for agricultural supply chain roads throughout the wheatbelt, midwest, great southern and goldfields. The minister has put in place the road safety program to save lives in regional WA, which is being copied all over Australia. There is \$36.3 million for a new boating facility in Broome. There is \$45 million to expand the Aboriginal ranger program around Western Australia. I congratulate the member for Kimberley on her outstanding speech before. There is also the renewable hydrogen hub, with \$7.5 million to put in place common-user infrastructure at Oakajee, and a whole range of other industry programs.

In terms of the community, there is \$370 million a year for spending on services by police in regional WA; there will be an additional 36 country firefighters in Albany, Kalgoorlie and Geraldton; and there is \$18 million for police and community youth centres around the state, particularly in the regions. I opened the new one in Carnarvon the other day. It was wonderful. The great thing was that the local member was not there!

In terms of health, the budget outlined that \$2.1 billion a year will go to health services specifically in regional WA. We are employing an additional 25 full-time paramedics in regional WA and there is \$48.5 million for the new Meekatharra health service. This government is putting in place a new hospital for Meekatharra. There is \$19.7 million for the patient assisted travel scheme to increase the accommodation subsidy from \$60 a night to \$100 a night, and pregnant women will be able to bring their partners with them now. This is a massive improvement for regional people accessing health services in the city.

In relation to royalties for regions, we are delivering \$4.2 billion and we are responsible for it and it goes through proper budget processes. I note what Hon Dr Steve Thomas—he is the gift that keeps on giving!—said on ABC in the south west in February 2018. He said —

The Langoulant Report points out quite clearly that Cabinet failed to take proper account of a lot of that Royalties for Regions expenditure and that Treasury didn't have proper oversight of that and that's why we had some of the outcomes that we had.

There were some very bad ones that resulted, probably, in the wastage of billions of dollars not just in Royalties for Regions but across the entirety of government.

That is what Steve Thomas, your leader in the upper house, said about you in office, my friends. He was correct in what he had to say about these things back then.

We will continue to invest heavily in regional WA. We have some outstanding regional members. We have ensured that royalties for regions is sustainable and we will continue to ensure that both regional and city Western Australians get proper representation and great services and infrastructure.

*Visitors — Beaconsfield Primary School*

**The SPEAKER:** Just before I give the next question, on behalf of the member for Fremantle, I would like to welcome to the gallery the students and staff from Beaconsfield Primary School. Welcome to Parliament today.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

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

The Minister for Health stated that it would take 10 weeks for an inquiry to report back on the tragic death of Aishwarya Aswath, and when he missed his own deadline, he said that the report would be finalised in mid-September. Given that it is now mid-September, where is the report into this tragic event?

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

I noted the venom from the member for Cottesloe earlier in his speech on the budget. Such was his anger that he would not even turn to the issue of the budget. He spewed forth about electoral reform in Western Australia and the outrage that a government would want to contemplate restoring democracy to this state, yet I find that members opposite have got just one question on the issue that we would think is the most important of the day. It is extraordinary.

The member for Vasse has asked about an important issue, which, if she had approached me outside this chamber, I would have been very happy to reply to because this is a very sensitive issue. As I explained last time, there are delays in relation to the investigation into the death of Aishwarya, and that is because of the border arrangements between different states. Our team has been working very quickly both in quarantine by utilising virtual communication services and now on the ground, and it is considering its reports. I think the team is coming to some early conclusions, but it would be mid to late September before we get an actual formal report from it.

We will make sure, obviously, that Aishwarya's family receive that report first and foremost, and we will give them time to consider that report and speak with the investigators so that they can continue to make sense of the untold heartache that they must be feeling in relation to this. This is a sensitive issue. It is not one that we will rush. It is one that we will step through carefully and sensitively and with compassion.

PERTH CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL — AISHWARYA ASWATH

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

I have a supplementary question. Given that important business has been managed during the pandemic with the outstanding border arrangements, my understanding is that Zoom meetings have been undertaken, so I wonder why it is taking so long. How can the minister expect to fix the health crisis in Perth Children's Hospital if he cannot even deliver on this very important promise of a timely investigation into this tragedy?

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

I have come across second reading speeches that were shorter than that supplementary! I will just say that I am not going to put pressure on the investigators to come to conclusions ahead of the good and proper investigation into a very serious issue.

TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE — REGIONS

**528. Ms D.G. D'ANNA to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to using its strong and responsible financial management to support regional Western Australians.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how the state budget is delivering a record investment in regional transport infrastructure and helping make airfares more affordable for those living in the regions?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this compares with the record of the Nationals and Liberals?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

(1)–(2) I thank the member for Kimberley for that question. What an excellent member for Kimberley she is. She is absolutely incredible. Of course, this budget has recorded some more records, members. There is record spending on transport infrastructure in regional WA. As the Premier outlined, there is a \$4.5 billion spend on regional infrastructure. There is a lot going on around the state. Work continues on the delivery of the Bunbury Outer Ring Road and, of course, the Albany ring-road. There is \$278 million, member for Pilbara, for the Manuwarra Red Dog Highway. Of course, funding continues to roll out for the Outback Way, which is very much about local Aboriginal employment, as well as building this vital new east–west link. The member for Kimberley and I have been driving along Great Northern Highway a bit recently and she has been telling me about some of her past concerns about the risks along that road and how we are going to address that by replacing the single-lane bridges with proper bridges to make it safer for everyone in the community. There is \$120 million for Marble Bar Road and millions for Great Eastern Highway. Member for Dawesville, there is \$110 million for the new Mandurah Estuary Bridge, and the list goes on. There is record spending on regional road safety, with \$217 million in this year alone. Another 3 000 kilometres will be improved, with wider shoulders and safer roads throughout regional WA.

There is funding on maritime projects, like the Spoilbank Marina, the Bunbury waterfront and the Broome boating facility, for which we are seeking further funding from the commonwealth, but I am sure that we will be able to get on with that project as soon as possible. There is funding for the Carnarvon fascine and the jetty. There are millions of dollars for other grants, such as grants, member for Albany, to address coastal erosion around Emu Point and other areas.

Of course, when it comes to aviation, the funding in the budget will deliver our commitment on the new two-zone airfares for residents of regional WA. There is either a \$199 fare or a \$299 fare, depending on where people live in regional WA. Since the election, we have partnered to start introducing new fares—for example, the new \$199 community airfare between Perth and Kalgoorlie, the new airfare between Port Hedland and Newman and also the new airfare from Onslow.

As members can see, we are delivering for regional Western Australia. We do not need slogans or bumper stickers to understand that regional WA deserves its fair share, and that is what we are doing. I compare and contrast this with the approach taken when the Liberal–National government was in power. It was very good on signage and bumper stickers, but it did not deliver on the ground. It purposely avoided funding roads in regional WA. There is so much catch-up out there because for eight years, those regional roads were neglected under the Liberal–National government. The Premier acknowledged the former leader of the National Party, Hon Brendon Grylls, who in 2013 said, “You can take a billion dollars and spend it on regional roads and say that we’re done. We won’t be doing that.” In 2017, Brendon Grylls, the former leader of the National Party said, “We haven’t spent a lot of money on roads.” As a result, there is a lot of catch-up to do and we are spending a record amount of money. We are engaging local communities and local businesses and there is a record amount of Aboriginal employment, particularly through the Kimberley. We will continue to invest because we know that only a Labor government delivers to regional Western Australia.

**WOMEN’S AND BABIES’ HOSPITAL****529. Ms L. METTAM to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to an allocation in the budget that provides \$5.4 million over two years from 2021–22 to the women’s and newborns’ service relocation project.

- (1) Given that the study is commissioned for two years, when will the minister actually break ground on the project?
- (2) How many years will it be until the minister expects the hospital to be operational given we have a crisis now; and, will it be within the next five years?

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

(1)–(2) The one group I will not be lectured by on the opening of hospital infrastructure is yours! Really, member? I can tell the member for Vasse what will not happen. It will not be years overdue. It will not sit idle while we try to work out what is happening with the asbestos in it and what is happening with the lead in the water.

**Mr M. McGowan:** The doors wouldn’t fit.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** That is right. The doors would not fit.

The fact of the matter is that the building of a new women’s and newborns’ hospital at the cost of \$1.8 billion, which will be invested by this government, will be a complex project, and one that will require a good deal of planning and careful stepping through in terms of the business case. As the member would be aware, it is very early days yet. At the moment, investigations are going on to determine the best site for the hospital. Obviously, we need to sit down and carefully plan, with the clinical teams at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, what we need to do

to make sure that we have a facility that is futureproof, unlike what the former Liberal–National government did at Perth Children’s Hospital. We must actually listen to the clinical staff and put things in there in a manner that makes sense to them, unlike what the former Liberal–National government did at Fiona Stanley Hospital. Fundamentally, and most importantly, we must make sure that it is a hospital that will provide world-class health care to women and babies in the future.

#### WOMEN’S AND BABIES’ HOSPITAL

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

I have a supplementary question. Given that maternity bypasses are the Labor government’s new standard of care for birthing mums, and given that this project is now years away, how does the minister expect to address the crisis facing our health system right now?

**The SPEAKER:** It might be timely for me to remind people on both sides that, firstly, a supplementary question should be a single question and should not contain a preamble; and, secondly, in terms of the ministerial responses, I anticipate a brief response that is shorter than the first answer. Thank you.

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

But the last one was so short, Madam Speaker!

**The SPEAKER:** You have a time limit of under a minute.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** The way we resolve the challenges in health is to continue to have strong financial management so that we can have strong investment in health services, which is exactly what is going on. We employed 750 qualified nurses in the WA health system between January and June this year. We are making the investment decisions and we are making sure that we put things in place to continue to provide world-class health care for the people of Western Australia.

**The SPEAKER:** Well done!

#### CLIMATE ACTION FUND

**531. Ms C.M. ROWE to the Minister for Climate Action:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government’s investment in WA’s future, including the establishment of a \$750 million climate action fund. Can the minister outline to the house how this fund will help address the threat of climate change and support industry in creating sustainable jobs?

**Ms A. SANDERSON replied:**

I thank the member for Belmont for her question and strong advocacy on this issue. Members on this side of the house, and most on that side, understand that climate change is real and it is a pressing issue that is the front of mind of our community. Any member who spends any time talking to the community understands how important this is for the community. A big international climate change conference is happening in Glasgow at the end of October, early November. We are not waiting for the federal government to catch-up and wake up to the science that climate change is real and the urgency of the situation. All subnational governments around the country are acting on climate change. They are all setting pathways to net zero emissions. United Nations member countries are being asked to come forward with ambitious 2030 emissions reduction targets that align with reaching net zero by mid-century and keeping the rate of warming at 1.5 degrees. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, Australia has already reached an increase of 1.44 degrees on average. We have to act now. To deliver these targets, governments need to do a range of things, including curtailed deforestation, speed up the switch to electric vehicles and encourage investment in renewable energy. We are curtailing deforestation in Western Australia by protecting our native south-west timber from commercial logging and continuing to protect old-growth forests while we restructure the industry to grow and be more sustainable with a \$350 million package for softwood plantation. That will support jobs in not only the timber industry, but also the construction industry. We are encouraging the take-up of electric vehicles with this fund, announcing that 90 new electric fast-charging stations will be rolled in 45 locations around regional Western Australia to encourage the uptake of EVs. We are encouraging investment in renewable technology, something that I know the Minister for Energy is very passionate about, and supporting the emerging technology around green hydrogen. We can be a global leader in decarbonising the global economy, particularly in our region. This budget commitment shows that we are showing leadership in this area. Climate change is not only an environmental issue, but also a state development issue. That is why we are working together as a cabinet to make sure that we have in place the future of Western Australia and the global climate at the centre of everything that we do.

#### ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS

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

Given that the Premier denied that electoral reform was on his agenda seven times before the last election, how can he possibly consider introducing legislation to reduce regional representation without going back to the people of Western Australia with a referendum on this question?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I have a few things to say about this, but I welcome the first question from the Leader of the Liberal Party in four months; he has broken a record.

I have a few things to say. I will explain it again. At the state election, Mr Wilson Tucker was elected in the Mining and Pastoral Region with 98 votes. The Nationals WA received 4 795 votes in the Mining and Pastoral Region but did not get a member elected. The National Party got hundreds of times the votes that Mr Tucker received but it did not get a member elected. That is a failed system that needs to be reformed. We took the issue to Mr McCusker and asked him to review the system as it stood. Obviously, like most Australians, we are in favour of equality and fairness. That is what we stand for. Australians believe in equality and fairness. The system in the upper house as it currently stands allows for some people's votes to be worth six times other people's votes—six times. The vote of someone in my electorate is worth one-sixth of the vote of someone in the electorate of North West Central, for instance. They have one-sixth the voting power. In effect, they have six votes and someone in the city has one vote. The anomalies do not stop there. The anomalies are extraordinary. I was not aware that someone in Kalgoorlie has one and a half times the vote of someone in Esperance. Esperance is further from the city, without direct flights, yet someone in Kalgoorlie has one and a half times the vote of someone in Esperance. Someone in Wundowie, which is eight and a half kilometres from Wooroloo, has four times the voting power. Someone in Northam, which is 95 kilometres from the city, has 2.4 times the voting power of someone in Denmark, which is 416 kilometres from the city. How does that make sense to anyone? As I said, the vote of somebody in the electorate of North West Central is worth six times the vote of someone in the Leader of the Liberal Party's electorate of Cottesloe. Back in the 1990s, when he was President of the Liberal Party, he was on the record as supporting one vote, one value. Admittedly, he is not quite as recognisable now as he was then, but that was his view. He is on record in the federal Parliament as supporting one vote, one value. Now he says something completely different.

The other argument I have heard expressed by people is that somehow the change would result in a loss of regional representation. That is not true. We will go from six upper house members to 37 upper house members representing the regions. That is what the new system will do. Wherever people live around the state, they will go from six upper house members to 37 upper house members representing them. That is what will happen under this new system. I heard an argument expressed by some people that electorate officers and resources will go to the city. I want to explain to them what happened under the old system. A member of this house was once a member for the Agricultural Region in the upper house. That was the Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mia Davies. This is a picture of her electorate office when she was a member for the Agricultural Region in the state Parliament. This electorate office and all of her resources were in Parliament Place across the road from the state Parliament. There it is. Not only that, she was on the first floor of the building. Her constituents in the Agricultural Region had to come to the centre of Perth to access their resources and then get through security and into the secure lift to get upstairs to see her staff. That is the commitment that these people have. Hon Steve Martin is a member for the Agricultural Region, a Liberal Party member. His office is at 31 Ord Street, West Perth. There it is. I can go through a great many Liberal and the Nationals WA MPs who had their offices over the road from Parliament when representing regional WA. What do they put in their offices? That is where their electorate staff go and that is where their resources are.

As we know, a great many of the Liberal and National regional MPs live in the heart of the city. That is a fact. This idea that somehow the old system was providing additional resources out there is untrue because you, Leader of the Opposition, had your office in the heart of the city when you represented the Agricultural Region.

## ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS

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

I have a supplementary question. Why did the Premier deliberately mislead the people of Western Australia —

*Withdrawal of Remark*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Under standing order 92, there can be no imputation of improper motives or personal reflections on any member of this house. To say “deliberate” is a personal imputation.

**The SPEAKER:** I do believe that the minister has a point. Perhaps you could remove the word “deliberate”.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Why did the Premier mislead the people of Western Australia on his intentions to reduce regional representation in the Parliament of Western Australia?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

There has been no reduction in regional representation. Someone living in Kalgoorlie today is represented by six upper house MPs. Under these reforms, 37 upper house MPs will represent them. That is the new system that

we will introduce. It is based upon something that the Leader of the Liberal Party is on the record as supporting. That is one vote, one value. You are on the record as supporting it. Maybe you can provide advice about why you have changed your position.

The system that we are putting in place is fair, democratic, reasonable and easily understood. It will mean that we avoid some of those terrible situations whereby people with 98 votes get elected to Parliament whereas people with 25 000 votes do not. It will ensure that everyone's vote is equal in the upper house. That is a good system. That is democracy. As a country, we hold ourselves out to the world as a democratic place, yet the upper house of state Parliament in Western Australia is currently completely and utterly undemocratic, and it needs to change.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Minister for Water.

#### RENEWABLE ENERGY

#### 534. **Mr D.R. MICHAEL to the Minister for Energy:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$750 million investment in supporting communities to become climate resilient and set WA up for a strong low-carbon future.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will help create local jobs, develop new industries and ensure the state has a secure and reliable energy supply into the future?
- (2) Can the minister advise the house whether he is aware of anyone who opposes these efforts?

#### **Mr W.J. JOHNSTON replied:**

- (1)–(2) I am very pleased to answer that question from the member for Balcatta. I know of his interest in creating jobs in Western Australia. As the Minister for Climate Action has outlined, the government has this fund that will support climate action in Western Australia. She outlined a number of projects that are being funded out of that fund. I also want to let members know about projects in my portfolio that are being supported out of that fund. One of those is a commitment to deploy 1 000 standalone power systems over the next five years. All those will be manufactured here in Western Australia, including by Boundary Power, a joint venture with Horizon Power. We have clean energy technology trials for the virtual power plants in schools; the net zero emissions mining challenge being led by the Minerals Research Institute of Western Australia, looking at green steel projects; and the household energy efficiency scheme, a really innovative scheme to help people in hardship increase the energy efficiency to their homes, thereby reducing their household bills.

A similar project existed under the Gallop and Carpenter governments but was cancelled by the former Liberal government. We are continuing to implement the energy transformation strategy. Over the first four years of the McGowan government, large-scale renewable energy in Western Australia doubled. Compared with the national electricity market, we have about one-third more large-scale renewable energy projects in Western Australia than the east coast. I also remind members that we use one-third less coal in our system here in Western Australia. Household solar is now the major source of energy, with 1 800 megawatts of capacity in the south west interconnected system. Just as an example, in one interval in March this year, 79 per cent of all the electricity used in the south west system came from household rooftop solar.

Horizon Power has many projects across the state that are assisting the decarbonisation effort, including the Denham hydrogen project and, of course, the world's first microgrid project in Onslow, which is run on 100 per cent renewables. I note that there are some challenges. The Leader of the Liberal Party continues to oppose our work and continues to spruik his failed agenda of this new energy plan that was released during the election campaign, which was opposed by the shadow Minister for Environment and the shadow Treasurer but is still supported by the Leader of the Liberal Party.

I was interested to read the Liberal Party's 2021 election review. This is the Liberal Party's comments on that policy. To quote from the report, it referred to the explanation of the project at their costings launch and states —

The problem was that shortfalls were exposed on the costing of each and could not be explained ...

The report goes on —

It wasn't a good look for the Liberal Party and gave every indication of ineffective presentation and the lack of a coherent set of policies.

Anybody who reads that policy can see it lacks coherence. Page 20 of the report states —

Perhaps the media saw no policies worth reporting, no Shadow Ministers who had done their jobs or who looked competent.

Indeed, the Liberal Party's report outlines polling commissioned by the Liberal Party.

*Point of Order*

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Under standing order 78, an answer must be relevant to the question.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** A lot of other people would like to contribute here, obviously. I am not accepting that point of order, but I will point out to the minister that he is due to bring his answer to a close.

*Questions without Notice Resumed*

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Absolutely. I would have finished by now if I had not been interrupted. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

I point out that in the polling commissioned by the Liberal Party, the third-largest reason for it losing was the lack of performance of the Liberal Party over the previous four years.

## NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING — PARKSIDE GROUP

**535. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Forestry:**

I note the announcement by the Premier last week about ending native logging in the south west. The minister stood shoulder to shoulder with Parkside Group in Nannup in 2019 celebrating its multimillion-dollar investment in the industry. Did the minister notify Parkside of this announcement ahead of last week or was it and its employees blindsided like the rest of the south west?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

I am glad that the member has asked me a question about this issue. It is true that there were two mills. A substantial part of the native forest industry was on the verge of disappearing in 2019, and had it not been for Parkside Group purchasing those two mills in 2019, the bulk of the industry would have finished then. When Parkside advised the government—we did not court it—that it would buy those mills and continue those jobs, we naturally welcomed that decision. That was some time ago. We simply know more about the industry than we do now —

**Dr D.J. Honey:** What more? You're a joke.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** If the member for Cottesloe listens, he may learn something. Parkside came to the government in August this year—2021. Parkside gave us a presentation, only a few weeks ago, in which it sought a \$25.8 million grant from the government to ensure that its business was viable. It advised us, and I read from its presentation —

The \$25.8 million grant from the Western Australian Government will make Stage 1 and 2 of the project operationally viable.

That is some expansion plans. It continues —

Without the grant investment, Parkside Group mills will be forced into closure by 31 December 2021.

I do not know what the member for Roe's understanding of the industry is, but Parkside came to the government seeking a \$25 million grant in August this year —

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

**The SPEAKER:** I would like the member for Cottesloe not to continuously interject. This question has been asked by the member for Roe, and I will accept minimal interjections from him, but if the member for Cottesloe would like to ask a question on this topic, perhaps ask it separately.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Parkside asked for a \$25 million grant; otherwise, it advised us, its mills would close at the end of this year. That did not drive our decision. Obviously, we do not have \$25 million. We were not going to give them \$25 million, but the science around the yield drove us. But that was Parkside's position to us. Before the member starts talking about Parkside, he should get his facts right. We are building a sustainable forestry industry here in Western Australia. We are committing \$350 million to expand the softwood plantation estate. We point out that when members opposite were in government, they did nothing to support softwood. The Leader of the Opposition last week in private members' business, on 8 September, identified that she gave responsibility of the portfolio to the member for North West Central. Anyone who knows anything about who is competent and who is not would know that for the Leader of the Opposition to give this industry to him is clearly a disaster, but she said —

My colleague the member for North West Central was my parliamentary secretary. He was directly responsible for the portfolio when we were in government ...

The member for North West Central the same day said about the softwood industry —

Anyone knows that it takes at least 25 years to grow a bit of pine. Everyone knows that there is a shortage of pine. Everyone knows that there is a lot of pine over in New South Wales; that is what we were trying to negotiate for when we were in government.

There we are. The previous government for some years did not plant a single tree. It was trying to build jobs in New South Wales, and it did nothing. The Leader of the Opposition is shaking her head. That was a quote from

*Hansard* from the person whom the Leader of the Opposition put in charge of the portfolio when she was the Minister for Forestry. He said that the previous government was looking to New South Wales to provide pine to support the construction industry here in Western Australia. We have a coherent plan to build the forestry industry here in Western Australia. The Nationals WA's history in this portfolio is woeful. We will build and secure sustainable jobs for the people of the south west. That is what we intend to do.

NATIVE FOREST — LOGGING — PARKSIDE GROUP

**536. Mr P.J. RUNDLE to the Minister for Forestry:**

I have a supplementary question. What economic modelling, if any, was undertaken to map the impact of this snap decision upon regional WA, and will the minister table it?

**Mr D.J. KELLY replied:**

As I have just gone through, the biggest player in the industry advised us that unless we provided a significant subsidy, it was considering closing its mills by the end of the year. That is its own analysis. That is not our analysis. We estimated that over 150 jobs would be created through the expansion of the softwood industry. As the member for Roe should know, the native logging industry is less than 10 per cent of forestry in Western Australia. From the taxpayers' point of view, we can look at the Forest Product Commission's annual reports and see that since the last forest management plan it has operated at a loss compared with the softwood industry, which operated at a substantial profit.

We understand that this decision will cause some concerns for some of the workers impacted, and we estimate 300-plus workers' jobs may change or be in question because of this decision. We on this side of the house understand that. That is why we are putting together a \$50 million package. I have had discussions already with the industry about how that will work. I have already with met with the unions to talk about how workers in that industry can be directly involved and how that money will be spent. We are painfully aware that these decisions can cause some families and some communities discomfort, but we know that if we want a long-term sustainable industry, the future is in plantations, and that is the decision we have made.

OUT-OF-HOME CARE — INDEPENDENT LIVING

**537. Ms C.M. TONKIN to the Minister for Child Protection:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's commitment to supporting vulnerable young Western Australians. Can the minister update the house on how this government is supporting more young Western Australians transition from out-of-home care to independent living?

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

I am very pleased to talk about this election commitment that has been backed up by a real dollar allocation in this year's state budget—that is, the announcement that the McGowan government will provide \$37.2 million to support young people in the child protection system so that they will have supports for three more years from the ages of 18 to 21 years. It really is quite significant and I think has the potential to be life changing for hundreds of young people across our state.

This has been important work and we recognised this early on. This is why the Department of Communities funded a \$444 000 pilot in the last government to look at how we could properly integrate the supports for people in out-of-home care as they aged after 18 years. We have been working with Anglicare WA and some young people who were previously in the care of the department to model that work. That has been very positively received.

It is important to know that it is not just us that thinks that this is a good idea. I thought that the house might want to hear some of the acknowledgements that we have had from the sector. I quote Anglicare CEO, Mark Glasson —

What a great result for extended care in WA. Informed by genuine co-design with young people ... This is a game changer for young people in WA.

The Western Australian Council of Social Service's CEO, Louise Giolitto, stated —

“Extending foster-care services up to the age of 21 is a great example of preventative policy that works and will ultimately change the lives of young people for the better ...

These are significant reforms and I am very proud of them. That builds on the work we are already doing in child protection, firstly, in legislative reform. A bill has now passed through this house and is currently being debated in the upper house to make sure that we have better cultural supports for Aboriginal children in care. Secondly, it responds to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, particularly by extending mandatory reporting, but also by adopting all the relevant recommendations from the royal commission. Of course, we have also invested significantly in early intervention.

I am very proud, as I have reported to this house before, that those investments and that level of reform and attention to detail is starting to bear fruit. For the first time in 25 years, we have seen a reduction in the number of young people coming into care—25 years!—including Aboriginal young people coming into care. As a government, we are very proud of that, but as a community we should also be very proud of that.

I talked about the Home Stretch commitment with \$37.2 million in funding. In addition, we were able to secure in this year's budget \$93 million of extra funding in child protection services over the forward estimates. We are not only providing significant extra resources, but also investing in evidence-based approaches, which we know will support some of the most vulnerable in our community and I am very proud of that work.

WATER CORPORATION — COUNTRY WATER PRICING SUBSIDY

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

I refer to the royalties for regions program outlined in 2021–22 budget paper No 3 in which funding is allocated to the Water Corporation for the country water pricing subsidy and note that the total funding for this has been reduced to reflect increased royalties for regions funding for Labor's "regional election commitments and other initiatives".

- (1) What is the justification for royalties for regions paying for any of the country water pricing subsidy?
- (2) Will the election commitments allocated to royalties for regions all have business cases prepared and approved before funding is released?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) In the budget, we have kept the royalties for regions program at \$4.2 billion, which is a little over a billion dollars each year. A range of programs, infrastructure and projects are allocated to that, which I do not have in front of me, but it is in the hundreds of programs and projects all over regional Western Australia. Members might recall that prior to the 2017 election, the Nationals WA said that the program was going to be abolished. It has not been abolished; it has gone from strength to strength. That is what has actually happened. Members might also recall that they tried to scare people in the country by saying that the Country Age Pension Fuel Card would be abolished. It has not been abolished. They put out all those ads and they were all wrong—all 100 per cent wrong. On an annual basis, the state provides a subsidy to particularly the more remote regions when it comes to both electricity and water. From memory, it is around \$2 billion or thereabouts. We want to make sure that that is secure. We want to make sure that people around regional WA are not forced to pay higher prices for electricity and water than those in the city. The last time that that was undermined was by Colin Barnett when he was a minister back in 1999. He and Hendy may have been part of it —

**Ms R. Saffioti** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** To be fair, Hendy and Colin were not the best of friends. The hostility between those two, indeed a range of people in that government, was there for all to see. There was something about Colin—he just made people angry. We want to make sure they are secure. We want to make sure that people in regional WA do not pay more for water or electricity. It is a great project and it is a part of the Western Australian way that we are fair, that we believe in equality and that we believe in everyone being treated well and, as far as we can, equally. That is the Western Australian way and that is what that program does. I do not recall the second part of the member's question but I am sure that he will ask it in a moment.

WATER CORPORATION — COUNTRY WATER PRICING SUBSIDY

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

I have a supplementary question. The second part of the question was: will those election commitments allocated to royalties for regions have business cases prepared and approved before the funding is released? I remind the Premier that his own Langoulant report was commissioned —

**The SPEAKER:** There is no opportunity for reminding.

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

Proper processes will be followed.

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

**ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS**

*Matter of Public Interest*

**THE SPEAKER (Mrs M.H. Roberts)** [2.55 pm]: Today, I received within the prescribed time a letter from the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms —

Dear Speaker

**Matter of Public Interest**

I give notice that I will move as a Matter of Public Interest:

*That this House condemns the Premier and his arrogant government for maintaining a sneaky agenda on electoral reform, cutting regional representation, and failing to take this critical issue to the 2021 State Election.*

The matter appears —

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Sorry, Minister for Water! It is highly disorderly to interject whilst the Speaker is speaking.

The matter appears to me to be in order. If at least five members stand in support of the matter being discussed —  
[At least five members rose in their places.]

**The SPEAKER:** — and there are—the matter can proceed.

**MS M.J. DAVIES (Central Wheatbelt — Leader of the Opposition)** [2.56 pm]: I move —

That this house condemns the Premier and his arrogant government for maintaining a sneaky agenda on electoral reform, cutting regional representation, and failing to take this critical issue to the 2021 state election.

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Order, please, members! I do not know how Hansard can hear the Leader of the Opposition because I cannot hear what she is saying. Please cease the interjections so that Hansard can record the proceedings and everyone in here can hear what is being said.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will read it out again. I move —

That this house condemns the Premier and his arrogant government for maintaining a sneaky agenda on electoral reform, cutting regional representation, and failing to take this critical issue to the 2021 state election.

Today, on the back of the shock announcement that the Premier—in fact, I think it was the Attorney General—after the election, advised everyone that the government was going to pursue electoral reform, we have had it confirmed that this government will continue to attack regional representation in this Parliament, just like its predecessors did in the Carpenter–Gallop governments, to further reduce the voice of the people of Western Australia in this state’s Parliament.

The report released today, titled *Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform: Final report*, and the notice that legislation will be read into this Parliament to enact the majority of the report’s recommendations, puts the final nail in the coffin of any semblance of a view that this government has to look after regional Western Australia and make sure that it has a voice in this Parliament going forward. In 2008, the Labor government successfully ripped out of state Parliament six country seats and put them into the metropolitan area. It has doggedly pursued this reform and, because of the numbers in this place that it has been afforded by the public of Western Australia, it has now seen an opportunity, but it does not have a mandate because the Premier denied it again and again in the lead-up to the election. It is not as though he was not asked about it before the election. It is not as though the matter was not put to him: “Premier, are you going to pursue electoral reform?” He was asked multiple times. The Premier was given the opportunity to put this on the agenda. Do members think that he actually responded in an appropriate way? My answer to that is no.

His response was, “It is not on our agenda.” It was not in relation to group voting tickets that the Premier was asked that question; it was specifically in relation to a reduction of regional representatives in the state Parliament. The journalists and opposition members who asked those questions prior to the election were very, very clear because they knew that if the Labor Party had control of both houses of Parliament, the Premier would pursue this. That is why it is on the record and that is why it is so very disappointing. Now the government has been afforded this enormous majority, not once, but twice, and I can think of at least four times it has used that majority. I do not think anyone in Western Australia thought that they would see it being used for the purposes of pursuing an ideological argument that is based on a mathematical —

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

*Point of Order*

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I cannot hear the Leader of the Opposition.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Neither can I, deputy leader. Members, silence, please. Carry on, Leader of the Opposition.

*Debate Resumed*

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** It is an ideological argument that is basically formed out of a mathematical notion of equality. Several members interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** That is what it is. This issue was debated back in 2008.

**Mr T. Healy** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Southern River!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Deputy Speaker, I am fine to take interjections because I would like the people of regional Western Australia to see just how seriously members opposite take this. They cannot argue the merits of it, so they choose to argue and point out issues like the Premier raised in question time instead.

Several members interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** By all means get it on the record so that everyone can see just how arrogant you are when you come into this place without a mandate! Your own Premier denied that it was going to be an issue, and the Minister for Forestry is sitting there smiling. I can tell you that not only did he try to attack the forestry industry and is now bringing that to its knees, but he had a go at the rock lobster industry. None of that was taken to the people of the south west, was it?

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Ministers!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Do members opposite think the member for Warren–Blackwood was walking around the streets of her electorate telling everyone that the forestry industry was going to be on its knees if they voted for the Labor Party? The government has done exactly the same with this report. It has no mandate for it.

At the briefing from the expert panel that the opposition got at 10 o'clock this morning, which was just hours before notice was given that the legislation would be introduced, it was made very clear to us by the expert panel that it was given very narrow terms of reference. It was not allowed to consider the multiple submissions put in during the consultation period that supported the retention of the system as it is. It was simply unable to do that. Its instructions, as explained to us, were very clear. Its riding instructions from the government were that it must be equality at any cost.

**Ms J.J. Shaw:** That is disrespectful to the panel members.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Let us talk about the panel members. I do not think it is disrespectful; they were given very, very narrow terms of reference. But before we get to the narrow terms of reference so that the government got the outcome it wanted, we will talk about the people who were on the panel. They are all on record prior to the election with a very particular view about one vote, one value and the issues that are canvassed in this report.

**Mr D.J. Kelly** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Really, the government has done nothing but pull together a number of people who already had a view that aligned to its view to deliver a report so that it could get an outcome with the veneer of consultation. It was anything but! The government has betrayed every regional Western Australian. It is going to reduce the number of people in this house. That is what has happened in other jurisdictions where this has been introduced: there has been a reduction of people who, with a particular interest, look at regional issues. That will be to the detriment of the whole state. The way the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council operate were never, ever, in any jurisdiction in the Westminster system, designed to be the same. That is a fact. We now have this government pursuing one vote, one value and what it calls equality, which will be to the detriment of the ability of people to bring those issues from regional Western Australia to be advocated for, to be dealt with when we are dealing with legislation —

Several members interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Mr Deputy Speaker.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members! Minister! Member for Southern River!

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker.

I cannot imagine why this is a priority when we are dealing with so many challenging issues in this state. When our health system is on its knees, our housing sector is in a crisis, we have a crisis of skills and labour shortages across the state, and there is a global pandemic impacting our state, our nation and the world, why is the government pursuing this as its number one issue? That is what it was. That is what was introduced the moment when members opposite got to government and realised they had the numbers to do it. As I said when I stood up, the Labor government has form for ripping regional representation from the Parliament. It did it ahead of the 2008 election.

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** It does not matter who represents them, member. There will be fewer people representing regional areas.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

*Point of Order*

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** The Leader of the Opposition has the floor and I believe that she should be heard in silence.

A government member: That's not a point of order.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I will make that call, thank you very much. The leader did invite those interjections then. Leader, talk to the chair.

*Debate Resumed*

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** I did. As I said before, Deputy Speaker, I am not only happy to hear the views of the backbenchers from the metropolitan area, but also very interested in the views of those Labor members who represent regional areas.

**Mr R.S. Love:** They're pretty quiet.

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** They are very quiet. I am interested in how they are going to go out to their electorates and explain why their government thinks it is the right thing to do to reduce the number of regional representatives in this Parliament. Anyone who believes that there will be more need only look at what happened pre-2008 when six seats in regional Western Australia were ripped from the bush and added to the metropolitan area. This Labor Party has form for taking a regional representative and putting them into the metropolitan area. It will have long-lasting ramifications for the state, disenfranchising people in this state who are the furthest, most remote and disadvantaged because they will not be able to access the people who are supposed to advocate on their behalf.

**Ms S. Winton** interjected.

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

**Ms M.J. DAVIES:** It is quite simply appalling. If members opposite had a shred of decency, as the Leader of the Liberal Party said, they would either take it to a referendum or they would wait and take it to the next election and just see how the people of Western Australia respond. However, we know they will not do that because they are now drunk on power with the numbers in both houses, determined to push through whatever agenda pops into the Premier's head, it would appear—whatever pops into his head at whatever time: “We don't need a mandate, we don't need election promises, we can do whatever we like”! That is what the Premier said today in question time when he answered the question about why it was not taken to the election and, worse, why he actually denied it. That is a question that every regional member in their electorate should put to their community: why did the Premier deny that and why are government members now all going to vote to reduce regional representation in this state Parliament?

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [3.08 pm]: I support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition —

That this house condemns the Premier and his arrogant government for maintaining a sneaky agenda on electoral reform, cutting regional representation, and failing to take this critical issue to the 2021 state election.

As we know, the Premier is on record before the last election. In a report of an interview by ABC news, with a photo of the former member for Albany standing behind him, the Premier repeatedly said that changes to regional representation were not on the agenda. The report states —

“It's not on our agenda—I've answered this question many times,” Mr McGowan said.

“We care deeply about country WA and the issues of jobs, health, education, important infrastructure are the sorts of things we will implement.

“This is just another smokescreen by the Liberals and Nationals.”

Mr McGowan said he supported “enhanced regional representation” ...

I would like to know how he supports enhanced regional representation when the group that he commissioned to do the report has come up with a system in which there will be no regional representation. This is the report that has been used to form the basis of the legislation —

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Mount Lawley! Member for Moore, talk to the chair, please. You are inviting interjections. If you do not want interjections, talk to me; if you do want them, carry on the way you are going.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** I will talk to you, Deputy Speaker. You make much more sense than the mob behind me!

This is the report that the legislation was based on. I turn to page 22 and read a direct quote from it. It states —

To achieve electoral equality, section 16H of the Act would have to be amended so that the metropolitan boundary and land use definitions of the regions are removed.

In other words, the regions will be gone from the act altogether. There will be no regional representation. The Premier was not telling the truth when he said he supported enhanced regional representation. He knows that once we remove the regional boundaries, and the Perth metropolitan boundary, it will also affect the distribution of lower house seats. We will see an attack on regional representation, not only in the upper house, but also in the lower house, through normal electoral redistribution processes that will not face the barrier of the Perth metropolitan boundary that currently exists in the act. If I am wrong on that, I will be pleased to hear about it from the Attorney General. But if that is, indeed, what he is planning to do—that is what it says in this report—then we will see that the enhanced regional representation that the Premier spoke about will not happen, and we will see a complete lack of representation for country voters going forward.

We also heard that there will be representation from 36 members of Parliament instead of the 18 members that currently represent regional areas. This will be achieved by members being representative of the whole state. Constituents will not have access to those MPs. There will be 36 members who they do not know and who will never bother going out to their areas. How on earth are they going to have a relationship with those people? They will not be representing electorates; they will be representing political parties in the house. They will not be representing an electorate or voters. They will be elected by the whole of the state, on the basis of their party preselecting them. That is how they will be selected. It will have nothing to do with their situation within the region, and nothing to do with their performance in their electorate. It will not be representation of the regions and it will not be representation of country people. Members will be representing the best interests of their own party. No doubt the government has plenty of people who are ready to fill those places; that is probably why we are not hearing anything from the government's regional representatives. Did any of the government's regional representatives go out before the election and tell people that they hoped to enact legislation to reduce regional representation? No; none of them did. Are any of them going to actively support the Liberal Party, the Nationals WA and all the other parties when we oppose these so-called reforms? No, they are not, because we heard the Premier say that he will not give them the democratic right to have a say. He is going to bar them from the right of a conscience vote. The government talks about enhancing democracy through this process; it is actually divorcing people from their representatives by creating a large group of faceless representatives who people will never have access to and never see. We know that they will never go out into the regions.

When we asked committee members today if they had bothered to go to the regions to listen to the people there, they said it was pointless to do so. They said they would not bother, because it was pointless. No doubt, in future, members of Parliament will think it is pointless to go to the regions. They will not go out there to seek the views of regional people; it will be pointless to do so, because there will be more votes in the city. Why would they waste their time driving all the way to Kununurra if they can just go down the street to Carine and talk to 15 times as many people? This is where the government is going, and it has done so in a way that was deceitful in the first place, because it said that it would not put this on the agenda. But as soon as it had a majority in the other place, it worked its way through this ruthless, well-planned attack on democracy.

**Mr M. McGowan:** It's democracy.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** No, it is an attack on democracy; it is not democracy. The Premier said one thing and he is doing another. That is not democracy. If you felt the need to protect democracy, you would put this to the people again, through an election, a referendum or plebiscite on this matter. You would give people a choice. You are not doing that, because you know that this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. You have grasped the golden ball and you are going to run with it. The government is getting what the Labor Party has always wanted; it has been in its policy manual for years. We all know that. We all know that the Premier was not telling the truth when he said that this was not on his agenda. It is very much on the agenda of the ALP and always has been. Electoral reform is there, in black and white. Everyone knows what the Labor Party had on its agenda, except the people of Western Australia, to whom the government deceitfully said before the election that it did not have this on its agenda.

Further to the ruthless carriage of this matter, there is also the way the government has treated the house of review already. We have seen the reduction in its standing orders. A house of review is supposed to be able to go through legislation in some detail. The government has forced through rules and standing orders for that place that will result in it having less opportunity to debate issues than we do in this place. In fact, under the standing orders that are now in place, government ministers can rule a matter as urgent and virtually guillotine debate on any issue. They will not have to justify that in any way; they will just have to declare something as urgent and off they go. That is the process the government has put in place for a house of review. That is shameless.

I was not really surprised to see a lot of what was included in the *Ministerial Expert Committee on Electoral Reform: Final report*, because there was a previous report written by three of the academics involved in this report, plus one other. It was published in an edition of the *Australasian Parliamentary Review*, and has virtually all of the ministerial expert committee's report in it. If we wanted to know what was going to be in the committee's final report, we could have just read the first report. The government put a committee in place, but it knew the answer before it had begun the process.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [3.16 pm]: I rise to support the Leader of the Opposition's motion that this house condemns the Premier and his arrogant government for maintaining a sneaky agenda on electoral reform, cutting regional representation, and failing to take this critical issue to the 2021 state election. What a disgrace. The Premier and the Attorney General came into this place one day after the opening of the forty-first Parliament and put this matter on the agenda, after they had accompanied the former member for Albany, Peter Watson, and the current member for Albany to tell Dan Mercer from *The West Australian* —

“It's not on our agenda...

...

“This is just another smokescreen by the Liberals and Nationals.”

Lo and behold, here we are. The government appointed the eminent Malcolm McCusker as chair of the committee and used him as a smokescreen for the three academics on the committee who had already decided the fate of regional representation. We know that they had previously published papers on this issue, and it has been going on for years. This was decided before the committee even came into being. This morning Mr McCusker gave us a briefing and confirmed that the committee was given a mandate to achieve electoral equality. Therefore, the committee could not take into account a lot of submissions from people in the regions who wrote in to say how the wealth of the state comes from the regions and that they needed representation because of the distances involved. None of those things was taken into account. I cannot believe that.

The biggest problem, for me, is with Indigenous remote communities. It is so difficult to service those communities as it is —

Several members interjected.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We will see Labor members settle in to their West Perth offices; they will not be out there.

Several members interjected.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We have already seen several regional members slip out of the chamber. Any regional member of this —

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Wanneroo, are you finished? Thank you. Members, can we hear the member in silence, please?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** For any regional member in this chamber who votes against this legislation it is career limiting. We know that; it is career limiting. They have to fall into line. We have seen it develop—agricultural workers, forestry, the rock lobster industry. Now the government is abandoning regional WA in the Legislative Council. There were the Schools of the Air and Moora Residential College. Need I say more? I am really disappointed. I cannot say enough how disappointed we are not to have regional representation in the Legislative Council. It is deceitful; it is a disgrace. It was not on the agenda, but, funnily enough, on the first day of Parliament, in it came.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [3.20 pm]: I rise to strongly support this motion. It was just fascinating to listen to the debate in this chamber and the Premier's answers to the Dorothy Dixers today in question time. We have a Premier, an Attorney General and a Labor Party in this state trying to justify the unjustifiable. I have never heard so much nonsense in my life in the responses that the Premier gave today. He talked about ticket voting. The Premier said that the reason we got this legislation is ticket voting. We have heard the Attorney General conflating the same argument before. So, the government wants to get rid of ticket voting and that translates effectively to getting rid of regional representation in the upper house of the state of Western Australia. What a load of rubbish! The government knows that Alison Xamon tried to introduce a private member's bill on that topic some years ago. The Labor Party did not support that legislation then. The simple truth is that the government knows this matter was trivial to deal with. For the Premier to say that he was not aware of what was going on is a nonsense. For someone who has been in this chamber for 25 years—is that it, Premier?—and in this Parliament at the heart of politics for all that time to say he was unaware of the factors behind our voting system and unaware of the probability that someone who had a small number of votes could get up on ticket voting is a load of rubbish. We know, every member in this house knows, that that is a trivial matter to deal with. The Senate has already dealt with it, and we could have already dealt with it. To say that this legislation to reduce regional representation has anything to do with ticket voting is absolute nonsense. The government knows that on this side of the house we supported getting rid of ticket voting in that chamber.

Then, the lack of consultation, the lack of taking this to the people of Western Australia, was compared with the Voluntary Assisted Dying Bill and the industrial manslaughter bill. They were important bills, but do not compare a fundamental gutting of regional representation in the state of Western Australia with those bills that went through this Parliament, one of which was a conscience vote bill and the other supported by this side. The government knew that we would never, ever support this bill. The government is only doing it, the bill is only coming in here, because now it has the numbers.

I saw the Premier sitting on the other side of the chamber laughing and smirking while the Leader of the Opposition was giving a fantastic, impassioned speech about this matter, because he thinks this is a joke. He has the numbers and he can do what he likes. This is an utterly dishonest bill to bring before this house, because the Premier denied that he had any intention of doing this before the election. The members for Albany, Bunbury, Geraldton and the government's upper house members know that a good majority of them would not have been elected if this issue had been taken to the election. The government dishonestly did not take it to the election, but now the government has brought it up.

What is the contention I am hearing in this house? The contention I am hearing in this house is that of one vote, one value. It is the government's contention, it is this Premier's contention and it is this Attorney General's contention that we should reduce Senate representation in this state. I tell members what: we get 12 senators in Western Australia.

Do members know what we should get on a proportional basis? We should get eight senators. Is that the government's proposition? Government members are all shouting that they want one vote, one value. What are they doing? That will be the government's next campaign: to reduce the Senate representation we get in this state. What an absolute disgrace.

As was pointed out by the Leader of the Opposition, this was a completely dishonest approach all along. We were told there was consultation with the community and we were told that the committee was considering our electoral system, but, in fact, the only thing that committee was allowed to consider was a reduction in regional representation. Why? It is because the first term of reference was for "recommendations as to how electoral equality might be achieved for all citizens". There was nothing about equity—nothing about true equity for people who live in the regions. Equity is about access; that is what it is about—people being able to access members specifically chosen for their region. The debate was outlined excellently by members on this side; that is, upper house members are identified as representing a particular region and that is what they will do. We know what will happen with a statewide electorate and that is that those members will be driven to the metropolitan area and out of the regions. That is what will happen for the great majority of those people.

Equally, I heard the argument today from the other side that the Labor Party cares about the regions because it is spending a fistful of bucks; that is what the government members say. They say that caring is about spending a fistful of bucks. I pity their personal relationships if that is their approach to life.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The role of a member of Parliament is about access and support. It is about people being able to go to their regional representative and bring issues to them. When people are having problems with Western Power or the Water Corporation, they go to their regional representatives. To conflate that the government cares about regional Western Australia with dollars is absolute rubbish, and the government knows it. It does not.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Balcatta! Member for Murray–Wellington!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** People in the regions will not have equitable access. We had a kangaroo court. We had a panel selected primarily—in fact, I would say exclusively—because the Attorney General knew the members agreed exactly with his view. There was a predetermined outcome from this review, and the terms of reference meant that there was no other alternative for that committee. It did not even visit the regions. If nothing else condemns the output of that committee, it is that it did not even visit the regions. It did not even have the decency to go out there and talk to the people in Kununurra, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Esperance and other remote regions in the state and in the Aboriginal communities. People on this side deeply care about the disadvantage that people in Aboriginal communities experience in this state.

Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** Government members can shout all they like, but that is the truth.

**Ms A. Sanderson** interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** The government does not want that representation. It does not want those people to have fair, equitable access to representatives in this place. There are only two decent things the government can do in relation to this. The government should have the guts to put this to a referendum—it will lose—or take it to the next election. Go to the people of Western Australia because there was not a person in Western Australia who believed the government was going to do this. This Premier was not direct with the people of Western Australia about his intentions and this Attorney General was not direct with the people of Western Australia. You should be collectively ashamed of this; it is a disgrace!

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [3.27 pm]: I begin by saying how much respect I have for Hon Malcolm McCusker, AC, QC, a great Australian, highly respected across the community. He has done a wonderful job in preparing this report and chairing this committee. That is why it is so incredibly awful that the Leader of the Liberal Party would impugn his integrity just now. What a shocking thing you have done, Leader of the Liberal Party, using the Parliament to impugn Malcolm McCusker's integrity. That is what you have just done.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** What did I say?

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** I did not interject on you, Leader of the Liberal Party, please show me the same courtesy.

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Leader!

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The Leader of the Liberal Party impugned his integrity just now. That is point 1.

Point 2 is that the upper house electoral system is broken. It does not work, it is undemocratic, it is unfair and it results in perverse outcomes. That is the reality of what we are dealing with. When we went to the state election in March, Mr Wilson Tucker was elected for the Daylight Saving Party with 98 votes. That is not a trivial issue, despite what the Liberal Party might say. Being elected with 98 votes while other people got tens of thousands of votes and were not elected is undemocratic. The system was gamed by Mr Glenn Druery and his friends who organise payments. He is paid \$50 000 if he can organise the preferences to get someone elected. That is rotten. That is a perversion of democracy, yet that is the system as it currently stands. That is what got Mr Wilson Tucker elected with 98 votes in the upper house although the National Party got nearly 5 000 votes in the same zone and was not elected. The Liberal Party got 27 000 votes in the North Metropolitan Region and a Liberal member was not elected. That is what happened. That is a perversion of democracy and it needs to be repaired.

Mr McCusker has undertaken a review. He is a fine Western Australian, despite what the Liberal Party says about him. The review came up with a range of measures to reform the state's upper house, which the state government has endorsed. First of all, there should be a whole-of-state electorate rather than regional-based electorates. I will come back to this issue in just a moment. Secondly, the government has decided to go from 36 to 37 members of Parliament so we do not have a deadlock situation in the upper house. The side that secures the most votes will have a majority. It makes total sense to have an odd number of members in the upper house, like we do here, so a majority can be won. It makes absolute sense; it is staring us all in the face. Thirdly, the review says to abolish the group voting ticket system and put in place operational preferential voting. That will resolve the matter surrounding the system that allowed the Daylight Saving Party to get 98 votes and be elected. It will reflect the will of the people rather than the will of the preference whisperer. Preference whisperers and those who rot the system will not decide who gets elected; the people will decide who gets elected by putting in place operational preferential voting. Fourthly, the registration of parties will require parties, if they want to get above the line on the ticket, to have been registered for 12 months prior to the issue of the writ and have a number of members. If they want to nominate, they have to pay a fee that they get back if they secure a certain proportion of the vote. It is designed to stop the ballot paper filling up with spurious candidates like Mr Palmer's people and all the people who get on the ballot paper who have little chance of being elected, but are there just to disrupt democracy. We will have a system to manage that, like they have in other states. Putting in place those measures will ensure the system can work and not be disrupted by the Liberal-National Parties' friend Clive Palmer. If a group of independents wants to get above the line together, a range of other measures will ensure there is a system in place that is sensible in the upper house.

The system was broken. Just so we all understand, Mr Tucker, the Daylight Saving MP, was elected to represent the Mining and Pastoral Region. Guess where his office is? It is in West Perth. His electorate office and his staff are in West Perth. Mr Tucker's election was a mistake but I have nothing against him personally. Rather than place his office in his electorate, he has placed it in West Perth with his two staff. He is not alone in that because a succession of conservative MPs has done it over the years, who represented regional Western Australia. I want to take members through them.

Mr Steve Martin represents the Agricultural Region. His office is in West Perth. Mr Jim Chown, who represented the Agricultural Region, had an office in West Perth for years. Mr Colin Tincknell of Pauline Hanson's One Nation represented the South West Region. His office was in West Perth. Mr Rick Mazza of the Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party represented the Agricultural Region. His office was in West Perth with his staff and all his resources. Mr Mark Lewis represented the Mining and Pastoral Region for the Liberal Party. His office was in West Perth. Mr Martin Aldridge, in the thirty-ninth Parliament, represented the Agricultural Region. His office was in West Perth. Mr Norman Moore represented the Mining and Pastoral Region for a long time. His office was in West Perth with his staff and resources. Of course, Mr Anthony Fels of the Liberal Party represented the Agricultural Region. His office was in West Perth. Mr Bruce Donaldson represented the Agricultural Region for the Liberal Party. His office was in West Perth. Over the last few terms, large numbers of conservative MPs, rather than having their staff, availability and offices in their electorates, chose to place their offices over the road from Parliament here in West Perth.

When I hear the argument put by Liberal and National members that they believe that offices, staff and resources should be in regional Western Australia, it is complete hypocrisy because large numbers of their MPs, as I just outlined, had their offices in the city. They probably lived in the city and had very little connection to regional Western Australia. That is the truth of it. There is one other, whom I mentioned in question time and I will mention again now. That is the current Leader of the Opposition, Hon Mia Davies. When she was elected to represent the Agricultural Region, representing the people of that region, she placed her office on the first floor of Stirling House, 8 Parliament Place, West Perth, WA, 6005. It was on the first floor, no less. As members know, when your office is on the first floor, it is very hard for a constituent to get in to see you. Not only that, it was 100 kilometres away from her electorate, in the heart of the city. I have a photo of it here; I will use it again. It is of the actual office. Stirling House is very plush! It is not the sort of thing you see in regional Western Australia so much. It is a very plush, modern office, right in the heart of town. It is all glass, all shiny and new, right in the heart of town, over the road from Parliament—as far from her electorate as she could get when she was in the upper house. The argument put by opposition members that somehow they have represented regional Western Australia—the hypocrisy of it is breathtaking. It is breathtaking that they would say such a thing.

Obviously, a system that allows for some people's votes to be worth six times the amount of other people's votes is wrong. It is wrong and it cannot be defended. I have outlined to the house and will continue to outline the anomalies involved. The vote of a person in Northam, less than 100 kilometres from the General Post Office in the heart of the city, is worth 2.4 times the vote of someone in Denmark, which is 416 kilometres from Perth. How can that be justified? Who can justify that? What possible argument is there around that? Members can get to the city from Northam in about an hour—I know because I have done it a few times recently. You get there in about the same time as you do from my house. The drive from Denmark is five or six hours to the city. Somehow, the vote of someone in Northam is worth 2.4 times that of someone in Denmark. The vote of someone in Kalgoorlie, which is connected by the Great Eastern Highway, train and plane—a major regional city—is worth 1.5 times the vote of someone in Esperance, which is four hours south. How does that work? How is that justifiable? How can anyone say that is a fair system? The vote of someone in Toodyay, which is about the same distance from the city as Northam, is worth 2.4 times that of someone in Busselton, in the member for Vasse's electorate. How is it right that the vote of someone who lives three and a half hours from the city is worth less than half—nearly one-third—of the vote of someone who lives an hour from the city? If the rationale of the opposition is that somehow distance should equal more votes, the system does not reflect that. The only way to get a system that is sensible, fair, explainable, reasonable and logical is to have a whole-of-state model, in which everyone's vote is equal, no matter where they live, and there are not these distinctions that are not explainable and not justifiable. We have allowances and support for airfares and the like for members who are based in the regions and have their electorate offices in the regions. We also have this furphy that the Liberals and the Nationals WA have put in place, whereby they represent a regional electorate, but they base their office and their staff in the heart of the city over the road from Parliament. It is a furphy. It is a deception. This is the only fair and reasonable model, and that is what Mr McCusker has found.

It is actually more than that. It is actually just. The basis of our society is justice—it is justice. It is just that everyone's vote is equal; that our system is equal. A person's job, their wealth, their importance in the community, their age, their property holding, their sex, their gender, their disability, or whatever it is, does not matter. The basis of our society is that everyone's vote is equal. Everyone has an equal say about who governs them. That is the basis of our community. That is why we have put in place the system that was raised earlier, which ensures that the price of water and electricity in the regions is the same as that in the city. I pay the same price when I turn on the lights as a person who lives in Kununurra. It is about providing fairness and equity for everyone. That should be the basis of our community. I think that is eminently understandable. That is actually the understanding of the word "democracy" around the world and around Australia, and in the federal Parliament and the other state Parliaments for that matter.

Prior to the election, I did not know that Mr Tucker was going to get elected with 98 votes. I did not know that was going to happen; no-one did. Obviously, we have to deal with that. Prior to the election, every single adviser and every single pundit who has ever commented on these matters said that there was absolutely no prospect that that would happen; it was a mathematical impossibility for Labor to win a majority in the upper house. Therefore, it was not on our agenda, because there was absolutely no way that we could do it. Of course I said that.

There is enhanced regional representation in this house. This review is about the Legislative Council. It is about putting in place a fair system. No doubt the Liberals and the Nationals WA will stir up councils out there. My advice to those councils would be: do not participate in this. It is a ridiculous, offensive, rude and silly campaign. It has no justice in fact. It has no justice in logic. The best thing we can do is have democracy. Democracy was created in Athens in 500 BC or thereabouts.

**Mr S.A. Millman** interjected.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It was created in Athens in 431 BC. It has been the fundamental basis of good electoral systems and good systems of government around the world ever since that time—with some interruptions. All I would say is democracy is good. We should embrace it. If we win a majority of votes, we win government. If we win a majority of votes, we should also win the upper house. I think that is fair.

**MR J.R. QUIGLEY (Butler — Minister for Electoral Affairs)** [3.43 pm]: A lot of people have been commenting on the Western Australian electoral system, especially the electoral system in the Legislative Council of Western Australia. These people whom I turn to now are not members of the Western Australian Labor Party or the Australian Labor Party. I will go first to the well-known commentator Mr Antony Green, AO, who wrote in his blog on 6 March 2021 —

... the WA Legislative Council's electoral system is the worst in the country.

I turn next to *The West Australian* opinion writer Paul Murray, who after the 2017 state election wrote in a column in *The West Australian* of 1 April 2017 —

WA's Legislative Council has a long and inglorious history as the most undemocratically elected parliamentary chamber in Australia.

The malapportionment between country and city electorates has always been the worst in the nation ...

When we hear the numbers read out by the Premier a while ago about the disparity even between the regions—not between the city and the regions, but between the regions themselves—it speaks for itself that the system is broken. We talk about democracy. Democracy means that everyone has an equal say in the government that makes the laws that govern their lives.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Then why don't you have a referendum?

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I will come to that in a moment, member for Cottesloe. Why should not every person have an equal vote in the Parliament that sets the laws that govern their lives and the lives of their families? It speaks for itself.

This misbegotten motion states that the Premier and his arrogant government should be condemned for maintaining a sneaky agenda. A sneaky agenda! For decades and decades, the Australian Labor Party's policy was to abolish the upper house. This goes back nearly 130 years. The Australian Labor Party gave up on that part of its platform, because it was impossible to do that, so it fell from its agenda to abolish that chamber. But it has always been in the minds of everybody—the commentators and everyone in the Labor Party—how unfair and unequal people's votes are.

The member for Cottesloe said, "What about a referendum?" We have had this debate in this Parliament in the last month. The member for Cottesloe should think for one moment about this. If we were to put to the populace the referendum question, "Do you think your vote should be equal with everybody else's vote?"—which would be the referendum question that I would set—the answer would overwhelmingly be, "I want my vote to be equal with everybody else's vote."

I turn now to the hypocrisy of all this. As I said in that previous debate, when Sir Charles Court substantially changed the Constitution Act back in 1978, did he take that to a referendum? No, he did not. Did he take it to the people? No, he did not. He controlled this chamber, and he controlled the other chamber. He knew that he would control that chamber for ever, or during the life of his government, so he did have to worry about a referendum. He did not take it to the people. He just changed our Constitution, and he entrenched provisions that required that any further entrenchment by a referendum must have a referendum itself. He really tangled it up. When he had changed the Constitution Act, he locked the door behind him as he left the Parliament so that no-one else could come up with the measures that he had gone to.

The motion that is before the chamber this afternoon is totally misbegotten. It refers to a sneaky agenda. As the Premier detailed, and as Mr McCusker detailed in his report, the McCusker inquiry advertised the terms of reference, and asked for public submissions. That is hardly a —

**Ms S.F. McGurk:** Clandestine.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** That is hardly a clandestine operation; thank you, minister.

This motion is absolutely misleading and wrong. I want to help the chamber this afternoon by moving an amendment to the motion.

*Amendment to Motion*

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** I move —

That all words after "house" be deleted and insert —

thanks Malcolm McCusker and the independent ministerial expert committee on its report on electoral reform and endorses reforms that ensure the Legislative Council is fair, democratic and equal for all Western Australians.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If you would like to continue, you can.

**Mr J.R. QUIGLEY:** As I said, Mr McCusker and the committee advertised and called for submissions, spent months poring over those submissions, put out a discussion paper before calling for submissions and came up with recommendations for this Parliament. Accordingly, I move the amendment that I signed and handed to the clerks.

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury — Minister for Disability Services)** [3.51 pm]: I listened to the member for Roe express his disappointment and I was a little shocked and surprised because it was an expression of disappointment that we were going to address something that is fundamentally unfair and inequitable.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Would you've taken it to the election?

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** I will speak about the election shortly, member for Cottesloe. The member for Cottesloe is a very good interjector, but he does not make a lot of sense.

I want to go back to what the Premier said and the reason the system is so fundamentally inequitable, and it is worth repeating this ad nauseam. A vote in Kalgoorlie is worth three times the vote in Bunbury. How does that work in the upper house? A vote in Kalgoorlie is worth three and a half times a vote in Albany. A vote in Kalgoorlie is worth one and a half times a vote in Esperance. It does not make sense. A vote in Wundowie is worth four times more than the value of a vote in Wooroloo. I bet the people in Wooroloo do not realise that. A vote in Gingin is worth 4.1 times more than the value of a vote in Two Rocks. A vote in Madora Bay is worth 1.84 times more than the

value of a vote in Singleton. It goes on. A vote in Kalbarri is worth 1.48 times more than a vote in Geraldton. A vote in Northam is worth 4.34 times more than the value of a vote in Jandakot. A vote in Broome is worth 6.1 times more than a vote in Burns Beach. I do not know how the member for Roe can express disappointment in the face of those figures.

I have worked in regional Western Australia for nearly 40 years. I have worked at the cutting edge of regional development and in both the community services and regional development sectors. I have worked virtually in every region within Western Australia. One thing I do know is that people within regional Western Australia know that the government is formed in the lower house and that they vote primarily for people in this place because they vote for a government, and they overwhelmingly voted at the last election for a McGowan government.

I can remember the posters that were going out at the time in that moment of panic when both the Nationals WA and the Liberal Party realised that it might be a difficult election for them. The message changed. Their leader, Zak Kirkup, was saying, “Don’t give them too much power.” I remember that. Who amongst members remembers that?

Government members: Yes.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** What did the electorate do? They voted overwhelming for a McGowan government, and they knew that it was going to be formed in the lower house. Upper house members, certainly in my electorate, were all trying to ride on the back of lower house members. Nobody really knew who they were voting for in the upper house. It was not a person-oriented thing. It might have been a party-oriented thing, but nobody really knew their candidates—this notion of candidates representing their area. They were voting in the lower house and by default upper house parties creamed off some of that vote.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Ticked above the line—97 per cent.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** Yes; exactly.

The important distinction is that the upper house is a house of review and the lower house is where the business of government is formed. The people of Western Australia know that and, as the Premier mentioned, the issues around regional representation in the lower house will remain unchanged. The big difference is that in the upper house, people will have 37 members who represent their interests—not just six people in a local area, but 37 people who will have to work hard to earn their vote and work hard to understand the issues and go out there and represent them positively.

It is worth commenting on some of the alarm that was expressed on 18 March 2021. The first piece of alarm was from Hon Sophia Moermond who was definitely shocked when she realised that she would be the first and only MP in a party that was less than five months’ old. Does that not point to an issue somewhere?

**Mrs R.M.J. Clarke:** And with an office in West Perth.

**Mr D.T. PUNCH:** Yes, member for Murray–Wellington; an office in West Perth.

Then Hon James Hayward said —

... a Perth resident representing the people of the south west was a “complete scam” and it was time to change to the Federal system.

I seem to recall that the federal system does not have regional boundaries for the upper house. He continued —

“What happens is the preference whisperers come along and they work out a bit of a plan to add everybody’s votes up,” he said.

“I think the people who are in the Greens Party would be horrified ... that their votes have gone there.

“There are other parties as well like Shooters and Fishers, and it was their votes that seem to have got those guys elected.

Hon James Hayward was calling for upper house reform. The reason members opposite are so offended is that they want upper house reform but they want their upper house reform. They want to maintain the status quo that has seen conservative occupancy of the upper house benches for the majority of the Western Australian parliamentary terms. That is what it is about. Suddenly, they are being forced to work harder. I heard the complaints earlier about the changes to the standing orders. The biggest complaint I got in the last term of Parliament was about filibustering in the upper house. Wasting time and not getting on with the business of government is what was upsetting regional people. Time and again regional people would come to me and say, “We know you guys are working hard in the lower house, but we don’t have a clue what is happening with the opposition in the upper house. Why aren’t they doing their job of proper upper house review, proper review of legislation, and doing that in an efficient and effective manner?”

My view is that in moving to this new reform—I welcome Hon Malcolm McCusker and the ministerial expert committee’s report—that with 37 people representing the whole of the state, they will have to suddenly work out how the state functions as a whole, what is important to Western Australia as a whole, and what is important in the Kimberley and in Esperance.

*Division*

Amendment (deletion of words) put and a division taken, the Deputy Speaker casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

## Ayes (43)

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

## Noes (5)

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

Amendment (deletion of words) thus passed.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

[Continued on page 3998.]

**McGOWAN GOVERNMENT — PERFORMANCE***Motion*

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Opposition)** [4.04 pm]: On behalf of the Leader of the Opposition, I move —

That this house condemns the Treasurer and the Labor government for delivering a budget that abandons our local communities while failing to rectify the ongoing health, housing and skills challenges plaguing our state.

It is my intention to speak today about some of the issues that I see in my electorate that have not been addressed. Several members interjected.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members, if you want to have a conversation, take it outside.

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Thank you.

It is my intention to talk today about some of the issues that affect regional Western Australia and my electorate in particular as a result of the failure of the current government to address many of these issues. This is especially the case given that the government is sitting on a large surplus of \$5.6 billion. That money could be applied to rectify many issues that are yet to be cured in the electorate of Moore and elsewhere. It is because of the failure of this government to deliver for those local communities that we are forced to speak today.

As we know, we have heard a tranche of announcements throughout the last few weeks about programs that have been put forward by the government. The budget is probably the most heralded budget in the sense that many of the programs were out in the public arena before the budget was dropped. I think most people had a fair idea of what was in the budget before it was released.

In my own electorate of Moore, I have to start by talking about the most seriously impacted area in the electorate after the recent events of tropical cyclone Seroja that smashed through much of the electorate. The town of Kalbarri was within the electorate of Moore until March when the electoral boundary change meant that it moved into the North West Central electorate. The people in that electorate were fortunate that their local member, the member for North West Central, was in Kalbarri immediately after the cyclone and personally spent many, many days and weeks, I believe, working hard to assist the community of Kalbarri. He was on the ground and doing the hard yards by helping with the clean-up. Well done to him. That is a great example of what a regional representative can achieve when they actually work for their community.

As I said, tropical cyclone Seroja did not stop at Kalbarri. It smashed through Northampton and affected the Shires of Chapman Valley, Mingenew, Carnamah, Coorow, Three Springs, Perenjori, Morawa, Dalwallinu, into the central wheatbelt and through the City of Greater Geraldton. I represent most of the geographic area of the City of Greater Geraldton. There was a tremendous amount of damage. As we know, there is an ongoing need in those areas. The event was declared a catastrophe for insurance purposes, but I am hearing on the ground that many of those claims still have not been resolved five months on from the disaster. People are displaced, anxious and facing

financial uncertainty. They are financially stressed and cannot simply get on with their lives. We need to see mental health outreach provided and people touched by the services of government to enable the recovery program to proceed. I am pleased that the state government, along with the federal government, injected a large amount of money into the cyclone recovery effort. I put on the record that that has been a very important investment by the government. It is good to see that some action is being taken there, but, as the local member, I will, of course, monitor the situation to ensure that the program is being rolled out well and that the people are getting the help they need to get over the impact of the cyclone.

The Western Power network was severely affected throughout that whole area. Fortunately, the government's plans to close and sell the Mungarra power station did not go ahead, because that power station was able to be deployed. Enough of the network was put back on so that the City of Greater Geraldton at least had some power relatively quickly after the cyclone—a few days in. Power to other communities that are connected to Geraldton via the grid, such as Dongara, came on about a week later. That was very good, but other areas were without power for many weeks, if not months. That is a stark example of the fragility of the Western Power network in the midwest, which is an issue that I have raised for pretty well the entire period that I have been a member of Parliament. It is a very vulnerable and frail network. It is good to see that standalone power is being brought in for some farming areas as that will be a big help, but many communities need their power to be reinforced, with town site power also very much at risk. We need more local generation and more microgrid systems or standalone backup generators.

That followed in the aftermath of cyclone Seroja. I pay tribute to the many very hardworking volunteers who have been involved in helping others throughout this period, the staff of various government agencies who have assisted and also the local governments that have come to the fore in those areas and shown how important local government is at that level in connecting to the community. I am referring to the Shires of Northampton, Morawa, Perenjori and others—I do not want to single any out because I may leave some out, but I have mentioned all the local governments in previous debates. A great deal of work has been done by many of their CEOs, councillors and staff in assisting their communities. I give my thanks to all the local governments in the midwest area that have been involved.

That being said, many issues remain in the electorate, with one being coastal erosion. We know that coastal erosion hotspots exist up and down the state. It is good to see that the government has taken on board some of the Nationals' plan to properly fund action on coastal erosion around the state, but of course not with the amount of resources that we would have devoted to that cause in regional areas. It is important that local governments and local communities have somewhere to go to seek funding, so a fund has been established. There are dire threats and immediate issues from coastal erosion that need to be considered in places like Lancelin—for instance, an emergency services building is under threat. It is a situation that the local shire cannot manage on its own. As a local member, in the first term of government I was successful in arguing the case, with assistance from Hon Terry Redman and his office, to get funding for the Seabird seawall, which has protected the town of Seabird. Further protection is needed in coastal areas in my electorate, and considerably more investment is needed than we are seeing at the moment, notwithstanding the investments announced in the budget.

In terms of the health spend, I note that the budget documents outline some cost overruns in certain programs and that they are being addressed by trimming funding from other areas and projects. I am a bit concerned about what some of those other projects might be. I cannot find specific information anywhere in the budget documents about the development of the Mullewa health centre, which is an issue that I have raised many times in this place. There is funding for the primary health centres demonstration initiative, which is the program that it was being funded under, but there is no specific allocation or detailed information about that particular health centre. I am a bit worried about the line in the budget documents that says that funding is being repurposed away from certain projects to pick up cost overruns in others. Mullewa is very much in need of that expenditure. It is a matter I have raised directly with the Premier. I am looking forward to seeing something other than a sign appearing at Mullewa.

I raised a recent grievance in this place about the deplorable situation with the Jurien Bay marina. There was an excellent opportunity in this budget, with its \$5.6 billion surplus, for the Jurien Bay marina to gain funding from the state government. That marina is an environmental disaster. It is an ongoing issue. It is good that the Minister for Environment is in the chamber to listen to this debate, because I have outlined this situation to the Minister for Transport and she is aware of the issues. As the Minister for Environment will know, the marina is an enclave of the Jurien Bay Marine Park. Every year in Jurien Bay, the many hectares of the marina become a fish-kill site. Effectively, it is like dragging a huge net the size of the marina through the ocean and pulling fish out of the marine park and dropping them onto the beach and letting them rot. If the operations of a commercial trawler or someone else actually led to the killing of that quantity of marine life, there would be an outcry. I imagine that someone would get a jail sentence. The state government's asset is effectively acting as a fish trap. It has led to the entrapment of fish at least once a year over many years. The marine life goes into the harbour and then the mouth of the harbour becomes toxic because of a build-up of hydrogen sulphide from decaying weeds. This puts a cork on the harbour and no animals can leave. Slowly, the poison spreads throughout the harbour and kills everything. It is a brutal thing to see. It is distressing. It certainly should not be allowed to continue. The government has a large amount of money. This project has been designed after many years of study. A study group was put in place in about 2015 to look at developing the long-term information needed to formulate a fix to the marina. A report was released in July last year

by the Department of Transport. This project needs funding. When I raised this with the minister, she said that she would be looking for federal funding. I think it is more urgent than that. The federal government has already given huge amounts of money to the state government in infrastructure grants. Given the current election environment, I do not want the marina to again be treated as a political football. It needs to be fixed. There is an opportunity, a plan, a design and a costing—I got information back from the minister from a question on notice I asked last year, and we asked another question in the other place this year. We know what is needed to fix it, and it should just be fixed. It is one of those assets that needs to be addressed quickly.

Similarly, in terms of marine environments, Port Gregory is a very small community at the far end of my electorate, south of Kalbarri, that has a jetty that has been landlocked for the best part of eight or nine years. The Department of Transport has refused to look at fixing this situation, either by dredging, putting in place some sort of protection or extending the jetty. Some consideration needs to be given to that. Port Gregory has a great little natural harbour out of which commercial boats operate. It would be great to see some money spent there to enable the Port Gregory jetty to be functional. Port Gregory is one of those places, along with two or three other small towns in my electorate, where, especially in the coastal environment, it is very hard to get mobile, radio and other signals to travel across the limestone and sand country; it degrades the signal very quickly. In places like Port Gregory and Ledge Point, to name a couple, there are large mobile towers located not far from the towns; however, there is virtually no signal in those towns because the layout is such that the town is over the hill, behind a sand dune or a limestone ridge, and the radio and mobile signals do not travel to it. I would have thought that that would be a pretty simple fix, and I have raised this before. We could put a small tower inside the town to receive the signal from the larger tower and beam it around the town. That would be quite inexpensive and would solve the problem in towns like Port Gregory and Ledge Point.

Another issue in the Lancelin and Ledge Point area is the lime route heading out from Lancelin. Hundreds of thousands of tonnes of lime sand is mined at Lancelin each year and is then exported across the wheatbelt to cure acidity in wheatbelt soils. That is a very important program for the productivity of the wheatbelt. At the moment, the condition of the lime routes is constraining some of those trucks from being able to get through in a safe manner. Work has been done on those routes and I applaud that work. That was often done with the aid of the federal government, and I acknowledge the support of the Liberal–National federal coalition government and the many grants that it has provided for road and other infrastructure throughout regional Western Australia, which have supported the oftentimes more modest expenditure of the state government in those projects. A lot of these projects are funded 80 per cent by the federal government and 20 per cent by the state, so when the government claims that there is a \$200 million program for roads et cetera, we have to look more carefully at the underlying figures to see who is funding that. Quite often, we see that it is the federal Liberal–National government that is helping to fund the majority of these important projects.

One project I will highlight is the Cowalla Road Bridge over Moore River. It is a single-lane bridge on which drivers have to stop and give way to each other. That was probably okay back in the day, but now that this is a principal route for the exportation of hundreds of thousands of tonnes of lime sand, it is time that that bridge was addressed. Another bottleneck, if you like, that needs to be addressed very quickly is the situation at Northampton. A bypass is needed around that town. That project has been under discussion for decades and there have been multiple requests over the years for it to be prioritised. The situation is now more urgent, with Strandline Resources on track to truck 230 000 tonnes of mineral sand through the town in addition to all the other traffic that comes along the North West Coastal Highway. All the big gear that runs up the North West Coastal Highway to the west Pilbara is going smack bang through the centre of this historic village. It is a huge safety problem. It needs to be addressed as quickly as we possibly can. I am disappointed to see that there is nothing in the budget for that project and very little consideration of that whole midwest area and its needs for infrastructure. I will talk a bit more about some of those needs, because they touch on some other portfolios that I have, in my budget-in-reply speech.

I know that the Leader of the Liberal Party has raised the issue of Oakajee and electricity transmission through the midwest. Of course, Oakajee is in my electorate. It is very important to the future of employment in the midwest to have a more efficient port structure and an industrial area that is well-supported and can develop into the future. We know that there are exciting projects throughout the region for the development of renewable energy and the development and use of natural gas. All those projects depend on a bit of assistance from the government to not only help coordinate these things, but also be cooperative when the industries come calling and say that they need help to get infrastructure in place so that they can develop these projects and the rest of the area.

There are some tremendous projects that are looking to get off the ground in the area. I know of one by Strike Energy that is based in the area between Mingenew, Three Springs and Dongara. That company has a gas well there and is hoping to use that gas in the development of a urea industry, which will involve the replacement of imported fertilisers right through the wheatbelt of Western Australia. It will have a very positive impact on the carbon footprint of Western Australian farms, because a much lower amount of carbon will be needed to get a tonne of its fertiliser onto the ground in Western Australia than is needed to import the same product from China. At the moment, we know that the creation of urea is quite a dirty industry in some places. Strike Energy has an exciting project to do that in a much more carbon-friendly way, which has the potential to produce an exciting industry for the midwest and many benefits for the farms in the area.

There are many other issues that I could talk about, but I know that others wish to speak on this. I think that the Leader of the Liberal Party is standing by, ready to go.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Champing at the bit!

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** At this point, I will conclude my discussions and allow him to outline some of his concerns about the failure of this government to actually take into account the needs of many of the communities of Western Australia.

**DR D.J. HONEY (Cottesloe — Leader of the Liberal Party)** [4.26 pm]: I rise to make a small contribution to this debate this evening. Firstly, I will focus on issues in my own electorate of Cottesloe. I think it is fair to say that when it comes to this budget, one could be forgiven for thinking that the electorate of Cottesloe does not exist at all. There is nothing of substance in this budget that will directly benefit the people of Cottesloe. There are some serious issues in my electorate, but I will just touch on an area of general concern that relates peripherally to the budget, which is the announcement by the Minister for Planning that she is considering extending the so-called COVID emergency planning powers and making those the norm. That is certainly of enormous concern to the people who live in my electorate. Despite enormous concern in the local community and an overwhelming number of submissions opposing a development that goes outside the local structure plan, the special panel that was put together to review the proposal for 120 Marine Parade has approved it. The panel did not even go back for consultation on that because there had been consultation on previously rejected proposals.

**Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski:** It has been consulting for three months!

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** It did not consult anyone on the proposal that it approved—no-one. It said that it did not have to. This goes completely outside the local structure plan, which does in fact allow high-rise development along the foreshore at designated places. That plan was widely consulted with the community. In fact, there was broad concern about the heights that were adopted, but, at the time, the community accepted the proposition that there needed to be reasonable infill but said that it needed to be done in a way that did not destroy the character of the beachfront and suburb. That area is not just used by the people of Cottesloe. It is the most popular beach in metropolitan Perth and is used by people from right across the state. In fact, as someone who attends that beach quite regularly, I know that it is an iconic tourist beach that attracts people from all over the world. Unabated high-rise development will destroy the character of that area and have an effect on the beach.

The justification that the minister gave for extending those powers was no longer that we needed emergency stimulation of the economy, which was the original justification for taking away the rights of communities, but that it would encourage economic activity to make up for the economic activity that was going to disappear because of COVID. We know, in fact, that because this state was largely unaffected by the COVID-19 pandemic, there was no dip in economic activity; in fact, the return of expatriates from overseas gave a boost to the economy. We now see an enormous pump priming of the residential construction and apartment markets to the extent that people are being told that their houses will not be constructed for two or three years. It is a tragedy for young people paying rent and a mortgage on a block of land. Nevertheless, all of a sudden we are told that there is an argument that we need a pipeline of projects for the future. This is just a nonsense. It is a complete surrender to developers who are frustrated that they have to engage with local communities. Most reputable developers do not mind that engagement process, but some are frustrated. Can I say that developers were overwhelmingly donors to the Labor Party at the last state election and have been a considerable source of funds for Labor's elections. It seems now that the minister is simply currying favour with those developers to continue enjoying their support. Every member here should be concerned about this because those emergency powers essentially remove any input from the community. Now the agreed structure plan for an area is meaningless—it has no meaning. It will be simply up to a room of hand-picked people to choose what happens in their suburb.

Regarding other issues in my area, the beachfront redevelopment is a major issue. Cottesloe council is a small council and has only 8 000 residents; Mosman Park and Nedlands have about the same number. Claremont has about the same number but is increasing. It means they do not have the capacity to do the major works that larger councils such as Joondalup, Stirling and Wanneroo can do. Those councils can undertake very well thought out major development activity, but Cottesloe council and the other councils along the coast in my electorate do not have that opportunity. I think there is a need for a coordinated approach to development. There is also a need for government money to assist that.

Another area that is of really great concern to me personally and members of the electorate is level crossings. I congratulated the Minister for Transport in her role on the excellent work that is being done on public shared pathways. I have certainly welcomed that; I certainly championed it. The government has delivered on extending public shared pathways. The Victoria Street, North Fremantle section of those pathways will shortly be complete. I was interested to hear that the government has an extensive program of grade separation between the PSPs and road crossings and level crossings out to Armadale on the Armadale line and also on the Midland line, but not one single project to get grade separation on the Fremantle line. I am genuinely concerned. I have raised this matter in this place before. The PSPs are excellent. Cyclists get up a real head of steam on them. The fitter riders do 30 or 40 kilometres an hour. They ride along in the zone and my real concern is that there will be a serious injury or fatality at the crossings. Any member who goes to my electorate will know that there are limited opportunities to get from west to

east, from the beach side through to the hinterland and through to Stirling Highway. The level crossings are quite chaotic in the morning. In fact, people take real risks because given the train frequency and the lights on Stirling Highway, it is very hard for people to get across. Car drivers are not looking for cyclists when they cross and I am very concerned that, as I say, there could be an accident caused by that. I know there are near misses; I have seen them myself.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** You're getting major expansion of the PSPs in your electorate.

**Dr D.J. HONEY:** As I said, minister, I am very grateful for that and I have personally congratulated the minister for that. It is a continuing program with excellent support from the government. It is the level crossings where the roads cross the PSP and the railway line. It would be good to see in future budgets some focus on the Fremantle line for that grade separation continuing down the line. As I say, I genuinely believe it is a safety issue. I appreciate the minister's good intent on this but it would be good to see the work being done on the Midland and Armadale lines extended to the Fremantle line as well.

I will go on to some broader issues, but one issue that affects my electorate in particular is housing. Since the election, as I have said in here a few times—people are probably bored with me saying it—I have made a real effort to get out to communities right across the state from north to south and all points in between. I can honestly say that in every single community I have visited, certainly every one of the significant communities and many in between—whether it is Esperance, Halls Creek, Fitzroy Crossing, Broome and even down south to Albany, Mt Barker, Denmark and through to Kalgoorlie—the lack of housing has been a major issue. I would like to focus on two aspects to housing. Obviously, one is social housing. We have voiced our concerns in this house about the lack of social housing. It is a simple reality that this government has overseen a bit over a 1 300 reduction in the number of social housing places. We heard of an \$800 million announcement by the government before Christmas about a plan to tackle social housing, and there has been very limited progress on that. Another \$800 million-plus commitment has been made in this budget and I certainly have a concern that that will not deal with the problem. That is the issue of homelessness and I will talk about that a little more in a few minutes.

The area that is really substantially holding back economic development right across regional Western Australia is the absence of rental accommodation. I have seen nothing in this budget that will do anything about that rental accommodation crisis. I appreciate that this is not a trivial problem. I appreciate that to get rental housing we have to do something different but there is nothing different in this budget to encourage rental accommodation. Why is rental accommodation so important? It is important because for people to attract workers to a town, the workers have to have somewhere to live. Members will have seen that the vacancy rates in pretty well every significant regional community is close to zero. There are areas where, essentially, rental houses turn over in two or three days. Workers going into a community do not want to buy a house. Typically, if they go into an area that is unfamiliar to them, they want to rent. Once they have rented for a period and have become established in the community, they may buy or build a house, but initially they need to rent. I saw a direct example of a significant hotel chain in Albany that was struggling to get chefs. Again, in every regional area and even in the metropolitan area businesses are struggling to get chefs due to the restrictions on people coming from overseas. The hotel in Albany got a chef to come over from Queensland. He spent three days trying to find rental accommodation in Albany, but could not find any. He then went to South Australia because there is a nationwide shortage of chefs. In fact, we contacted a catering business in my own electorate the other day about providing a catering service, but it said that it was shutting up business because it could not get staff. It is a small business and will be shutting up because it cannot get staff to work in its catering business. People might say that is not a major problem in the metropolitan area, but in regional communities it really is a major problem. Those communities cannot get workers and cannot expand their economies because of the lack of workers. The lack of accommodation is the root cause of the inability to get workers in the area. I was talking to a number of company representatives at the Diggers and Dealers Mining Forum a little earlier this year. I was talking to a significant drilling contractor in that town and that drilling contractor said that the only thing that is preventing them from expanding their business is a lack of workers, and strongly linked to that is the lack of accommodation for people moving to the town. Yes, our economy is doing well at the moment and the price of iron ore is up, but a lot of businesses are being held up because there is no rental accommodation, and nothing in this budget has dealt with that.

I move to homelessness, because I am sure it causes everyone in this place distress. In the budget, we see essentially a commitment to build 2 000 more houses. The previous Liberal government had committed to 6 000 additional houses, but that program has just been reduced and cut. Members will know the outcome of that. There is obviously distress for people who cannot move into more permanent accommodation. There is a sharp edge to it, particularly for people doing it tough and having difficulties. About half the number of people seeking social housing support have very significant medical health issues. It is essentially impossible for those people to get accommodation in a competitive market. They depend on social housing to meet their housing needs, and 2 000 houses will not do it. People have challenged me and asked whether I would like more social housing in my community. Done properly, social housing is not disruptive to communities. There is a very large amount of social housing in my electorate. About 3.4 per cent of the people who live in my electorate live in social housing, particularly in the southern part of Mosman Park. A lot of that stock is old and run down. There is no intensity to it. It is old bungalow-style accommodation. It is not accommodation that many people would want to go to. There is a cycle here in that the

lower the quality of accommodation, the fewer people want to move into it, so then people who do move into it may have more issues with antisocial behaviour and that spirals down. I have spoken to a number of developers about this. There are some very good people in the development community who are very passionate in this space. That stock could be redeveloped and more housing could be provided in those areas in my electorate. There would be better social outcomes. It would reduce antisocial behaviour. It would be a win-win if that was done. I have spoken personally to the minister about this. It is something I strongly encourage, but, again, I did not see anything in the budget about that. I think that renewal of social housing stock is really critical.

I have looked at the figures for social housing, and even for emergency accommodation. There was a facility at 100 Hampton Road contracted for 20 individuals for just six months, and that has now lapsed. There was another contract for just 20 people for a year. Then, there is the former Wellington Street Youth Hostel Association site, now known as Boorloo Bidee Mia. It was meant to house 100 people, but I understand it only has a fraction of that number at the moment, although I am happy to be educated on that. It really seems that there is not an adequate focus or action in this area. I know there is intent. I know the responsible ministers on the other side are not careless about this issue, I know they care about it, but we are not seeing effective action to deal with it, and it has to be a focus.

I will move to law and order. Law and order is one of those issues that has sort of gone under the radar. We heard that there was concern about domestic violence increasing because of the COVID epidemic and people perhaps being forced to live with someone they do not want to live with, or someone who is violent or abusive. There was an initial drop in domestic violence, but after a while it increased in the COVID period. We have seen a significant increase in domestic violence, and obviously the government has programs to try to respond to and deal with that. Just as a quick addendum to that issue, the absence of housing alternatives is exacerbating the problem. Women—in the great majority of cases it is women—are being forced to live with someone who is abusive because they have nowhere else to go. Housing issues directly relate to that. If we exclude domestic violence statistics—they are not excluded because the issue is not important; it is a critically important issue for me, the community and, I know, the ministers—violent crime against individuals is the worst it has ever been in the history of this state. There is effectively nothing in this budget to deal with that. If we look at the supposed increase in support, there is a very, very small increase in funding for the police, and then it goes down. Looking at the supposed numbers of police coming into the system, I cannot see how they are going to be provided with uniforms and protective equipment, because the budget simply does not allow it. Unless there is a magic pot of money, law and order will be a major issue facing this community.

**MS L. METTAM (Vasse — Deputy Leader of the Liberal Party)** [4.46 pm]: I also rise to speak to this motion that the house condemns the Treasurer and the Labor government for delivering a budget that abandons our local communities, while failing to rectify the ongoing health, housing and skills challenges plaguing our state. Like other members in this corner of the house, I rise to speak specifically to concerns in the electorate of Vasse. Although significant concerns were raised about this budget, which I will also raise, I want to put some positives on the record about what has been committed to and outlined for the electorate of Vasse in this year's budget. There is the expansion of and an additional \$10.9 million for the Royal Flying Doctor Service and increased accommodation subsidies under the patient assisted travel scheme, which is something we supported and advocated for. The \$9.5 million for the underwater observatory is something I also advocated for as the local member. It is a very good investment. There is an investment to redevelop classrooms into science, technology, engineering and mathematics classrooms at Busselton Senior High School and Cape Naturaliste College, as well as some general funding for additional school psychologists, which is obviously a very worthy investment.

Despite our state being in a very fortunate position, once again the electorate of Vasse has largely been ignored by the McGowan government, particularly in the critical areas of health, mental health and housing. We have heard much about what was first the \$4 billion headline and then the \$1.9 billion headline about the apparent investment in health in this budget, but on the ground we have seen something much more moderate. There will be a two per cent cut in operational expenditure in 2022–23, which will impact regional hospitals already under pressure. The Australian Medical Association of WA expects that demand for health services will continue to increase by over three per cent per annum. Across the state, but particularly in the regions, we are seeing that our hospitals are struggling to cope. The McGowan government has failed to make health a priority for the last four years and it is now realising that this underinvestment has led to a health system that is quite obviously in crisis. General maintenance work that was identified by the WA Country Health Service has been left for three years at Margaret River Hospital. It impacts the ability to provide the necessary health services in our regions and support for that community. The pressures we are seeing in our emergency departments are right across the board, which is impacting workplace environments as well. There is no clearer example of that than at Bunbury Hospital. There is a WorkSafe improvement notice at Bunbury Hospital after five months of investigation into what has been described as a toxic workplace culture. Bunbury's hospital director, Jeff Calver, said —

... pressure on the hospital and the state's health system in general had contributed to the issues.

They are the words of the hospital director himself about the pressure we are seeing as a result of the lack of investment and planning in our health system.

As I stated, these issues are right across the state, reflected also in the latest Your Voice in Health survey, which found that less than half the respondents—some 47 per cent—actually felt their organisation cared about their health and wellbeing or felt they were valued in the workplace.

Busselton Health Campus is feeling the impact as well. After years of campaigning with community stakeholders, it has a psychiatric liaison nurse who is now struggling to cope with the number of mental health presentations that we are seeing from a range of different age groups. This points to the issues we have had with mental health funding. Regarding the psychiatric liaison nurse, questions in Parliament revealed she had seen 454 patients in her very first year of operation, 85 of whom were under 18 years of age. They are extraordinary figures given that we are looking at the number of young people presenting to that very small emergency department. Key mental health stakeholders have overwhelming concerns regarding the obvious gap in support for what has been described as the missing middle—the early intervention support—as well as crisis support. The PLN is managing more than one referral a day, raising the question of how many more are slipping under the radar without the necessary support services available. The overwhelming feedback is about that gap on the ground. There has been an investment in that one person at Busselton Hospital, but the real issue is about what support there is in the community. What investment has there been in the community to ensure that we do not see so many of our young people present to emergency departments because they feel there is nowhere else to go? The Youth Advisory Council of Western Australia has commented on the underfunding in this area. In response to the budget, YACWA stated —

Unfortunately, investment continues to focus on costly crisis-based services and bed-based supports. Too often young people are unable to access supports early in the community and must become severely unwell before they receive the help they need.

This was reflected in a grievance that I presented earlier this year. We are hearing from parents who talk about the fact that sometimes their children are not sick enough to be able to get any level of support at emergency departments, which seems to be the only answer for many in the community. The scale of investment in prevention and community support is not growing at the necessary rate relative to hospital investments to change the trajectory and pattern of need being expressed, translating to pressure on our acute services. The fact that there is not enough investment in early intervention is obviously having, and will exponentially continue to have, an impact on our emergency departments and other health areas.

*The Better Choices. Better Lives: Western Australian mental health, alcohol and other drug service plan 2015–2025* had bipartisan support and I imagine, as a plan, continues to have support. It shows that mental health prevention and community supports are the most under-resourced parts of the mental health system. Unfortunately, this budget again fails to deliver on this. The optimal mix is that by 2025, six per cent of the mental health budget should be on prevention. This year, only 1.15 per cent is on prevention, which is well below the five per cent target that is in place for 2025 and also below the four per cent target that was meant to have been achieved last year. It represents a very slight increase from the 0.9 per cent allocation from last year's budget, but is still way off track compared with the proposed targets. This does impact our emergency departments and this lack of investment in early intervention for mental health support contributes to the revolving door of hospitalisations and what health workers are talking about being a tsunami of presentations. This is in not just our regional hospitals but also Perth Children's Hospital.

The Minister for Mental Health came down to provide a glimmer of hope to some stakeholders in the community. I was very grateful that Minister Dawson took the time to come down. He provided a glimmer of hope for many stakeholders. I will single out Jon Eddy as being very passionate after his own personal experiences centred around the tragic loss of his son, Alex. He attended a meeting with the minister and Jon voiced the region's concerns regarding the Bunbury-centric services failing to penetrate the wider south west community. I quote Jon Eddy —

More hours and more staff must be allocated, there must be more support given to schools and staff on the ground to deal with this crisis. The whole approach to mental health education at schools seems to be fragmented and uncoordinated. We must consolidate our approach to mental health education to achieve real results.

Mr Eddy said many of the services on offer were underfunded, at risk of collapse and Federal supports such as headspace struggled to retain workers.

Sadly, there has been a number of youth suicides in the electorate and more support is desperately needed for our youth. Since the election of the McGowan government in 2017, we have seen cruel cuts to valuable mental health support including to the Lamp Inc program, which provided an important service in supporting the homeless to achieve independent living. We also saw cruel cuts to community organisation GP down south, which provided valuable support in our local schools for our children to learn resilience and achieve better mental health outcomes. It is very disappointing that, following grievances and questions raised in this place, and following eight reviews and much advocacy on behalf of the sector, our children and youth in the capes region of the Vasse electorate are left wanting.

What we also know about early intervention support is that it can change lives. I urge the government, and I will continue in this place to urge the government, to reconsider its approach to mental health prevention and, in particular, how it will support people's mental health in the future.

In relation to housing, although this government has made a commitment for 2 000 new homes, the member for Cottesloe and Leader of the Liberal Party pointed to the commitment of the former Liberal government for 6 000 social housing properties. He also talked about the importance of supporting the vulnerable. Since this government has come to office, it has sold off 1 300 social housing properties. That loss to the state housing system over the past four years has meant that about 17 000 people are now on the public housing waitlist. That number has increased since the moratorium on rental evictions ended in March.

The city of Busselton in my electorate is at crisis point. The residential vacancy rate is effectively zero. Of great concern is the number of unoccupied state-owned homes in Busselton that are in need of repair. Those homes have the capacity to support families, but have not received the maintenance that they require. In July, there were 27 unoccupied homes in Busselton. I have touched on the cuts to the provision of independent housing for support groups in 2017 when the McGowan government first came to office. Priority must be given to maintenance funding to ensure that current stock that is sitting empty is made available as a matter of urgency, together with the necessary support services for our vulnerable.

A local constituent in the city of Busselton contacted me to highlight her experience. She states—I am reading from my notes —

*I just wanted to make you aware of how terrible the housing crisis is in the south west at the moment. I had an ordinary house for rent for \$500 a week in Cowaramup last Monday; within 3 days I had around fifty enquires and 10 offers to rent unseen. They were long term local families as well as people calling from over east.*

*Nearly all of those people who applied had children and all the local people said they would be homeless if they didn't get the house. I know from anecdotal talk, it was true. There was nothing wrong with the applicants I followed up on; they had jobs and perfectly good rental histories. They worked in local businesses and had children at local schools. It was so distressing to have to tell so many people they didn't get the house, several cried—this is an absolute crisis. The pressure was added by people calling from Sydney offering me hundreds more than I asked for rent (which I did not take) ...*

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms L. METTAM:** It continues —

*The impact of this is terrible disruption and disadvantage for families and young people; the local economy and communities.*

*There is a desperate need for immediate, secure affordable housing in our community and the long health and economic term effects on people will be significant if it is not urgently addressed ...*

It goes on.

The housing crisis is also having an impact on our small businesses. That is feeding into the skills shortage. We are well aware of that, and it has been articulated by other members in this place as well. The housing shortage is having an impact on the ability of hospitality and tourism venues and farmers to attract workers, because workers cannot find a place to live. As a consequence, many small businesses have to restrict their opening hours. A popular business in Busselton, Burger Bones, has made the difficult decision to close during the September school holidays, simply because it is unable to obtain staff. This is a major issue. There is no support for tourism operators who are doing it tough. I will read a quote from the Burger Bones business, as reported on the website busseltonmail.com.au. It states —

While the school holidays will be one of the busiest trade times of the year, the fallout from COVID-19 has seen many businesses in the tourist town struggling to hire staff limiting their ability to trade.

Burger Bones owner Cooper said while their situation wasn't unique, losing a key staff member in the current economic climate forced them to make the call.

“It is the nature of our (WA's) bubble,” he said.

“Our chef, who we loved, had an opportunity to go up north and earn big bucks, so when we lost him we put out a call, ads and nothing.

“Everybody I know in the industry is facing the same problem, we are not a one-off, everybody is in the same boat.

“It is devastating ...

This is not just an issue for our hospitality venues and tourism businesses. As has been raised in this place, it is obviously also an issue for our agricultural sector. That is why it was so disappointing to hear the Premier's comments just last week when these issues were raised. I am not sure whether the Premier was unaware of or just does not care about the opportunities lost in not taking up the commonwealth's offer to support additional seasonal workers from overseas at the quarantine facility in the Northern Territory.

In my electorate, infrastructure for sporting facilities continues to be an area of high demand. I appreciate that this is an area that local governments must largely prioritise. Sporting facilities are certainly under pressure in our growing region. We now have 257 basketball teams, 47 more than last season, and they have just four competition courts on which to play. This year, they will have to look at imposing a bye simply because they do not have the space to cater for this growing population. That needs to be prioritised. I appreciate that, importantly, it needs to be prioritised at the local level by the local government. I would also like to see that backed up by a strong commitment from the McGowan government by investing in these sporting facilities. That fits in with mental health issues. It is concerning to hear that people may be turned away from playing a sport that they love, or are interested in and potentially may be engaged in, because there is not enough court space. That is simply unacceptable.

Turning now to education, I have touched on the fact that I welcome the STEM funding for classrooms at Busselton Senior High School and Cape Naturaliste College. We also have some outstanding needs for our primary schools. Cowaramup is one of the fastest growing areas in my electorate. Cowaramup Primary School was built in 1923. The school still has no permanent early childhood education facilities; instead, it has four transportable classrooms. Dunsborough Primary School is the only school in my district that does not have an enclosed undercover area. That is a safety hazard. The canteen is no longer fit for purpose and does not meet local health standards. During the election, the government pledged just \$25 000 for that school, leaving a balance of \$875 000 needed to address some of these issues. The P&C has resorted to asking parents for a levy to pay for the gap.

We welcome the funding for school psychologists, but we would like to know where they will be, and some more specifics. What we are hearing from our child health nurses is that they are no longer providing only bandaids and fixing grazes; they are dealing with some pretty heavy and distressing concerns and challenges raised by our students as well.

Of course, in the area of tourism—I have touched on this—we welcome the investment in, and commitment to fund, the Underwater Observatory. This will back up the federal government’s commitment of some time ago. It is concerning that a \$9.5 million commitment has been made at the expense of something else—that is, at the expense of the funding that was set aside for the Busselton Margaret River Airport terminal. It is concerning that significant investment in one thing comes at the expense of something else. I imagine, given the strong demand for fly-in fly-out flights from Busselton to the north, which will only continue to expand, Busselton airport will be in significant need of further investment. Given that the government has made every effort to cut corners on this important project, it is disappointing. The Busselton airport expansion project is a visionary project and was designed to cater for interstate flights going forward. It is disappointing that the government has tried to compromise that project since 2017. The former Minister for Tourism called the project a “pup”. The Minister for Regional Development looked at ways “to unpick the project”. Now we see that the government is ripping funds out of the terminal as well. Although I welcome the investment and commitment to support federal government funding for the Busselton Underwater Observatory project, I raise again why it needs to come at the cost of something else, particularly given that the two are interrelated. It is anticipated that a large underwater observatory will create a lot of interstate tourism interest and, hopefully, facilitate the way for interstate tourists to come to Busselton when it is safe to do so.

That is just a snapshot of the issues and concerns regarding my electorate. I am yet to give my contribution to the budget debate in my portfolio areas, but the budget has missed the opportunity to invest in one of the fastest growing regions in the state. This government is turning its back on some of our most vulnerable, and it is of great concern that the government is effectively turning its back on the youth of Busselton, Dunsborough, Yallingup and Cowaramup, and those in the capes region as well.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [5.13 pm]: I also rise to take this opportunity to support the very good motion moved by the member for Moore that this house condemns the Treasurer and Labor government for delivering a budget that abandons our communities while failing to rectify the ongoing health, housing and skills challenges that plague our state. I look forward to briefly talking about some of the issues that have affected my communities.

As the member for Vasse said, we need to give credit where it is due. There are some good points in this budget. We do not want to be too negative, but there are certainly some things that we want to point out as well. What I want is equity in the regions in health, education, housing, telecommunications and industries like forestry. To be honest, as a member of the opposition, the last few days have been depressing after seeing what this government is doing with its climate package of \$750-odd million. The government’s announcement that came out of nowhere will wipe out many communities that have been rebuilding so well for so long—the likes of Manjimup and Nannup. I am sure that the member for Warren–Blackwood is not enjoying it too much. She probably knows that her political future, unfortunately, will not be longer than three and a half years due to the fact that this government will basically wipe out the timber industry in her electorate. The government does not understand that land is needed to plant hundreds of thousands of trees. If the government expects that people will stump up farmland to plant softwood trees that might appear in 30 years’ time, I am sorry, it is sadly mistaken.

There was a fantastic article in *The West Australian* today by Jenna Clarke. She made plain what the issues are in the likes of Manjimup, explained what happened previously and how this sucks the morale out of communities. We have heard from the shire presidents of Manjimup, Nannup and other communities express their discontent. They are the sorts of things that this government has done in its budget. But at the same time, and running parallel to that,

it has thrown in this electoral reform scenario, which, as I said today, I still cannot believe has been the first order of business for this government when there are so many other pressing issues. The Minister for Health is working overtime because he has a health crisis on his hands. He also holds the portfolio of state development, jobs and trade and is responsible for Asian engagement. Asian communities are calling out for interaction with the Minister for State Development, Jobs and Trade. They look forward to the time when he can focus his attention away from health and on to other portfolios that are important for our state.

I still recall that when I first came in here in 2017 the Premier and Minister for Tourism would keep going on and on about how we needed to engage with China, India, Korea and the like. That was the theme every day; every day we heard about that. The government got rid of the portfolio of Asian engagement; it does not seem to feature very much now. I have heard from various people in those communities who are distraught about the lack of engagement with this government. I look forward to seeing some improvements made in that area. But, as I said, it is also about equity, health and education.

The Leader of the Opposition's budget reply, which was delivered yesterday, was interesting. She drew a lot of parallels to Labor governments of the early 2000s. What did we have then? We had a health crisis and a housing crisis. Lo and behold, electoral reform was also thrown in and they got rid of as many regional MPs as they could to try to centralise everything.

We always hear the Premier say, "You are trying to create a city versus regions divide." He and the Attorney General are doing a fantastic job to create a city versus regions divide, because electoral reform is exactly what we will be talking about when we take the wind out of the sails of regional constituents and regional members in the Legislative Council. They are out there working.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** Do you agree with Hon Steve Martin's office in West Perth?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** That was a Department of the Premier and Cabinet thing. I believe that that will change. My understanding is that he will be taking his office into the regions.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** Do you support his office in West Perth? Answer the question.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I will come back to the member later. He certainly gave me a hard time yesterday in question time, but I will take that on the chin.

I want to take the opportunity while the Minister for Health is in the chamber to congratulate him on some aspects of the budget.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** Now you've got my attention!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** It is important to recognise, especially the mental health side of it. That is a real focus. The minister identified it, as we all have, I think. I am really worried about that side of it with our schoolchildren, schoolteachers, health staff and the community in general. We have been fortunate in this state as far as lockdowns are concerned. I believe that we will see mental health issues rise in the eastern states. I am sure that most of the criminal activities that are happening out there at the moment are due to mental health issues. I heard on the radio this morning about Craig and his wife who were bashed unconscious at a train station by a group of youths, and the police—I would have said "unfortunately"—gave them a caution. The police are now relooking at that because it is the sort of thing that the community is starting to get pretty upset about. Certainly, I hope justice is done in that case.

I recognise what the Minister for Health is attempting to do. Others have said that this is a mess of the minister's own making. Maybe I will not be quite that harsh, but I think there was a little complacency over the last four and a half years. As I have said previously, funnily enough, the journalists did not identify that we had a health crisis on our hands until 14 March this year, the day after the election. I know that the Minister for Health is working overtime. He has had nurses and doctors on strike and many people from the Australian Medical Association and other places have come out strongly with their opinions about how to fix the health system. A couple of things that have brought this into focus for me include the case a few months ago when, rather unbelievably, fathers of newborn babies were allowed to be in the birthing suite but could not go down one floor to the ward where their wife and baby were. Somehow that was not okay. Some of the things that we have seen are rather bizarre. Unfortunately, we saw over the weekend that the three maternity hospitals had to direct people who had twins, and other patients, to other hospitals. Ambulances are being diverted from our regional hospitals because they do not have a doctor on call or there is a lack of staff. They are the types of issues in our regions that are affecting my constituents. One of the real concerns about elective surgeries is that a few months ago around 29 000 people were waiting for elective surgeries. I believe the figure is closer to 37 000 or something like that at the moment. The Minister for Health could probably correct me on that. I know that there certainly are a number of health issues in the elective surgery space that are starting to create issues for my constituents.

Another thing that I have heard anecdotally is that our graduate doctors are now carefully considering whether they would take the next step in their careers in the WA health system, because it seems to be low on their agenda. They are worried about the working conditions and what is in front of them in the WA health system. I know examples of people who are looking at going to the Northern Territory and the like. We have spent the last few years training

them in WA and it is a real shame that we are seeing them heading out the door into other fields. As I said, I also want to express my concern, as I did today, about our remote Indigenous communities. We certainly need to focus on strategies to vaccinate them. I know the minister is putting in place some serious efforts, and I think that is important. There are stories about religious fanatics and the like out there. This is a real target for the WA health system. Hopefully, that issue is being addressed.

Another area I want to focus on is labour shortages. We saw last week the Minister for Agriculture and Food throwing her hands up in the air and saying, “We can’t work it out.” We have a \$7 billion crop out there. I cannot tell members how many hours of overtime my staff and I have put in to respond to the farmers out there. They have workers in New Zealand, Victoria, Queensland and the like who are ready to come over, but this government cannot seem to find a way for them to do that. The farmers have quarantine places on their farms and there have been all sorts of windows of opportunities. They did that last harvest, but we cannot seem to do it this harvest. We have a \$7 billion crop out there. As I said last week, our farmers are feeling like second-class citizens. That is a real challenge. We have a massive crop out there. The federal government made Bladin Village available, so we had that opportunity. This government just needed to work through the issues, provide a quarantine solution and employ those people. The minister said it would cost \$20 million. The government seems to have just delivered a budget with a \$5.6 billion surplus. Aside from that, we also have \$2.4 billion in dividends from our government trading enterprises that have been held back because I think this government was too embarrassed to add that to the surplus and end up with an \$8 billion surplus.

The government has held the dividends back. Let us bring them into the mix next year. Including the Water Corporation and the like, the dividends will bring in \$400 million or \$500 million next year, and that might boost things when we need it. The government has a \$5.6 billion surplus, and potentially an \$8 billion surplus, according to my calculations, but the government cannot find \$20 million. That was the minister’s calculation. I reckon it would be \$5 million, \$6 million or \$8 million at the most. We cannot find that money to help the farmers in this state get their crop off. Time has nearly run out. As regional electorate staff and members, we are trying to help out our electorate, but we are really struggling. The ag minister is very wrapped up in carbon, hydrogen, climate change and regenerative ag. They are all commendable things, but right now the focus should be on getting the crop off. That is the number one priority. We can worry about the carbon footprint and those types of things after the harvest is in the silo. Once again, I urge the Minister for Agriculture and Food to have a good look at it and try to make sure that she gets her priorities right. Funnily enough, October, November and December every year is when we harvest our grain crop. As the member for Cottesloe knows—coming from Cranbrook, he is one of my constituents—every year we harvest our grain crop in October, November and December. I will tell members what: this year I think it will go through to January and February because, unfortunately, the ag minister cannot seem to find any workers to get out there and help. As I said, many of those farmers had those workers in during the COVID-19 situation last year. They have the solutions; they have cottages out the back of Grass Patch, Salmon Gums, Cranbrook, Gnowangerup, Kojonup and everywhere else. They are ringing me up and asking me to help them. They want to know what they can do. There is that side of it.

I have spoken about housing many times. There is the \$875 million package, but I am really concerned about Government Regional Officers’ Housing for those people working in education. We are struggling to get relief teachers. Schools in small communities like Nyabing and Cranbrook try to bring in a principal, deputy principal or teacher and they either end up living in a caravan or local motel or they do not even come to the community. Another issue is that principals and others are being selected who do not necessarily fit in with those communities. Housing is a real key to that. I know that the Minister for Housing has made a start on the social housing side of it, but I would like him to focus on the other side, which is GROH.

On the subject of mental health, the State School Teachers’ Union of WA has done many surveys and has identified that departmental staff and students are needing more and more resources in that space. The DETECT report that came out in the last year contained those numbers. That is a real issue that I think is coming up. It is similar to my worry about graduate doctors, as 25 per cent of our graduate teachers are leaving the sector by their fifth year. I believe that we are in front of an impending crisis in the education sector as well. The health crisis has already arrived. When the Minister for Health was in opposition back in 2016, he signalled that the situation in health was not good enough and that the level of ambulance ramping was no good. Ambulance ramping is now 530 per cent worse than it was when he complained about it in opposition! I believe that we have an impending crisis in the education sector as well, because 25 per cent of our graduate teachers are leaving the profession within five years of starting their teaching careers. I did not see anything in the budget to address that. That is a real worry for me.

I am glad that the school bus inquiry is happening. The minister said that it will be within budget parameters, so that does concern me. Nonetheless, it is a positive.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I want to mention royalties for regions. The Premier said today that royalties for regions is still there. It is still there, in \$2 billion of cross-subsidisation of water and electricity charges, along with \$463 million for orange school buses. Royalties for regions was meant to be expenditure over and above the normal state budget

to revitalise our regional communities. Unfortunately, this government has seen fit to use royalties for regions as a slush fund to cross-subsidise things that should come out of consolidated spending, such as water and electricity subsidies, funding for orange school buses and the like.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** You used it on buildings in the city, if I remember correctly.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** We used it to revitalise our regional economies. I know the member for Bunbury was a very good advocate for the south west region; he was certainly right in there amongst it! We revitalised all those economies, from one end of the state to the other. There were nine development commissions that all worked autonomously and obviously wanted the best for their regions. The royalties for regions program put money into every electorate. It did not matter whether it was a Labor electorate such as the Kimberley or the Pilbara, money was put out there. It was about equity; it was about what was best for that region. Unfortunately, we are really struggling to find too much in the state budget for some of our inland electorates—the electorates that are not on the coastal strip. I did see that \$14.8 million will be spent on cladding one of our iron ore sheds in the port of Esperance. That was pretty well the big feature in the electorate of Roe. It was on maintenance.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** It might be for the homeless, perhaps.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** Yes. A maintenance issue for the port of Esperance gets thrown in there as the big item for the electorate of Roe. From my perspective, that is disappointing.

The Minister for Housing was not in the chamber earlier when I congratulated him for his work on social housing. I would like to see a real focus on things like maintenance and getting those boarded-up houses back on track, because we have some big waiting lists in places like Narrogin and Esperance.

**Mr J.N. Carey:** But do you acknowledge that because of the state that some of those houses were left in by tenants, there is an opportunity cost between bringing them back into the system or saying it is too much?

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I acknowledge that. I assume that people who leave houses in that state are put at the bottom of the waiting list. It is not good enough to trash a house and leave it and then ask for the next one. That is not good enough. I assume that the Minister for Housing will be all over that stuff and will make sure that people who trash houses cannot expect to walk straight into another one. I said when the minister was out of the chamber that Government Regional Officers' Housing for police, teachers and the like is a real focus for me and regional communities. This is a real opportunity for the next phase of funding, after social housing, to really focus on GROH and get good-quality employees out into the regions. I will leave it at that for the moment.

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health)** [5.37 pm]: I want to reflect on the interjection from the member for Landsdale about the vibe, because we have not heard a coherent argument throughout the entire hour and 35 minutes that this motion has been debated so far. With the chamber's indulgence, I will refer to the motion as a way of perhaps guiding the debate, in complete contrast to what was undertaken by those on the other side. I want to speak briefly, because a number of people want to speak tonight.

Firstly, in relation to housing, because of the housing stimulus packages that the government put in place, we now have building approvals for 27 000 homes in Western Australia. That is going to have a significant impact on housing right across this state. The Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre predicts that 10 000 private rentals will come onto the market in the next 12 to 18 months. That will have a significant impact not only in the metropolitan area, but also right across the state as the stock available across the system expands. The Minister for Housing has an extensive program ready to go to expand our social housing package. The McGowan government will invest \$2.1 billion into social housing over the next four years, including \$870 million in new funds as part of the 2021–22 budget. Around 3 300 social houses will be funded. We are holding more than \$520 million to build new social housing homes from 2022–23. To give members an idea of what that will look like in the regions, they will see a record investment in social housing that will include funding to deliver 275 new homes by as early as mid-2022–23. They will also see \$80 million to deliver 150 new modular homes, which will be an immediate injection into the regional housing stock, and \$10 million for the spot purchase of 25 established homes. Through the careful guidance of the minister, we are seeing not only a long-term program to make sure that we build more sustainability in social housing, but also an immediate injection of funds to ensure that we get a refurbishment of existing stock, an injection of 150 modular homes and the spot purchase of 25 homes, which will have an immediate impact on the social housing stock. Significant work is going on in not only metropolitan but also regional Western Australia.

One thing that was not touched upon by the other side but that featured in its motion was the issue of skills in Western Australia. That is obviously a key aspect of our economy, which is straining at the bit at the moment because of the strong economic growth that we see in Western Australia—economic growth that is second only to China, if we took Western Australia as a sovereign nation, and sometimes we do—so it is not surprising that we are seeing pressures of skills and labour shortages. Of course, that is compounded by the COVID-19 situation. We have seen the McGowan government take some serious steps in relation to a skills strategy, including more than 130 government and industry leaders coming together at the skills summit in July, which was a resoundingly successful day.

We are also undertaking a really deliberate exercise to send the right signals to young people and mature members of the labour market to tell them to get their skills going and build up their skills and capabilities so that they can

take advantage of the great opportunities that our economic conditions present. We have slashed vocational education and training course fees by up to 72 per cent for 180 priority and in-demand courses. Leading up to the election, of course, we backed our commitment to TAFE by extending the fee-reduced courses and our fees freeze, pushing that out to 2025. We are sending a clear message to young people and those people looking to refresh their skills in Western Australia that this is the time to build their skills and their capacities so that they can participate in the great diversification of Western Australia's economy, making sure that we are making stuff in WA with Western Australians who are skilled and ready to go.

What has been the impact of that work? We have seen that enrolments in lower-fee courses are now up 27 per cent across all TAFE colleges. Across the board, there have been more than 78 000 students participating in publicly funded vocational education and training in Western Australia, and that is up almost 25 per cent on the 62 800 students recorded at the same time last year. Huge efforts are going into continuing to reskill Western Australians and build our labour base.

We have also undertaken a review of skills training and workforce development in Western Australia, which formed the basis of our \$229.2 million rebuilding of TAFE's plan, the largest single investment in TAFE in the state's history. We see a significant amount of investment to make sure that we continue to grow jobs for Western Australians into the future. Of course, we do not see this significant increase in the number of apprenticeships and traineeships only in the capital city. In regional Western Australia, we have seen a 24 per cent increase in the number of apprenticeships. That is a huge opportunity for Western Australians. In addition, there is a 41 per cent increase in the number of available traineeships, engaging young people right throughout the community. It is not surprising that we are seeing such a low level of unemployment in Western Australia. People are getting jobs that are available today, people are training in apprenticeships and traineeships to make sure that they can secure the jobs of the future, and we are creating those jobs of the future through strategic investments, particularly those undertaken by the Minister for Housing.

I turn briefly to the issues around health. We saw the opposition roam far and wide across the health policy landscape, but the member for Moore opened the batting with a significant pitch for issues in regional Western Australia. I will finalise my comments, because others wish to speak, on key investments in the 2021–22 budget in health in regional Western Australia. Those include \$1.8 million to employ a permanent GP to conduct cervical cancer screening and other women's primary health services at the Goldfields Women's Health Care Centre, \$2.2 million to establish a women's community health service in the Peel region, \$4.4 million to the WA Country Health Service to cover the shortfall in services in multipurpose sites, \$4.2 million to fund the operating costs of an adult public dental clinic at Narrogin Hospital, \$2.8 million to expand women's and communities' health services in the Kimberley, \$2 million for the WA Country Health Service to continue the regional renal support teams, \$2 million to undertake detailed planning and scoping of works for stage 2 of the redevelopment of Geraldton Health Campus, and \$785 000 for a 12-month women and newborn health service pilot program to be delivered by Karratha's Women's Place Inc.

Of course, this budget includes significant investment in infrastructure. I noticed that the Premier spoke today about the \$48.5 million investment into the new Meekatharra health service. We understand that that will not cover the full redevelopment of that hospital, but even one of the oldest hospitals in our system is getting love and attention from the McGowan government in the 2021–22 budget.

Mental health services are benefiting from our \$1.9 billion package in health and mental health care, which includes a significant number of services right across regional and metropolitan Western Australia. We know that if we can continue to fund mental health services in the community, we will get a better outcome for the community and a better outcome in people not needing to present to hospitals with acute conditions. That is why we need to make sure that we continue to invest in these things. Of course, we cannot invest in community mental health services unless we have the workforce to do it, which is the reason I am so proud of the investment in nurse graduates this year, which will see 2 000 nurse graduates come into our system, including specialised streams in mental health nursing. That is how we keep our young nurses interested in specialising in mental health care and increase our workforce and our opportunity to improve services.

This is a great budget that will benefit people throughout Western Australia. It is disappointing that those opposite cannot see the great work going into health, housing, and, of course, skills development in Western Australia, because it is all there in this budget for everyone to see.

**MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.48 pm]: I rise to make a very brief contribution to this debate. I listened to the contributions that were made by members of the opposition and I must say that I actually thought they were quite thoughtful contributions, although there was no unifying theme that tied their contributions together. If I consider each of the contributions as being from somebody who is genuinely seeking to represent their community, I make no criticism. I was a bit disappointed when the member for Roe went off on a bit of a tangent about one vote, one value, without addressing the merits of the argument, but we will leave that to one side and I will come back later to the problem of royalties for regions under the administration of the previous government. I was impressed, though, I must say, that he identified the pernicious influence of religious fanatics

and evangelical fundamentalists in discouraging vaccinations. I thought that was a very worthwhile contribution from the member for Roe. All the members of the opposition raised matters that we, as a Labor government, think are genuinely important. They raised issues about housing, homelessness, jobs and health. From my perspective, one of the most important issues they raised was mental health in schools.

I will come to each of those points in turn, but I want to start with the overall proposition that the McGowan government's budget abandons local communities. This budget has been presented in the context of a global pandemic and on the back of the way in which the community of Western Australia has been tackling COVID-19. Great credit goes to the Minister for Health and the Premier for the leadership they have provided during the COVID pandemic. When we talk about our local communities, the one thing that I would like to say is that we have not abandoned our local communities. We respect and admire our local communities for having joined us in tackling the COVID pandemic. There is no way that we would be in the situation that we are in today were it not for the fact that our local communities stepped up when called upon by the Premier and the Minister for Health. They were called on to take difficult decisions. They were called on to make personal sacrifices. Yet, acting collectively as a community, we worked to tackle COVID-19.

Rather than abandoning our local communities, we have worked hand in hand with those local communities to make sure that we are facing down the threat of the coronavirus pandemic. It has meant that our economy is now better placed than many other economies around the world. Two of the issues that are addressed in the motion, housing and skills, are, as the Minister for Health has just said, tied directly to the fact that our economy is outperforming many other economies. These are, if you will, good problems to have. These are a testament to the fact that the economy is going well and is standing up. We know that we need to tackle these problems, and other speakers will talk about what we are doing to tackle the issues in housing and health.

When I am out doorknocking and speaking to people in the community of Mount Lawley, they tell me that they want to remain safe from COVID. They want a government that continues with the cautious, deliberate and health-influenced evidence-based policy that has served us so well so far. They want access to vaccines. The response from the over 60s in just the last couple of days to our announcement that Pfizer will be available has been incredible. People in our communities want access to quality education. People in our communities want access to health. People in our communities have not been abandoned. They want a plan that will protect our environment. People in our communities know that they have not been abandoned when we formulate a plan for community safety. The lazy interpretation of this budget is that we have benefited simply from iron ore royalties. Members must bear in mind that our mining industry would not have continued to operate were it not for the fact that the government and the community have been handling the pandemic in the way that they have.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** But the mining industry in every single state stayed open.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** What about Brazil? How did Brazil go? The member is undermining our COVID response.

**Dr D.J. Honey:** Every other state kept its mining industry open.

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** The member is going to get himself into strife. The rivers of money that came from our iron ore mines have kept the Australian and Western Australian economies going. We would not be in anywhere near that position if we had allowed COVID into our state and it had infected our fly-in fly-out workforce and they were unable to continue their endeavours. The member was not here when I complemented him for his contribution. He is completely undermining what I said about the worthwhile way in which he contributed to this debate, notwithstanding that he lacked a coherent narrative. I want to be quick because there are other speakers and I am eating into their time with these ridiculous interjections.

This budget delivers those things. It delivers quality education. Look at the significant investment. Just in the seat of Mount Lawley, there is a \$15 million investment in Mount Lawley Senior High School. We are spending money on health. One of the great challenges of government is to identify the problems, issues and challenges that are coming and then to respond accordingly. One of the things that we have been able to do through studious and steady financial management is provide the capacity for us to fund the health system in the way it needs to be funded. A \$1.8 billion women's and babies' hospital could never have been paid for on the trajectory of debt and deficit that we were left by the Barnett government. I do not know what the Liberal Party stands for. In my five years in this place, I still do not know what it stands for, because it keeps chopping and changing. However, I do know what the Labor Party stands for.

One of the things I will return to in my speech on the budget later on is the way in which we have used our fiscal responsibility and discipline to provide us with the capacity to make the investments that are necessary to deliver all the things that the opposition members talked about—a healthy community, access to education, mental health in schools, a plan to protect our environment, and community safety. These are the things that this budget speaks to and that money is set aside to tackle. I acknowledge the contributions that members have made, but if they paid attention to what was going on and looked at what is contained in this budget, they would see that those matters are traversed and addressed, and the only reason we have the capacity to do that is our sound financial management up until this point.

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [5.55 pm]: Wow; what a breathtakingly ridiculous motion this is! I empathise with the minister because the opposition's capacity, as a team or as individuals, to prosecute a cohesive argument is severely lacking. The member for Cottesloe could not even manage his own contribution time. "Contribution" is probably a bit generous—speech.

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

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** He forgot to ask for his extension. It is not surprising that members opposite could not manage a budget when they cannot even manage a speech!

If we compare this budget with the last budget of the Liberal government in 2016–17, we find that it had a deficit of \$3.9 billion following a deficit of \$2 billion in the previous year, and debt was estimated to be \$27.9 billion in 2016–17 and rising to \$40.2 billion by June 2020. I think it is pretty rich of them to stand and attempt to claim that this budget, which delivers on health, housing and skills, has abandoned the community. This word "abandon" is interesting. I would like to bring to the member for Moore's attention how he has abandoned his community and how his community is calling him out on it. Recently, there was a grievance in this house about the Jurien Bay marina. Yes, the member for Moore did the grievance, but it was on the back of a lot of hard work by Hon Sandra Carr, MLC, with the Minister for Transport, to whom I am the parliamentary secretary. It was a lot of her hard work that brought this to the attention —

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** I am not taking interjections, thanks.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday):** Member for Moore!

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

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

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** It was on the back of the hard work of Hon Sandra Carr, who brought this to the attention of the minister and fought for it.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

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

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** The member for Moore's own community is calling him out. One comment on Facebook says —

Shane Love —

Their words, not mine —

put this in on the back of other peoples work, AFTER the budget was completed. Think about that for a second.

The member then bleated that it was his grievance.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** The member's grievance was submitted on the back of other people's work after the budget was completed.

**Mr R.S. Love** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** If the member wants to talk about people abandoning their community, I suggest that he does not need to look across the chamber; he needs to look in a mirror!

I want to be very quick because I know the member for Cockburn wants to make some very valid points on housing. I want to make a very quick comment about the funding that is going to Joondalup Health Campus. There is \$256 million for major redevelopments and expansions at Joondalup Health Campus, including a new mental health building. This is in direct response to the hounding that the poor Minister for Health has had to endure over the last four years from me, the member for Joondalup, the member for Burns Beach, the member for Landsdale and the member for Wanneroo.

**Mr R.H. Cook:** They're unrelenting!

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** Unrelenting hounding. In fact, I am sure that the member for Landsdale has been hounding ministers and shadow ministers for much longer than I have. We now have more members in our chamber to continue to hound the minister on this matter. We understand that we have a growing population in the northern suburbs and it needs to be serviced. Our minister has recognised this and he has put in place some funding for mental health, including 30 new acute mental health inpatient beds; 12 emergency department patient beds; a behavioural assessment urgent clinic; 90 inpatient beds; six new critical care beds; an increased number of parking bays, which I know is very close to our constituents' hearts as there is nowhere to park there; a new operating theatre; and a cardiac catheter laboratory. These things have come about because this government has listened to the members in this

house who represent the northern suburbs and their constituents. We have not abandoned our communities at all. We are the ones who are advocating for them. We are the ones who are getting the funding for them. We understand that it is partly funded by the commonwealth; none of us has ever claimed that it was not. This is not a funding stream that became apparent only in 2017. This is a funding stream that was available to members opposite when they were in government; they just chose not to use it. They did not have the capacity, will or talent to go to the federal government and request the funding.

I would like to give the member for Cockburn some time, but I have gotten a little bit upset and a little bit entrenched in this argument. I can prosecute a good argument with a really sound foundation, unlike the opposition. I want to make mention of the \$1.8 billion for the women's and babies' hospital. This is a compassionate response as we are listening to the community. I thank the minister for this. I know that it is a very touchy subject for some.

Debate adjourned, pursuant to standing orders.

*Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.00 pm*

## ELECTORAL REFORM — REPRESENTATION — REGIONS

### *Matter of Public Interest*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife):** Before the interruption at 4.00 pm, the house had completed the first vote on the matter of public interest. The Attorney General had moved an amendment to delete certain words and insert new words in the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Before 4.00 pm, the house had agreed to delete all words after “house” in the Leader of the Opposition’s motion. The question now is that the words proposed to be inserted be inserted.

### *Division*

Amendment (insertion of words) put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr D.A.E. Scaife) casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

#### Ayes (36)

Mr G. Baker	Mr T.J. Healy	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mr D.A.E. Scaife
Ms H.M. Beazley	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R.S. Stephens
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr D.J. Kelly	Ms L.A. Munday	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mrs L.M. O’Malley	Dr K. Stratton
Ms C.M. Collins	Dr J. Krishnan	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Ms D.G. D’Anna	Mr P. Lilburne	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr D.R. Michael	Ms A. Sanderson	Ms C.M. Rowe ( <i>Teller</i> )

#### Noes (4)

Ms M.J. Davies	Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam	Mr P.J. Rundle ( <i>Teller</i> )
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Amendment thus passed.

### *Motion, as Amended*

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members, the question is that the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

### *Division*

Question put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Mr D.A.E. Scaife) casting his vote with the ayes, with the following result —

#### Ayes (36)

Mr G. Baker	Mr T.J. Healy	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mr D.A.E. Scaife
Ms H.M. Beazley	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R.S. Stephens
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr D.J. Kelly	Ms L.A. Munday	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Ms E.J. Kelsbie	Mrs L.M. O’Malley	Dr K. Stratton
Ms C.M. Collins	Dr J. Krishnan	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Ms D.G. D’Anna	Mr P. Lilburne	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr M.J. Folkard	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Ms C.M. Tonkin
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms M.J. Hammat	Mr D.R. Michael	Ms A. Sanderson	Ms C.M. Rowe ( <i>Teller</i> )

#### Noes (4)

Ms M.J. Davies	Dr D.J. Honey	Ms L. Mettam	Mr P.J. Rundle ( <i>Teller</i> )
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Question thus passed.

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

*Report on Merits of Appointing an Aboriginal Commissioner for Children and Young People —  
Statement by Acting Speaker*

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr D.A.E. Scaife)** [7.07 pm]: I have received advice that the Joint Standing Committee on the Commissioner for Children and Young People will report on the merits of appointing an Aboriginal Commissioner for Children and Young People in Western Australia. The committee will draw together recommendations regarding the establishment of such a position made by previous committees and by other relevant bodies, and conclude with its own recommendations. The committee intends to report to Parliament by 18 November 2021.

**APPROPRIATION (RECURRENT 2021–22) BILL 2021  
APPROPRIATION (CAPITAL 2021–22) BILL 2021**

*Second Reading — Cognate Debate*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

**MRS L.A. MUNDAY (Dawesville)** [7.13 pm]: Following on in my contribution on the appropriation bills, the Dawesville electorate is big on sport and recreation and —

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Just hold on for a second. The member for Dawesville is on her feet, so if we could have some order so that Hansard and the chair can hear from the member.

**Mrs L.A. MUNDAY:** The Dawesville electorate is big on sport and recreation and local projects are a huge part of the lifestyle. I am proud to deliver several election commitments as the local member. Recently, I was excited to visit the South Mandurah Tennis Club to discuss plans for two new courts that will be funded through our \$150 000 election commitment.

This will service the club's growing members and expand programs for individuals with special needs to cater for people with all abilities.

Halls Head Football Club will receive \$150 000 to upgrade its change rooms to be inclusive of the women's teams. The Eastport canals marina boat jetty will receive \$135 000 to create disability access. The South Mandurah Football Club will get \$60 000 for a new coaches' box and entry gate, and kitchen and canteen upgrades.

Mandurah Wildlife Rescue does an incredible job working with local vets and volunteers to rehabilitate injured and sick native animals so they can be returned to the wild. It has been allocated \$20 000 towards much-needed equipment. Men of the Trees Peel Branch is a not for profit that grows and plants native plants in the Peel region. Its current site is not powered and it will receive \$20 000 to power its site so that it can house growing seedlings in fridges. Halls Head Croquet Club is using our \$16 000 funding commitment to fund the lighting of one of its courts so that evening matches can take place. The Cut Golf Course, which runs The Cut—a new not-for-profit child mentoring and leadership program that uses golf to work with young people—will use our funding of \$9 000 to help the club purchase equipment for its free junior golf program.

AWARE, a native animal welfare support group, will receive \$5 000 for cages for animals, and heat pads, feeding bottles and pouches for marsupials. The South Mandurah Cricket Club with its new hybrid pitch will put the government's \$4 600 commitment to fund a Fortress 360-degree mobile cricket cage for training. The Mandurah Districts Ladies Dart Association—which I am looking forward to playing—is based in Halls Head and it will use \$4 200 for seven new dartboards. Finally, the South Mandurah Football and Netball Club will receive \$2 500 to improve safety at the club for the community by having a defibrillator on site, something that I am very proud to deliver, being a former paramedic. The McGowan Labor government and I are happy to see many community groups receive this funding because it will help our community to thrive.

Another incredibly important commitment of the McGowan government is to ensure that our young people receive quality education. The 2021–22 state budget will continue to invest in WA's TAFE and training sector, with a \$198 million investment each year in regional WA over the next four years. This will include delivering the new \$16.87 million hospitality training centre and hair and beauty training facilities at Mandurah TAFE, and continue the Lower Fees, Local Skills initiative that has cut fees by up to 72 per cent for 180 TAFE courses, which has made them more affordable and, as a result, has seen an increase of 24 per cent in enrolments across the Peel region already this year. This will service many students in my rapidly growing electorate so they can access varied training across different industries. It will help people to gain employment within the region close to home, diversify our local economy and strengthen youth engagement.

Primary schools in the Dawesville electorate will also receive a boost from our election commitments. The schools that will benefit include Ocean Road Primary School, which will receive \$30 000 for a nature playground for years 1 and 2 students; Glencoe Primary School, which will receive \$30 000 to upgrade and build a new play space

for the senior students with age-appropriate equipment; Halls Head Primary School, which will receive \$30 000 to resurface the basketball courts, improving facilities at that local school; Falcon Primary School, which will receive \$25 000, with \$12 000 to be spent on a nature playground for the early years students and \$13 000 for an undercover area for the Kiss 'n' Ride drop-off area; South Halls Head Primary School, which will receive \$20 000 for playground upgrades; and Dudley Park Primary School, which will receive \$20 000 for a shade sail and new play equipment.

The McGowan Labor government recognises that investing in our children means investing in jobs for the future. Through our commitment to STEM disciplines in WA schools, we normalise these areas as well as diversify learning and drive leading innovation. Every student across the state will have access to education STEM and science programs. In regional areas, this means \$1.5 million will go to Halls Head College and \$1.5 million will go to Coodanup College to deliver new STEM classrooms. The McGowan Labor government's primary school science program is another excellent example of our commitment to young people's education. This will see a boost in science resources in public primary schools. The Dawesville primary schools to receive funding under this program include Falcon Primary School, Ocean Road Primary School and South Halls Head Primary School, each of which will receive \$25 000 for the refurbishment of or to create science labs.

As well as investing in courses and programs for students, as a registered psychologist, looking at a student's education from a holistic approach is something that I have been advocating for long before becoming a member of Parliament. After meeting and speaking with the schools in my electorate over the past few months, our investment in mental health care for young people in our school system has become more apparent now than ever. One thing that has been consistent is the students' need for more psychologists to help them deal with anxiety and stress, particularly after the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am glad to see the McGowan government will invest \$42.2 million over the next four years for more than 100 additional psychologists in public and non-government WA schools, to provide support for students and promote positive mental health.

My electorate is over an hour and a half away from Perth in a car, not a plane, so improving access to and the affordability of transport systems has been a huge issue for a long time. As such, one of the most popular election commitments we campaigned for in the electorate of Dawesville was to reduce the cost of public transport by capping fares of all Metronet train and bus journeys at the cost of a two-zone ticket. Under the cheaper fares plan, the maximum price a passenger will pay on a two-zone ticket is \$3.90. That will mean a saving of over \$3 000 a year. This is the outcome of a \$60.6 million investment by the Labor government and it has been well received. We have had many emails from people eager to know when the changes will come and will take effect. I look toward to easing the cost-of-living pressure for the people in the electorate of Dawesville from 1 January 2022. That will build on our other commitments to help travel and congestion in the area, including \$14.5 million in the 2021–22 budget, and \$32.1 million overall, to build the new multistorey carpark at the Mandurah train station. That is already underway.

The Mandurah Estuary Bridge duplication is another incredibly important infrastructure project, with an investment of \$55 million from the state government and \$55 million from the feds to upgrade our roads and infrastructure. This will help ease congestion heading into the Mandurah area. To add to this, I have previously put forward a grievance to the Minister for Transport for an all-abilities fishing platform to be considered as part of the design. This will increase opportunities for recreational sporting activities, for people of all abilities, as a key part of the lifestyle enjoyed by the constituents of Dawesville. I thank Minister Saffioti for signing off on this new fishing platform for us.

Our government is also focused on delivering community safety initiatives. As of last month, the McGowan government reinstated the \$400 safety and security rebate for WA seniors as part of its \$12 million program in the state budget. As I have said previously, Dawesville has an older demographic than the average, with about 45 per cent of my electorate aged over 65 years. This is why the safety and security rebate is incredibly important for my community. This will give seniors peace of mind in their home and act as an effective deterrent. My electorate office has been receiving multiple calls and, according to my staff, people have been lining up all day wanting to know more about the rebate.

Another community safety issue that many residents have raised with me is targeting hooning and antisocial behaviour in Dawesville. After meeting and having discussions with local constituents, it is clear how important this is to local residents and how it is causing disruption and distress. The member for Mandurah and I have listened to and heard this, and we have made a joint commitment to provide \$200 000 towards covert cameras to target hoon drivers in the Peel region.

All of this builds on the government's commitment to provide existing community safety measures within WA. This is seen through the investment of \$1.78 billion for the WA Police Force. The ongoing recruitment drive is one of the largest of its kind of any of the states and will give WA the highest number of officers per person out of all the states. This includes an investment of \$2 million for upgrades to Mandurah Police Station. Through the WA recovery plan, we can see the McGowan government's commitment to implementing community safety measures.

Dawesville is a coastal area in the southwest region where residents and tourists alike enjoy our beaches, estuary views and recreational activities such as fishing and boating. However, these are becoming increasingly fragile areas and it has been great to see funding allocated from our government to protect and preserve these areas. The McGowan government is committed to protecting WA's coastline and has allocated an additional \$18.5 million in

the state budget to a program to manage the impacts of coastal erosion over the next five years. The program now has total funding of \$33.5 million over the next five years and will help to address key issues outlined in the 2019 *Assessment of coastal erosion hotspots in Western Australia*, of which there are three in Dawesville. A number of dedicated residents in my electorate have already raised with me their concerns about coastal erosion in the Dawesville area.

In addition, over the next few years this Labor government will make a committed effort to ensure that the Peel region thrives both economically and recreationally in the most environmentally responsible way. I am proud to be part of a massive joint election commitment with the members for Murray–Wellington and Mandurah to deliver funding of \$2 million for the Peel–Yalgorup wetland trails and another \$2 million for Yalgorup National Park. These amazing unutilised natural resources are right on our doorstep. The \$2 million contribution to the wetlands trail will go towards improving launch infrastructure for those of all abilities, enhancing the thrombolite experience and the shared-use trail. The \$2 million funding for Yalgorup National Park will activate recreation and ecotourism, while also providing better access to the area. I am proud to be a part of the Peel Labor team that is making these investments in our area, which will be enjoyed by generations to come.

I am very proud of the 2021–22 state budget delivered by the McGowan Labor government and the government’s commitment to invest in the Peel region, and particularly the growing electorate of Dawesville. It is clear that the McGowan government has not forgotten about regional areas in this budget and has worked to ensure that we have the same level of access to, affordability and availability of, service delivery. I again thank the Premier; Treasurer for his investments in the state budget for the people who live in Dawesville. I commend the bills to the house.

**MS C.M. TONKIN (Churchlands)** [7.26 pm]: It is with enormous pride that I rise in support of the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021 as a member of this government. It is with particular pride that I do so in the presence of my grandchildren Felix, Andie and Louis. This is a budget not only for now but also for their future and the future of all our children and grandchildren. To its core, this is a Labor budget that invests in resilience for our people, communities, economy and environment. It is a budget that I believe is great for my electorate of Churchlands.

The opportunity to deliver this budget has not happened by accident or good luck. It has been enabled by prudent financial management, which has been the hallmark of the McGowan Labor government since it was first elected in 2017. The budget is also enabled by the business, investor and consumer confidence that our effective, consistent and rational approach to managing the COVID-19 pandemic has engendered. This confidence has driven economic activity that has resulted in increased revenue for the state. This revenue has enabled the paying down of state debt and the capacity to invest for the future.

For more than 25 years, my career in public procurement both in Australia and internationally focused on achieving the best value for money from government spending. I am passionate about getting the most out of every cent that is spent. That has not changed now that I am the member for Churchlands. It is in my DNA. Getting the best value for money is not just about cost, quality and managing risk; it is about expenditure that is crafted to deliver the government’s key social, economic and environmental policies. This budget delivers these in spades. It is about improving the quality of life for all Western Australians. It is about keeping us safe, healthy and economically strong in the face of the COVID pandemic. It is about investing in health and mental health services, supports and facilities. It is about improving the quality of public educational opportunities and facilities and providing affordable access to training to address current skills shortages and to provide skills for the jobs of the future. It is about creating jobs and diversifying the economy through investment in future industries and local value-adding and manufacture. It is about providing key productive infrastructure to facilitate the development of creative businesses and industries, and it is about developing our digital capabilities and systems.

It is also about reducing carbon in our atmosphere; managing the increasing impact of frequent extreme weather events; transitioning to renewables, including solar, wind, and green hydrogen; and about protecting our native forests, diverse native vegetation and our fragile coastline. It is about sequestering carbon in plantation softwoods and other land and sea-based carbon sinks, as well as geocarbon sequestration. It is about futureproofing our water supply in the face of a drying climate.

It is about respecting and valuing the culture, knowledge and contributions of the traditional owners of the land on which we live, and it is about limiting cost-of-living pressures and increasing concessions for vulnerable and older members of our community. It is about enhancing resilience and wellbeing, and investing in social housing. It is about respecting, valuing and supporting those who have served the public as police, teachers, nurses, doctors and public servants. These are all policies that reflect Labor values—the very best value for money for all.

What does this mean for the people of Churchlands? Prior to my election, I listened to members of my community and identified a number of priorities that I would pursue, with their support and engagement. We have formed five working groups to address wetland and bush habitats; the quality of life of ageing members of our community, of which I am one; access to preventive mental health services and support; leveraging technological innovation and local manufacturing to address climate change and create green jobs; and to address traffic congestion and road safety, especially around our schools.

How does this budget address these priorities and deliver for the people of Churchlands? Our wetlands and bush habitat working group members seek to protect and enhance our magnificent wetlands, bush habitats and fragile coastal dunes. These are people who value our natural environment and understand the implications of the impacts of climate change. They have warmly welcomed the government's leadership through its \$750 million climate action fund. The government's commitment to ending logging in native forests has also been warmly received in our community, as has the allocation of funds to address coastal erosion hotspots.

This budget includes a local commitment of \$700 000 to improve the quality of water drainage entering Lake Monger, or Galup. This will be achieved by redesigning, rehabilitating, decontaminating and revegetating the swales at the eastern end of Galup, which take runoff from the freeway and water drainage from the Towns of Vincent and Cambridge and the City of Stirling. This is also very important because the overflow from Lake Monger drains into the Swan River.

There is also a commitment of \$300 000 to revegetate Perry Lakes when water flows into these lakes from the redirected Herdsman main drain, under a Town of Cambridge project. Our green jobs working group focuses on technological innovations and local manufacturing based on three themes: electrify everything, green steel and aluminium, and carbon sequestration. The budget addresses our group's aspirations because it includes provisions for electric vehicle charging around the state; development of a green hydrogen industry; a substantial investment in renewable energy projects, including standalone power systems and wind turbine manufacturing; and investments in innovation and future industries. We have some amazing innovators in our electorate, so watch this space!

The budget also invests in the technological innovators of the future by providing a boost to STEM education in our local schools, including funding to convert a classroom into a science lab at Churchlands, Wembley Downs and Wembley Primary Schools; funding for science equipment grants at Churchlands, Doubleview, Floreat Park, Kapinara, Wembley Downs and Wembley Primary Schools; and an amazing \$3.5 million commitment to build two new STEM classes at Churchlands Senior High School. Technological innovators are also developed through exposure to nature. The funding of a much-needed nature playground and associated outdoor classroom at Lake Monger Primary School may well be the making of some future biological scientists.

Mental health issues have come to the fore lately because of the uncertainties and stresses associated with the pandemic that have given rise to a lot of anxiety in our community. At the same time, as a community, we are much more willing to acknowledge and discuss our mental health and to seek help. Therefore, the additional \$495 million in this budget allocated to mental health services and support is very much welcomed by our preventive mental health working group members and by the wider Churchlands community. Our working group has been supporting a fourth year Curtin social work student who has been placed in my office. She has produced a directory of local preventive mental health services and supports. We will launch the directory during Mental Health Week. We are very grateful for the work of this student and to Curtin University for this collaboration. We recently sponsored an accredited mental health first aid course with the participation of 16 members of our community, the majority of whom are teachers and teaching assistants. With the support of our social work student, we are now consulting the schools in our area to see what else we can be doing to support preventive mental health for young people.

One of the best ways to de-stress is to socialise in the community. The Leederville Sporting Club, alias "The Bowlo", has reinvented itself as a vibrant social hub for the 30 to 40-somethings of the West Leederville and Wembley areas. It even welcomes 60-plus-somethings like me! It is a joy to pop down to the Bowlo at the weekend, and I have been roped into sponsoring its weekly meat tray raffle for January and February next year. It is an old tradition that has come into its own for a new generation. The club membership now stands at over 600, up from 100 about 18 months ago. This budget delivers a local commitment to upgrade the facilities at the club, including features to make it safer and more friendly for children and people with disabilities. The Bowlo is definitely the place to be. Stress associated with insecure housing is an issue that affects mental health, and insecure housing is an issue that affects people in my community. This stress will be alleviated by a record \$875 million investment to deliver more housing properties throughout Western Australia, representing the single largest one-off funding injection for social housing in the state's history. It will take the total housing investment over the next four years to more than \$2.1 billion. Kids, that is a very large number—lots of zeros on that—to fund around 3 300 social houses.

Our working group, which focuses on improving the quality of life of older people in the Churchlands community, has been identifying community resources for older people with the help of our parliamentary research program student. During October, we will host four consultations in different parts of the electorate to hear what older people say about factors that affect their quality of life. I am personally inviting each of the 9 000-plus older members of our community to attend and have their say. About 30 per cent of the people of Churchlands are over 60 years of age and many of them will be eligible to benefit from the \$12 million allocated for the safety and security rebate delivered in this budget. This budget will allow Seniors Card holders to claim up to \$400 per household towards the purchase of eligible home security equipment. This will reinstate a program that was abolished in 2015 by the then Liberal-National government.

Traffic congestion and road safety are vexed issues in the Churchlands electorate. Many of these issues arise at the boundaries of the two councils that cover the electorate and have implications for Main Roads WA and involve traffic

associated with schools in the area. Our traffic working group, members, has come together to share ideas about how these issues may be resolved. These are complicated matters to address and their resolution will take time. In the meantime, one way of reducing congestion and road safety problems around our schools is to encourage children to ride bicycles. Wembley Downs Primary School has been participating in the Your Move program and has significantly increased the number of students riding to school each day. The member for Nedlands and I have been very impressed with this outcome, which is why we are encouraging primary schools in our electorates to participate in Your Move. Encouraging cycling not only can lead to reducing traffic congestion and promoting safety by reducing the number of cars on the road, but also it is a very healthy endeavour. That is why I am pleased that this budget includes \$265 million over the next four years for upgrading cycling and pedestrian infrastructure and \$64 million for the principal shared path network. After I break in my shiny new knee replacements early next year, I will be dusting off my United Nations–blue Danish shopping bike to cycle around my electorate. I like to practise what I preach.

In conclusion, I would like to say that this great Labor budget is a great budget for everyone in this state and will deliver handsomely for the people of Churchlands. Felix, Andie and Louis, this one is for you.

**MS H.M. BEAZLEY (Victoria Park)** [7.44 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to rise today to speak to the McGowan government's 2021–22 state budget, the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021. I take this opportunity to congratulate the Premier on delivering his first budget as Treasurer and for that budget reflecting exactly what Labor stands for—developing and delivering quality education, world-class health care and local jobs.

I stand here proud to be a member of the McGowan government and proud of our economic governance during a once-in-a-lifetime global pandemic—or at least I hope it is once in a lifetime! At a time when economies around the world are faltering due to COVID-19, our financial discipline and investment in stimulus packages have produced growth of 5.7 per cent in our domestic state economy, eclipsing that of the other states and Australia as a whole. Indeed, the McGowan government's response to COVID is one of the most successful models deployed by nation states across the world and our upwards trajectory is forecast to continue, with growth of 3.5 per cent predicted in the 2021–22 financial year. At the same time, the McGowan government has reduced net debt to \$31.2 billion, the third drop in three years, and has a projected surplus of \$2.8 billion for this financial year. When we consider the events occurring around the world and the ruin that COVID has wrought on some of the world's largest economies, these numbers are nothing short of remarkable. Our strong economic position was not achieved by penny-pinching and conservatism. It was achieved through decisive action at a critical time and the enactment of our Labor values by investing in our local businesses and communities to ensure that they had the capacity to withstand the pressures that the flailing global economy, state lockdowns and border restrictions inflicted.

Anyone who thinks of my electorate of Victoria Park will likely think of its bustling cafe and retail strip along Albany Highway, artistry and other hubs. As a former small business owner who weathered the global financial crisis, I understand the challenges and stress of meeting business overheads in an unfriendly and uncertain economic environment, while protecting the jobs of valued staff. There is no doubt that the restaurant owners, clothing retailers, small bars, bookshops, gift stores and other diverse local businesses that occupy my electorate were worried about the future of their business, staff and families in the face of the COVID pandemic. The McGowan government protected both small businesses and their employees' jobs with the implementation of safety nets in the form of lockdown, payroll and rent assistance grants—an investment of \$4.4 billion to date. I know how important these grants were to the livelihoods of so many of my constituents and I commend the Treasurer, the Minister for Small Business and the Minister for Finance for the inclusion of a further \$1 billion in this budget to support businesses and the community.

Incredibly, at a time when many economies are shrinking and work is drying up, our 2021–22 state budget predicts that an additional 34 000 jobs will be created in our state this year, many through the initiatives implemented by the McGowan government's economic recovery plan, which this budget continues to fulfil. Job vacancies are at the highest level they have been in years. This is a reflection of our growing economy and the endurance of our mining sector, but they also speak to an area of priority of the McGowan government—addressing skills shortages and becoming a manufacturing economy. The closure of Australia's borders to international visitors, as well as the ongoing restrictions at our state's borders and on interstate travel, has shown us all how critical local manufacturing and production is to our economy. Now more than ever we need skilled Western Australian workers so that we can use our strong resources sector to drive local manufacturing and production in areas like technology, agriculture, defence and renewable energy.

My electorate is lucky to be home to both Curtin University and South Metropolitan TAFE, and I know that many of those TAFE students will welcome this budget's \$121 million investment in training initiatives. This includes \$32 million in funding to subsidise the wages of 300 apprentices and trainees, \$9.9 million to support TAFE college lecturer industry placements, \$25 million for state-of-the-art TAFE equipment and \$32.4 million to get 300 new building and construction apprentices and trainees working on state government projects. Since coming to government in 2017, the McGowan government has slashed TAFE fees. We have also created 8 000 new vocational education and training places in schools, reflecting a spend of almost \$30 million. The McGowan government listens and

responds to what is needed in this space. Recently, we convened a skills summit of 150 business and industry organisers, union and non-profit leaders and much of the cabinet to determine the challenges and opportunities ahead, and we are pursuing them.

In my inaugural speech as the newly elected member for Victoria Park, I spoke about my focus on education and how coming from a family of teachers and spending a decade working in education has meant that I very clearly understand the power that education has to address intergenerational poverty. I am proud to be a member of a government that regards education as a top priority. There is increased funding for education in this budget, with \$6 billion set aside for education.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a stressful time for all of us and our kids. In July, there was the largest study of school student wellbeing ever undertaken in Australia. The DETECT schools study, a partnership between the Telethon Kids Institute and the state government, found that 40 per cent of secondary students were experiencing moderate to severe levels of stress. In response, our Labor government has committed \$104 million to provide additional psychologists in public and private schools. We are investing in our schools by continuing to deliver our government's \$200 million schools maintenance blitz, with a further boost of \$26.1 million. In my electorate alone, over \$2 million of upgrades are underway at my local schools.

This budget will also deliver \$750 000 in funding to Kent Street Senior High School to upgrade classrooms to deliver STEM education, and \$175 000 will be delivered to six local primary schools in Victoria Park to fund STEM science labs and equipment grants. This funding will go to my old school, East Victoria Park Primary School, as well as Victoria Park Primary School, Lathlain Primary School, Millen Primary School, Wilson Primary School and the East Victoria Park Education Support Centre. This is part of our Labor government's investment of \$486 million in funding to upgrade school infrastructure for STEM classes. We will also deliver commitments I made to schools in the 2021 state election campaign, including new basketball courts for Wilson Primary School at a cost of \$150 000 and East Victoria Park Primary School at a cost of \$160 000.

I am proud that the McGowan government is a government that listens and acts. In response to calls from the community for more nurses, this budget provides funding for 500 new nurses and 100 new doctors to be employed at our public hospitals, with the creation of 332 new beds across WA, including 109 mental health beds. We have boosted health and mental health funding by a massive \$1.9 billion to meet unprecedented demands on our services.

In my role as member for Victoria Park, I have many conversations with members of my community about the global pandemic, in which some express fear about contracting the virus and others express fear that their own illnesses or health may suffer as hospitals potentially become clogged with COVID patients. I well understand what it is like to be frightened for your future health care, having suffered with a rare blood disorder in my 20s. At one stage, my prognosis was very grim, and it was the world-class research and care provided by our public hospitals that helped me overcome my illness and regain my life. Our public health system is critical to not only the health of individuals, but also our state as a whole.

The McGowan government has prevented a scenario in which our health system drowns under the weight of the pandemic by imposing strict border restrictions and strategic lockdowns. As someone whose life was saved by our public healthcare system, I am delighted that Labor's budget is delivering a \$100 million emergency department support package. I also note the \$1.8 billion that has been committed to the new women's and babies' hospital at Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre. With a strong interest in maternal health and child development, I have been working closely with #ngalaraisinghappiness in my electorate. I congratulate the Treasurer and the Minister for Health for their commitment in this sphere.

As well as my own health issues, members of my immediate family and one of my staff members live with disability. This has made me keenly aware on a daily basis of the challenges that people with disability face in their lives. The McGowan Labor government is committed to addressing the inequalities that arise from this. In my first year as a local member in this government, I was delighted to facilitate more than \$315 000 to Sussex Street Community Law Services Inc in East Victoria Park towards its disability justice advocacy service. Sussex Street is among eight organisations that will share in \$3.44 million to deliver advocacy services that support people with disability in Western Australia. As part of the McGowan Labor government, I was also proud to deliver a \$70 000 election commitment to the WA Disabled Water Ski Club in my electorate to fund a new accessible waterski boat. An inclusive society is one that goes beyond providing safety nets for people living with disability; it is about creating opportunities so that they can enjoy the same civic activities as those of us who do not live with disability.

One of the highlights so far in my brief time as a local member was helping to announce funding of \$5 million to Guide Dogs WA. Members may not realise that all guide dogs in Western Australia are bred interstate. This funding will allow for a world-class breeding program here at home, as well as an accredited guide dog training course, only the second of its kind in our country. I am incredibly proud of our support for Guide Dogs WA, which is based in my electorate of Victoria Park.

Undoubtedly, one of the key planks of the Labor government's economic recovery plan is our \$30 billion investment in infrastructure, to be delivered over the next four years. With the state's borders closed, this will be

a major stimulus to our local economy and workforce and it will add to the 107 000 jobs that have been created since we came to power in 2017. This has been made possible by careful fiscal management. One of the government's biggest infrastructure projects is the delivery of Metronet, our world-class public rail network. This state budget includes a \$5.7 billion investment in Metronet projects. Victoria Park, like many communities across the state, will directly benefit from this investment. The oldest train line in our state, the Armadale line, runs through the centre of my electorate and provides a direct conduit for my constituents to travel to Perth city and all over the metro area. The funding for the removal of three level crossings in my electorate, and two nearby in the electorate of Cannington, which are funded in this budget, will be welcomed by my constituents. The local level crossings are those at Mint Street, Oats Street and Welshpool Road. Department of Transport figures reveal that the boom gates at the Mint Street level crossing alone are down, on average, for six hours a day. Raising the rail and removing the level crossing will remove this inconvenience and the accompanying traffic congestion and provide world-class transport infrastructure that allows for the creation of new public space. The Metronet level crossing removal project represents an enormous investment in Victoria Park. I am committed to ensuring that the project develops in consultation with the people of my electorate and serves their needs in a way that enhances their amenity.

My constituents will also welcome Labor's \$136 million investment in the Leach Highway–Welshpool Road interchange. This intersection is one of Perth's most congested and is ranked as the worst intersection for crash frequency across the entire state. The project will deliver a new bridge, taking Leach Highway over Welshpool Road to create a grade separation interchange, in addition to a new roundabout at the current Leach Highway–Welshpool Road intersection. Construction of this new intersection is already underway.

One of the great by-products of delivering infrastructure upgrades is our commitment to local content. The Leach Highway–Welshpool Road interchange is being delivered by the Leach Welshpool Alliance, a local Western Australian contractor. As part of the contract, this alliance has spent almost \$4 million with businesses within a 20-kilometre radius of the project, including the fantastic Aboriginal-owned and run Jatu Clothing and PPE in Carlisle in my electorate. The Leach Highway–Welshpool Road intersection is part of an \$11.7 billion spend in this year's budget on major road projects, upgrades and maintenance.

Although my constituents will no doubt be overjoyed by the spending on our local roads and public transport, Victoria Park is an electorate that has embraced cycling, with shared cycle paths such as the Rutland Avenue project funded by local and state governments. There has therefore been a lot of local interest in our Labor government's new \$49.8 million Causeway pedestrian and cyclist bridge, which will connect Victoria Park to the Perth CBD. The existing Causeway was built in 1952 and has been widely recognised as posing a hazard to the safety of cyclists and pedestrians. The new bridge will be six metres wide, with dedicated pedestrian and cycle lanes, and completely separates these path users from vehicle traffic.

A sign of Western Australia's economic strength is the high demand and growth we are experiencing in the housing sector. Building approvals rose by 88.7 per cent in the last financial year, supported by our government's building bonus. We have seen high demand and growth in the housing sector. In my own electorate, the suburb of St James has been one of the top five suburbs in the Perth metro region for growth year on year, with 10 per cent growth over the last year.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms H.M. BEAZLEY:** Although this is great news for many, increasing house prices can impact upon housing affordability, as we all know, and that affects our most vulnerable citizens. In response, our McGowan government has invested \$884 million in the social housing economic recovery package, lifting the total McGowan government investment in social housing and initiatives to address homelessness to \$2.5 billion over four years.

New initiatives that will impact upon Victoria Park include a \$750 million social housing investment fund and \$6 million for a local government partnership fund for homelessness to partner and co-fund homelessness initiatives tailored to local government areas' needs. I have a number of passionate, committed housing providers in my area that I have been working with closely to address housing affordability. I was particularly delighted to fulfil my election commitment of \$60 000 to Connect Victoria Park. Connect is a wonderful organisation that provides social programs and low-cost housing to local seniors. This funding will be used to install and upgrade energy efficiency measures in its properties, including LED lighting, solar and battery storage. Connect estimates that this investment will save it approximately \$100 000 over the next decade alone.

Our Victoria Park community is serviced by both Kensington and Cannington Police Stations, and I commend the officers at both stations for their dedication and commitment to the safety and security of our community. I am pleased to be part of a government that supports our frontline workers, including police. This support includes a record investment in the 2021–22 state budget, which includes funding for modern equipment, operational capabilities and new and upgraded police stations to accommodate hundreds of new officers. Police will receive an increased operating budget of over \$1.6 billion in 2021–22, plus a further \$83.6 million capital investment for the refurbishment and expansion of police stations to accommodate some of the additional 950 police officers being delivered by our government.

As part of this budget, we have also fully funded, once again, the \$400 rebate to assist WA Seniors Card holders with the purchase and installation of home security equipment. This \$12 million program can cover anything from home alarm and CCTV systems to mains-powered smoke alarms. It is an incredibly popular initiative with seniors in my community and I was very pleased to let them know that it has been funded once again, after being cut by the previous Liberal–National government.

As the member for Victoria Park, I am proud that a priority for my community is the preservation and enhancement of our local and global natural environment, and climate action. As well as being a part of a government that appointed our state's first Minister for Climate Action, we are also investing in climate action in this budget. Our new \$750 million climate action fund will help transition Western Australia to net zero emissions by 2050. This includes \$350 million to expand the softwood plantation estate to store carbon and support jobs and to protect our south west native forests from logging from 2024.

The climate action fund also includes \$206 million for renewable energy initiatives to fuel WA's future, a \$118 million fund to invest in future climate-related initiatives, \$50 million to drive new renewable hydrogen initiatives and much more. The McGowan government's \$750 million climate action fund is in addition to our \$21 million electric vehicle fund. As part of our electric vehicle action plan, WA will be home to the longest electric highway in Australia. This network will include up to 90 fast-charging stations and backup chargers at 45 different locations, connecting Perth and regional WA, stretching north to Kununurra, south to Esperance and east to Kalgoorlie.

If members know Victoria Park, they will know it as the historic home of car yards. When I was a kid, it felt like I could not walk a hundred metres in Vic Park without coming across a car yard. I can still remember the car yard ads that rang out on my Mum's old Corona's radio, "Just over the Causeway in Victoria Park." Many of those car yards are still in Vic Park today, and they now sell electric vehicles. Having the longest electric highway in Australia—due to be fully operational by early 2024—helps not only our environment, but also local businesses in my community. Right now, one of the inhibitors to electric vehicle sales is the availability of charging stations. Our government has addressed that. Now we just need the federal government to back us in, and catch up with the US and Europe, by putting in place the incentives needed for manufacturers to supply more electric cars to our market.

I have spoken comprehensively about how the McGowan government's 2021–22 state budget positively affects my community in Victoria Park. I will finish on this note of thanks. Victoria Park has one of the highest, if not the highest, proportion of public servants living within our boundaries. I am very pleased to be able to assure them that, due to our government's disciplined fiscal management and superior COVID response and their own fantastic commitment to the strength of our state, we have brought forward the state's wages policy review. This review was scheduled for 2023. As part of this budget process, the wages policy review started this week. I look forward to the McGowan government continuing to deliver for the workers of our state.

Madam Acting Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to commend the 2021–22 state budget to the house.

**MRS J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI (Kingsley — Parliamentary Secretary)** [8.07 pm]: Madam Acting Speaker, I promise to behave this time.

I rise to make a contribution to the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021. I would like to start with a number of election commitments that were made in my electorate. Those members who were here in 2017 will know that my speech on the budget demonstrated that the prior eight years for the Kingsley electorate was one of famine, shall we say, because the electorate was delivered nothing. In fact, I went through the previous four budgets prior to the McGowan government's election in 2017 and found that not one dollar had been spent in the electorate on any kind of upgrade or infrastructure. I am very happy to tell members that that has changed dramatically. Through a number of community campaigns, we were able to ensure that there was a lot of investment in the electorate.

I will start with Greenwood College. When I was first elected, Greenwood College invited me to be on the school board, so of course I said yes. Within five minutes of the first meeting starting, I realised why I was there. There had been no investment in Greenwood College in about 40 years. Although the teaching standards are exemplary, the actual buildings were falling down around the students and teachers, so we started a campaign to get a new gymnasium. Greenwood College is a volleyball specialist school, so that would lend itself to the school having a state-of-the-art gymnasium, but, unfortunately, the gymnasium at Greenwood College is not fit for purpose. I will use the wrong terminology because I am not a volleyball player, but when they spike the ball, it gets stuck in the roof because the roof is too low. It is not fit for purpose. They cannot even fit the whole school population into the gymnasium. I worked with the school board and the P&C and the students themselves. We had the Premier come down. We had the Minister for Education and Training come down a number of times. We even had Tanya Plibersek from the federal opposition to demonstrate the need within the school community. We also did a petition and an email campaign that I am sure got on the nerves of the Minister for Education and Training, but it demonstrated the community seeing not only the need for a new gymnasium, but also the needs flowing throughout the school. The funding of \$13.9 million that we have given Greenwood College in this election commitment is on top of the \$2.5 million that we gave it during the COVID recovery initiatives last year to upgrade the science blocks.

The \$13.9 million election commitment is to build a new gymnasium, or sports hall, as it is called nowadays, and utilise the existing gymnasium by creating a performing arts space there, which will then free up the current performing arts space for a new STEM centre. We can see how that will all flow through the school. Very unfortunately, the current performing arts and dance space has a number of structural poles in the middle of it, which will be great for a science building because we can run the electricity down the poles, but it is not so great when someone is trying to do contemporary dance in the middle of the room; it is quite dangerous. We will have a new gymnasium, we are refurbishing the performing arts space, we are creating a STEM centre and we are increasing student services, and then there is some money left over for some badly needed upgrades and maintenance around the school. I am very proud that we have been able to deliver this money for the Greenwood College community, but it certainly does not sit on my shoulders alone. The Greenwood College community should be commended for its engagement on this issue and its doggedness with me to make sure that we delivered for the community.

Greenwood was the beneficiary of a number of commitments throughout the election period. We are very happy to have announced a new Metronet Greenwood train station multistorey car park, which is valued at \$38 million. I know my colleague the member for Carine is very happy with that, as are the members for Landsdale and Hillarys. People in the northern suburbs use the train line to move north and south and into the city and back again. Having a multistorey car park at Greenwood train station will assist in ensuring that the public transport system is well patronised. The 700-bay multistorey car park is well needed at Greenwood train station. Although we can go there now post-COVID and get a car park, pre-COVID that was a major issue for not only the commuters on the line, but also the local residents around Greenwood train station. A number of them came to me early in my first term to talk about the fact that numerous people would park their cars on their verges before going to the train station because the train station did not have enough car parking. By providing more parking, we will futureproof that train station.

For members who have not ventured to the northern suburbs, Yellagonga Regional Park, member for Landsdale, is a beautiful and unique part of the northern suburbs. A number of electorates border the park and are in very close proximity to it. It is a little piece of paradise in the middle of suburbia. The Friends of Yellagonga Regional Park do a great job working with the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions and the two local governments, the City of Wanneroo and City of Joondalup, to maintain the park. But it really needed a bit of life injected into it to ensure that a variety of people could use the park. A number of colleagues and I got together to look at the different things that we would like to see in Yellagonga Regional Park. For my small portion of the park, one thing that the local community was looking for was activation around Luisini Winery. Luisini Winery is a National Trust heritage-listed building that was used for a number of years by the Luisini family. All around Madeley, Landsdale, Kingsley and Greenwood were vineyards that used to supply the winery. The winery has not been active for a number of years, but the building is still there, and there is a car park next to it. A number of young families came to me asking for additional playgrounds in and around Yellagonga. One of our important commitments was to build a playground near the Luisini Winery in the hope that eventually, if that place is activated, we would have some great infrastructure there. Part of the commitment was to put in boardwalks and a heritage and cultural walk around Luisini Winery. This is a really important part of the commitment for northern suburbs MPs. It is part of acknowledging that we have two cultures, or two lots of heritage, in the northern suburbs, as we do in the rest of the state, and using that to weave in a really nice walk so people can get to understand the two cultures that we have in Yellagonga. We have Aboriginal heritage and culture and European heritage and culture. Money was put into this announcement of a heritage and cultural walk also.

Although widening of the freeway was not an election commitment, it is a project that a number of us in the northern suburbs have fought very hard for. For anyone getting onto the freeway anywhere between Hodges Drive and Hepburn Avenue, it can be a very long drive into the city. That drive was made somewhat better with the widening of the freeway around Cedric Street, but for the members for Landsdale, Joondalup, Burns Beach, Hillarys and Carine, and me, all our constituents pretty much drive into a bottleneck the second they get onto the freeway. This widening project is really important for creating a quicker commute for community members so they can have more time at home with their families.

A really important part of this widening the freeway project is the sound walls that are being built. I have spoken at length in this house about the impact of the freeway on the amenity of residents in Greenwood, Kingsley and Woodvale and the need for sound walls there. I referred to the fact that they were left out in the cold when the previous widening works were done by the former government and sound walls were not put up, or when clearing was done of the native bushland to put in additional parking at the train stations but sound walls were not put up. This is a really important part of the project and is another win for the community. My community really got behind this. I had 70 people turn up to a community street corner meeting. It is a little bit scary when 70 people turn up to talk about an issue, but it was really encouraging to find that we were on the right track. We knew that this was a really important issue for the community and we were trying to do something about it. I thank the Minister for Transport for listening to my community and for acknowledging that even though the freeway widening goes only as far as Hepburn Avenue that the installation of the principal shared path and a sound wall is imperative. I thank the minister for acknowledging that.

Some of the other important upgrades in my community were for the other local high schools. We gave a funding commitment for a STEM centre at Woodvale Secondary College, which was short of science rooms. That was a really important commitment so that it could deliver high-quality STEM education for the kids in Woodvale. Warwick Senior High School and the West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre are co-located in Warwick. Combined, they received a number of commitments. One of the most important of those for the West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre was funding of \$2 million to upgrade its pool and change rooms, which may sound like a small thing, but considering the implications for the students who have a physical disability and the teachers attempting to give those students a full secondary education life, having adequate change rooms available to them is very important. The co-located site is also getting additional money for a performing arts centre and will receive a STEM centre.

I am a massive advocate for youth in our community. I understand that a lot of the time youth get a bad rap for hanging round, for doing nothing or for causing trouble and antisocial behaviour and the like. A lot of the time that is because there is nothing for them to do. I had a couple of local kids speak to me about the need for an additional skate park in the City of Joondalup. They were keen to have it in Woodvale. At the last election, we made a commitment of \$250 000 for a skate park in Woodvale. Little did I know that skate parks cost a lot more than that, so this time we made a commitment for \$800 000 for a skate park in Woodvale. I am pleased to be working with the City of Joondalup on this project. It is important that we provide our kids with the capacity and drive to do something other than play computer games or hang around and get themselves into trouble. Often that is not their intent; they are just bored and hang around. I will always remember a quote one of the kids said to me, which was, “If your community doesn’t have a skate park, then your community is the skate park.” That was a great point. If the kids do not have a facility, they will create places to skate or ride a BMX or whatever it is. It is on us to make sure that we provide those facilities for them, because if they skate down our street and they get hit by a car or if they scratch someone’s car, it reflects badly on them or they will be injured. It is up to us to provide them with the space to do these things. I was happy to provide this \$800 000 commitment for a skate park in Woodvale.

When I was younger, I was a scout, not a girl guide.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** Dyb dyb dyb, dob dob dob.

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** I was too old to be a cub, but I was a founding member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Joondalup Scout Group, which I know the member for Joondalup engages with at times. Some of the most memorable moments in my life were being in the scouts and challenging myself, taking risks and learning resilience. The things that the scouting movement can instil in a child are to be treasured. I was pleased to be able to announce \$600 000 in funding to upgrade the Calectasia Street hall, which is where the Goollelal Greenwood Scout Group meets and stores its equipment. We gave a small commitment at the last election to create a better storage facility, but this will be a much-needed upgrade for the hall, which is quite old and badly in need of an upgrade. I am very pleased that we were able to provide that.

Last Saturday, I had the privilege of attempting to turn on the lights at Timberlane Park, which is a local park in Woodvale. Prior to the last election, through the good financial management of the McGowan government, we were able to provide the City of Joondalup with funding of \$165 000 to put in lights.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** These are not training lights but game-quality lights at Timberlane Park. Anyone who lives in the City of Joondalup or who has children who attempt to play sport in the City of Joondalup will know that there is a massive constraint on playing fields there. By providing this lighting, we will actually extend the life of the training facility or active playing field at Timberlane, because the older kids and adults can be scheduled to train into the evening because of the safety provided by these lights. We had a turning-on-of-the-lights ceremony last Saturday. Unfortunately, it was one of those moments when technology failed. I pressed the light to let there be light, but there was no light. Radley, who is the president of the Woodvale Football Club, attempted divine intervention. He told us to put our hands in the air and then asked us why we were doing that.

**Ms M.M. Quirk:** To make light work!

**Mrs J.M.C. STOJKOVSKI:** Thank you, member for Landsdale; many hands make lights work! However, that did not work either, so we got the mayor on the phone to get the lights turned on. I thank Mayor Jacob for getting the lights turned on and working with the state to provide this really great community project.

Upgrades are also being made to Warwick Bowling Club. Warwick Bowling Club is one of those bowling clubs in the state that is actually growing. It has a growing member base and great corporate bowls. It is a really community-minded club. Its members go out to Warwick Senior High School and the West Coast Secondary Education Support Centre to teach the kids how to bowl and how to teach other people to bowl. It is a really great community club. The City of Joondalup is undertaking quite an extensive renovation of Warwick Bowling Club, for which we were able to secure the icing on the cake—\$100 000 to help create an enclosed barbecue space that the club will be able to hire out to increase its financial sustainability into the future, and increase the club’s lighting; it will go from having training lights to playing lights, which is very important for the longevity of the club.

I have lists and lists of all the commitments we made to our local primary schools. I am not going to go through them all, but will highlight some of the really important ones. Hamersley came into my electorate at the last election. I was really pleased to be able to make a commitment to Glendale Primary School of \$160 000 to upgrade the student toilet blocks. That is something they have been asking for for a while, and we were able to deliver it. I worked with the member for Balcatta, who formerly had Hamersley in his electorate, to deliver that for the school. We were also able to deliver a \$120 000 commitment to Dalmain Primary School to resurface its basketball courts. A number of schools received smaller grants for iPads, projectors, contemporary learning environments, rain tanks and nature play. One of the schools wanted an extension for the walkway cover near its undercover area so that parents would not get drenched while watching assemblies and kids could easily get around the school without getting wet. I was really pleased to be able to deliver all these small commitments to our schools.

Our community groups are also extremely important to the social fabric of Kingsley. I was very thankful to the Minister for Child Protection for coming out to the electorate to announce funding of \$16 000 to the Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren WA group on behalf of me and the member for Joondalup. The minister understands the importance of this group and the work that it does. That is clear in some of the bigger election commitments we have made for funding these grandparents, but this small election commitment meant that they could buy enough computers, laptops and phones to run their growing organisation. I know the member for Nedlands was not involved in that, but Grandparents Rearing Grandchildren holds a very special place in her heart, so I am sure she was very happy with that announcement.

A number of members in the northern suburbs have little athletics clubs that attend Kingsway Little Athletics Centre, including the member for Landsdale, the member for Wanneroo and me. We joined together to make a really important commitment to obtaining new timing gates for the Kingsway Little Athletics Centre. Given that little athletics is just about to start again for the year—our club started training on Monday night—this is really great for the Kingsway Little Athletics Centre to have these timing gates rolled out for the start of the new season.

I could continue for the next eight minutes because the budget, just in my electorate—I did not even get onto all the other great things the budget will deliver—is a really great news story, but I am aware that other members would like to make a contribution. I will conclude tonight by saying that this is a fiscally responsible budget that delivers on community needs, and we should be very proud of what the McGowan Labor government is doing for the Western Australian community.

**MR P.J. RUNDLE (Roe)** [8.31 pm]: I rise to speak on the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021. This will be about the third or fourth time I have been on my feet today, so I will try not to extend this for too long, but I want to make some comments about the state budget—some positive and some negative. As I said at the start of my last speech, as regional members we are looking for equity in health, education, law and order, telecommunications and housing. Unfortunately, parts of this budget have been found wanting in that regard. The member for Kingsley said that after eight years of a Liberal–National government she felt her electorate had been left out and that there was not anything there for it; I know how she feels, because things are very thin on the ground for the electorate of Roe. I will return to that shortly.

I want to briefly reflect on the Leader of the Opposition's speech, in which she identified some real issues developing now that are very similar to what played out in a previous Labor government. Back in the early to mid-2000s, Hon Jim McGinty described the Royal Flying Doctor Service as a special interest group. That was the first sign of arrogance creeping in with that government. At the same time as the then Treasurer, Hon Eric Ripper, was posting surpluses, the state's health system was going to rack and ruin. We have exactly the same situation now. There is no real spending on our regional inland schools, nothing is happening with Government Regional Officers' Housing for our essential workers and there is no taxation reform. There is a real arrogance creeping in, and I am concerned. I would like to warn some of the newer members here about the arrogance that is creeping in. It is important that they take note of that, because the people of Western Australia are starting to see it.

I know the Premier has his 78 per cent approval rating, or whatever it is, but we can see the way our regional communities are being treated. A classic example is the way the communities of Manjimup and Nannup were treated with the \$750 million climate change package. That is exactly the same as what happened with that previous Labor government, which focused on the green vote. It banned uranium mining and genetically modified crops and focused on issues to appeal to its city-based green vote, when it should have been focusing on things like housing and the health system. It is quite incredible. I was really interested yesterday when the Leader of the Opposition gave her budget response. I just could not believe how similar it was. Then, to top it off—we saw it today—the electoral reform; reducing regional representation; one vote, one value; exactly the same as the Jim McGinty playbook. It is quite incredible. The health system; appealing to the green vote; reducing regional representation; arrogance; posting surpluses while the health system is falling apart. It is quite amazing to me. I was really taken aback with the similarities and the arrogance that is coming through. Those are some of the similarities that I have seen.

I am actually worried for some of the newer members, like the member for Warren–Blackwood. She has come in here with great enthusiasm, and then what happens? She gets landed with this package right in the middle of her

electorate that she obviously had no idea about, and now she is going to spend the next three and a half years trying to patch up the electorate of Warren–Blackwood. I can tell the member right now that she may as well enjoy this term of Parliament, because I think the voters of Warren–Blackwood will be awake to it. The sawmilling companies that have invested millions of dollars, and the workers and the communities there, are not happy. We saw them out there on Monday at that rally. It might be okay for the member for Fremantle to appeal to the green vote in the seat of Fremantle, but I can tell members that it is not going to go down well in Manjimup. I pass on my condolences to the member for Warren–Blackwood, because she is going to spend the next three and a half years running around Manjimup, Nannup, Pemberton—all of those smaller towns—trying to patch things up. It is a real tragedy, because I sense some good enthusiasm from the member for Warren–Blackwood, but her ministers have let her down and they have let her electorate down. That is just a side issue, but it is something that blended in very well from the Leader of the Opposition’s contribution yesterday.

I go back to the electorate of Roe. I have been trawling through the budget papers, and what have I found? I have found \$14.6 million to clad one of the iron ore sheds at Esperance port. That is the major budget item for the electorate of Roe. That is just a maintenance item for the port of Esperance. That is what I can talk about with the electors of Roe, “This is what you’ve got. This is what this government has given to you: cladding on the iron ore shed down at the Esperance port.” I do not see that generating too many jobs. I am quite concerned, to be honest. Anyway, it seems to be one system for one group and one system for another. People who happen to be in an inland seat like Roe, Central Wheatbelt or the like are in strife if they are represented by a member of the opposition.

That is the major item for my electorate. There were some other things. One that I find quite upsetting is Esperance Senior High School. I have spoken about this before. Members opposite are going, “Look, isn’t it fantastic! We’ve got the new performing arts centre in Baldvis happening; we’ve got this performing arts centre over here and this undercover area there.” I tell members what, the students and staff at Esperance Senior High School deserve an upgrade to that facility. It is not up to scratch. Two-thirds of that school needs to be replaced. It is a real disappointment that funding has not appeared in this budget. On a brighter note, the Minister for Education and Training was in Esperance a couple of weeks ago to open up a previously announced project, the TAFE campus in Esperance. That was a good news story. Hon Terry Redman provided \$10 million from royalties for regions and Hon Liza Harvey provided \$10 million from Training and Workforce Development. It is a \$20 million project announced in 2016 and I congratulate this government for following through and completing the project. It was great to see the Minister for Education and Training there and that she went and had a look at Esperance Senior High School. She was there with Hon Shelley Payne from the other place and I strongly encourage Hon Shelley Payne, Hon Sandra Carr and Hon Darren West—all those government members—to demonstrate their support for Esperance Senior High School. I will not give up. I am pleased now that the Minister for Education and Training has seen the campus. Esperance Senior High School punches above its weight; the students and teachers do a fantastic job. Their ATAR results are fantastic, as are their vocational education and training results. There was a Beazley Medal winner there a couple of years ago. The students do a fantastic job and deserve some decent facilities. I will talk about that for, hopefully, the next 11 and a half months before the next budget—it is all I will need to talk about.

Aside from that, there are the agriculture supply chain improvements, which were included in the Minister for Regional Development’s press releases covering every sector of the state. I gather there was some funding for electric vehicle charging sites. Unfortunately, we cannot seem to get cooperation from Western Power to put in a charging station at Ravensthorpe. That is another one. It is a good project but I am fearful because, at the moment, I would not want to drive from Perth to Esperance. I hope the network will improve. I know that if I have faith, those charging stations will be in place and Western Power will cooperate with the community of Ravensthorpe. The mining companies there are going well and are keen to support it. The Minister for Transport previously announced the Coolgardie–Esperance highway; it is good to see that going ahead. There is also \$2.9 million for a repeater tower to improve emergency responses. Since the terrible Esperance fires several years ago it has taken a long time for the government to respond, but I cannot emphasise enough how I look forward to improvements in communication after we saw the tragic loss of life, crops and farms from that fire.

I have to hark back to the royalties for regions program, from which the Liberal–National government delivered 113 phone towers. It still gets to me when I drive up Albany Highway from Katanning to Perth because there are probably still about 60 to 70 kilometres where I cannot get a reception. I am sure the member for Riverton would not accept that if it were happening in his electorate. I will certainly advocate for communities along the way such as Arthur River, Kojonup, Williams, Darkan and Bannister where there are patches. It is not good enough that on a main highway there is not coverage right through. The previous government delivered 113 towers, which was a great initiative from royalties for regions. I would love to see this government pick up the baton, rather than putting \$2 billion over the forward estimates into water and electricity subsidies and \$463 million from royalties for regions into running orange school buses. These are all items that should be paid for out of the consolidated budget. I cannot quite get over it.

That is the situation in Roe. As I said, there is \$14.6 million for cladding for the iron ore shed. When I hear about our election commitments, I hear about school undercover areas and those types of projects that government members have delivered. I would love to see a little bit of that drift into the electorate of Roe.

There are a couple of other things that I want to mention before I wrap up at this time of the night. Once again, our Minister for Agriculture and Food has been unable to acknowledge a problem soon enough and work out with the federal government a way to overcome the critical shortage of labour in the agriculture sector. There is a \$7 billion crop coming up: “No; I’m sorry. It’s too hard.” She has thrown her hands up in the air: “It’s going to cost us \$20 million to staff the Bladin Village complex; we can’t do it.” The federal government said, “Come to Bladin Village. If you supply the staff, this is the place for quarantine.” But no, it is too hard. I know what it is about. The Premier wants to play politics. He wants to blame the federal government. In September last year, the agreement in national cabinet was that every state would follow a process to get workers into their state, but, funnily enough, Western Australia cannot do it.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Balcatta! Minister!

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** The Premier needed to get a program up to national cabinet. He has failed to deliver. I am not sure, but I have a feeling that the agriculture minister was pretty keen on it, but it does not seem to have been able to get through cabinet because the Premier wants to play politics and turn everyone against it.

Several members interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Members! Let the member for Roe finish.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** It is very disappointing when farmers and people who want to get their crop off are ringing me every day. We have facilities to quarantine and the whole package, but we just cannot seem to make it happen. When I ask the Minister for Police about G2G passes, he just says that they need to supply more information. They supplied reams of information—places to quarantine and the whole package—but that is what he comes up with: “They need to supply more information.” We want consistency and transparency. We want to know what the Premier is doing about trying to get some workers into this state, because, honestly, we have not seen any sign of life whatsoever on that one. It is a real disappointment for my constituents.

On a positive note, as the shadow Minister for Education and Training, I welcome the infrastructure improvements in some of the TAFE facilities around the state. Unfortunately, I also note that some of the improvements to the TAFE centres in Albany and Armadale are the projects that have been put on the backburner. I welcome any investment in our education system. Agriculture colleges are mentioned once in the budget, and it shows an increase in revenue. I am worried that the government is taking more money out of the agriculture college trust fund, which is used to buy machinery for all the ag colleges around the state. The ag colleges are a highlight of our education system in regional WA, so I really hope that this government will support them.

I am worried about relief teacher shortages. I said this afternoon to the Minister for Health that we have a crisis in health now, but I am predicting a crisis in education. I am worried about our teachers. I am worried about our Government Regional Officers’ Housing shortage for our teachers, police officers and other government workers in the region, but what I am really worried about is the fact that after five years, five per cent of our graduate teachers are leaving the industry. I think that is a real issue. It is an impending crisis. In a couple of years’ time, I can see that we will not be able to staff our classrooms, and all of a sudden we will have student numbers in our classrooms blow out because there are just not enough staff. I would love to see that addressed by this government. It has made the \$5.6 billion surplus. As I said earlier, \$2.4 billion from government trading enterprises has been withheld—so the normal dividend income from Water Corp of \$500 million and the like. That is \$2.4 billion. Add that to the \$5.6 billion, and there is potentially a surplus of \$8 billion. The surprising thing is that state debt is going back up to \$36 billion in 2024–25.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** There is the biggest royalty income boost that we have ever seen, with revenue blowing out from \$32.1 billion to \$40.2 billion over this 12-month period, and our debt will blow back out to \$36 billion by 2024–25. I cannot comprehend it. I cannot comprehend what is going on there. It is probably smoke and mirrors, a bit like some of the other things that are going on.

I want to finish on a positive note. The patient assisted travel scheme has been boosted to help vulnerable people and the likes of pensioners or pregnant women to have someone accompany them to Perth or wherever they need to go. I thought that was a positive. As I said to the health minister today, the \$495 million mental health package is a very good thing for the state, because mental health problems are on the increase.

But I am concerned by the way housing scenarios are developing. I am worried about homelessness in places like Esperance and Narrogin, where there is a massive waiting list. There are houses there ready for maintenance, and this government cannot quite seem to make it happen. I will be working with the housing minister on that, because I know that the Shire of Narrogin and the communities of Narrogin and Esperance, and Katanning for that matter, are all very worried about the way things are developing. I have spoken to the Minister for Community Services at times about the great facility we have and Katanning for victims of domestic violence. I know she will one day visit Katanning and the electorate of Roe, and I look forward to showing her what is going on there.

As I said, the real worry for me is the pattern that is developing. This government is going down the same path as the Labor government in the early 2000s. I worry for the new members; I worry that they will not be around for that long!

Several members interjected.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I am! I am worried! The pattern is developing.

**Dr J. Krishnan** interjected.

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** I enjoy the company of the member for Riverton, but I am worried that he will be here for only three and a half more years!

Seriously, there is a pattern of arrogance and there is a pattern of a health system in crisis. To top it off, today's electoral reform is very disappointing for the regional communities of WA. I will be very curious to see whether the regional members of the Western Australian Legislative Assembly can put up their hands and say they are voting for a reduction in regional representation, despite the fact that they are here to represent their regional areas. I look forward to seeing —

**Mr D.R. Michael** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Mrs L.A. Munday):** Member for Balcatta!

**Mr D.R. Michael** interjected.

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

**Mr P.J. RUNDLE:** — how they cope with it. I feel sorry for them because they are in a no-win situation. It will be career limiting for them if they put up their hand. You cannot do that in the Labor Party—it is not on. I worry for them as well. I look forward to seeing their response. I will wrap it up there.

**MS E.L. HAMILTON (Joondalup)** [8.55 pm]: It is an honour as the member for Joondalup to rise and make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation (Capital 2021–22) Bill 2021 and the Appropriation (Recurrent 2021–22) Bill 2021. I am so proud to stand here today to share with members a snapshot of where Joondalup is now and the direction in which it is headed with the McGowan Labor government's strong leadership.

The 2021–22 WA state budget will deliver for all Western Australians. It is a budget that is the result of Labor's financial discipline and strong leadership. We now have an economy that not only has outperformed the rest of the nation, but also is one of the strongest in the world. Importantly, this budget delivers for the Joondalup community. Despite the biggest global economic shock in decades, more Western Australians now have a job than ever before; in fact, 107 000 jobs have been created since the McGowan government came to office. The McGowan Labor government has used its strong surplus position to fund important projects and initiatives, many of which will well and truly set up Joondalup as the second CBD of Perth. The Joondalup community is strong and thriving. I commend the Premier; Treasurer for delivering this great budget.

Upon considering my contribution today, I thought deeply about the long-term future of Joondalup and I built a vision for my electorate. What I must state first is that Joondalup is a place of immense opportunity. I often say that Joondalup is a young city, but it is maturing and so is its local economy. Joondalup boasts the Ocean Reef marina; Joondalup Resort; Quest Joondalup; the premier Joondalup Learning Precinct, which includes Edith Cowan University, North Metropolitan TAFE and the Western Australia Police Academy; the Quadrangle, which is home to Edith Cowan College, Electrical Group Training and a range of businesses employing hundreds of local people; Joondalup Business Park; Yellagonga Regional Park, our Kings Park of the north; and Joondalup Health Campus, which I will talk about in a moment.

Joondalup is home to world-class primary and secondary schools with quality teaching staff, education assistants and administration staff, who are nurturing the leaders of tomorrow. With McGowan's Metronet Yanchep rail extension on track, we have the transport links to connect the population north of Joondalup to the Joondalup city centre. That, too, will continue to boost our local economy. Our city centre has unique potential in that Lakeside Joondalup Shopping Centre is directly connected to our public transport system. Joondalup's infrastructure in our growing north metropolitan region is setting the stage for Joondalup and our northern suburbs to emerge as WA's coast city community. We know that the northern suburbs are booming; it is one of the fastest growing regions in Australia. The Western Australian Planning Commission estimates that the population of the region will grow by 39 per cent to 395 000 people by 2030 and to 740 000 by 2050. We have a population that prides itself on having a broad and successful culturally diverse society, with more than one-third of residents living in Joondalup having been born overseas. Diversity makes Joondalup a place of opportunity. Like me, many people live and work locally and are raising their families in Joondalup. As a government, we are investing—and we will continue to do so—in the future of the WA economy so that our families and kids have strong futures here in WA. Proudly, as the local member for Joondalup, I have a vision that Joondalup is on the trajectory of being a place to not only do business, but also raise your family, realise your aspirations and work to achieve your full potential.

Joondalup is a destination where people will be set for life. It is a location that will contribute to the diversification of the WA economy in a meaningful way, with its contribution to the digital economy, particularly the cybersecurity industry. As a member of the state government, I look forward to working with my community to continue to invest in and grow Joondalup. Our government recognises this potential and we are seeing this investment continue to be put into Joondalup.

As I mentioned, we have a local economy that is full of potential and could be a major economic powerhouse in Western Australia. With works underway on major upgrades to our hospital, our major transport network and significant state government projects like Ocean Reef Marina, we are definitely putting Joondalup on the map and creating a world-class destination.

Joondalup residents will benefit from WA Labor's focus on local jobs. Local jobs in Joondalup are also found beyond the array of quality infrastructure in the business precincts that it boasts. With the Western Australian government developing cybersecurity capabilities, cyber and innovation is one of the emerging future industries in Joondalup. Interestingly, Joondalup is very similar in size and location, with similar infrastructure, to Silicon Valley in the United States, a place synonymous with the rise of the computer and electronics industry, as well as the emergence of the digital economy and the internet. I want to see Joondalup become known as the Silicon Valley of Australia. Our local Joondalup economy needs to continue to grow. It cannot afford to stagnate and, with that, we need to harness the immense opportunities in cyber and innovation. We are already considered to be a world leader in the cybersecurity area with the work that is being done at Edith Cowan University. In 2017, the McGowan government delivered on its commitment, unveiling a \$16.7 million new industries fund to create Western Australian jobs through innovation. One of the first initiatives to be supported by the fund was \$800 000 for a Joondalup innovation hub, which brings together the public, private and research sectors to work in an area of existing strength for Western Australia: cybersecurity.

In 2018, a Western Australian node of the federally funded, industry-led AustCyber organisation was established at this Joondalup innovation hub, demonstrating the strength of the local cybersecurity industry. In 2019, the North Metropolitan TAFE in Joondalup at the Kendrew campus received \$356 000 for upgrades to support the creation of a cybersecurity operation centre, which included a hacker and defender room, and a control room. In 2020, the McGowan government's 50 per cent cut to TAFE fees was having a positive impact, with data showing that certificate IV in cyber security had seen 114 additional enrolments, equating to an 85 per cent increase in participation in this course. In addition, \$1.8 million in funding in the 2020–21 budget was allocated for the establishment of the WA government's Cyber Security Operations Centre, which is now in operation.

Earlier this year, I attended the opening of the Sapien Cyber offices located within the recently opened ECU science building. Notably, this building also contains the Cyber Security Cooperative Research Centre, the WA AustCyber Innovation Hub, the Western Australia Police Force technology crime services, ECU's defence research and engagement, and securing digital futures research themes, the school of science teaching labs, and a whole host of other locations. As recently as last month, I joined the launch of Western Australia's newest and most exciting cluster, RoboWest. RoboWest is a cluster of robotics and automation, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and data science in Western Australia, with a focus on promoting the growth of the supply chain, developing skills and education, timely regulatory reform, and assisting businesses to develop.

Cybersecurity capability in Joondalup is a real asset nationally. Cyber is a growing industry and will shape our local economy. According to AustCyber, Australian cybersecurity is expected to grow to a \$6 billion industry within the next 10 years, creating an additional 11 000 technical-related jobs. With 1.8 million jobs in the cyber industry expected in Australia over the next five years, now is the time to continue to support the growth of this industry locally. Cyber is a future industry that is creating jobs now and will continue to do so into the future.

We often talk about the jobs of the future, which are yet to be created, and how the young people of today will have, perhaps, between five and seven careers in their lifetime. In Joondalup, we started this conversation to build on this opportunity in cyber and innovation. In May this year, I represented the Minister for Lands, Hon Tony Buti, at the City of Joondalup's business breakfast forum, talking about how we are shaping our economic future in Joondalup.

One of the prevalent conversations centred around whether Joondalup is adapting to the changes.

The City of Joondalup often talks about its intention for Joondalup to become a digital city. All levels of government will need to work together to achieve this goal of harnessing our digital capabilities and ensuring we are leading the way and creating the footprint of what will be a powerhouse of cyber and innovation and creating pathways into these jobs of the future in Joondalup. As a start, I want to see us taking the lead in looking to how we will be nurturing the workforce that will be needed to support this new and emerging industry. This will require a seamless education transition, particularly for students wishing to study cyber for a job in the industry. We need a pathway where students have strong introductions to science, technology, engineering and mathematics in primary school, specialisation in cyber subjects at secondary school, with the pathway to continue studies at TAFE and, for those students who wish, to continue tertiary studies at university. This path has already well and truly been embarked upon.

Funding is provided in the state budget for 9 000 secondary student places for students to participate in a range of approved vocational education and training courses over the course of the budget, with 1 000 of those being delivered in 2021. I know that the availability of cyber certificate courses will benefit local high schools in my electorate. I feel that high schools like Ocean Reef Senior High School are well suited to benefit from investment such as this in student studies. I am also happy with our announcement of a VET taster program in year 9. It will enable students to consider career choices earlier, as we know that these vocational course trials are pathways to skilled jobs. Year 9 is the right time for consideration to be given. As a mum of two teenagers—one 13 and one 16—I know that this is the time when students start to make their subject selections. We need specialists in this field to ensure we have the workforce that can tackle current challenges and those that will emerge in the future.

We have to respond, adapt and innovate with the times that we are in and where we are going. The traditional ways of doing business and operating are changing. Gone are the days of business as usual or going about things the way we have always done. COVID has presented many challenges, but with those challenges come many opportunities. Disruptive thinking is a concept that has come about as a consequence of COVID and is full of opportunities. For the industries of the future, disruptive thinking is an immense opportunity that needs to be embraced at every level.

Our government flexed and moved in the nimblest of ways at the beginning of the COVID outbreak. Our education systems rapidly transitioned to online learning in the early stages of COVID. Zoom meetings are now a usual way of operating. Our healthcare system is enabling different ways of thinking and providing health care. With a steadily ageing population, the staff who care for them are bridging gaps with robotics, artificial intelligence and digital innovation. Flexibility in the workplace is being embraced. The way we approach the workforce of today can best be done in an environment of disrupted thinking. Now is the time to ask and ponder: how can it be done better, how can we respond, how can we adapt and how can we innovate?

When students in my local schools start to think about subject selection, the age-old question, which makes every teenager cringe, will often be put; that is, what do you want to be when you grow up? Most students are no longer able to answer that question as there is no way of knowing what options will truly be available to them. Instead, the driving questions are: what challenges do you want to fix, what change do you want to see, and how can it be done better?

The world is becoming digital, and future growth relies on strong connectivity. With over 13 000 local businesses in the City of Joondalup, I understand that many challenges arise when navigating keeping a business afloat. I have mentioned before in this place that I am the daughter of a nurse and an accountant. In my early years, my father became a small business owner in a number of areas. I was brought up in a household that relied on the income of these businesses. Throughout my teenage years, and even during my tertiary studies, I became more involved in the family business. Today, as the member for Joondalup, I understand how small businesses need to pivot and move. I am actively involved in our business community.

Local businesses face a number of challenges, including how they can keep pace with the digital world. This includes operating back-of-house information in the digital space and ensuring that information, data and business systems are kept safe and secure. I am very interested in the way that businesses are able to navigate this challenge. We know that data on the cost of cybercrime to small businesses in Australia, and even in WA, is quite difficult to measure. However, I know that many small businesses in my electorate have been victims of cyber attacks. One in particular was held to ransom and their business was decimated. Cybersecurity for a small business is a current challenge and one that I will continue to raise awareness of, particularly given our capabilities.

Physical connectivity is another key to a thriving CBD. We have a unique city centre in Joondalup with a public transport network quite literally on our doorstep. We have seen a record investment in major transport projects across WA, including \$5.7 billion in 15 Metronet projects. The one that is particularly relevant to my electorate is the Yanchep railway line extension. We will see \$11.7 billion in road projects and upgrades delivered over the next four years. We have implemented a cap on the cost of train and bus tickets to a standard two-zone fare, which will save some northern suburbs residents hundreds of dollars each year. Locally, I am working hard to deliver better community connectivity that will enable Joondalup to grow. In my first term, local residents raised the idea of an electric CAT bus trial in Joondalup. I presented the idea to the Minister for Transport, and I am pleased that Perth's first electric CAT buses are soon to start rolling through Joondalup, and I am looking forward to working on this issue more broadly.

Investment in health is at the fore of this budget. Speaking of creating local jobs and valuable infrastructure, recently it was great to see firsthand, alongside Deputy Premier; Minister for Health Roger Cook, that the progress on the \$256.7 million Joondalup Health Campus expansion is well underway. Progress on the development of stage 2 of the project, which has moved to the construction stage for the last of the remaining work, is a priority for me in Joondalup. The McGowan Labor government is putting patients first and delivering on its commitments. The construction of a new 12-bay influenza-like illness unit as part of the emergency department expansion is nearing completion. The expansion will increase the hospital's capability to safely manage patients with infectious diseases, including COVID-19. The emergency department works, including the behavioural assessment urgent care clinic,

is due to be completed early next year. Construction to expand the capacity of the multistorey car park by an additional 215 parking bays is well underway. With 72 per cent of staff who work at Joondalup Health Campus living in the local catchment area, I know that these upgrades are welcome.

I am always out and about in the community talking with locals, and it is clear that these challenging times have brought with them mental health challenges. The conversations that keep arising are about the challenges faced by young people in our community.

[Member's time extended.]

**Ms E.L. HAMILTON:** That is why I am very pleased to see in this state budget a record investment of \$495 million to boost mental health services, which includes \$129.9 million for youth mental health services and initiatives. As part of the upgrades that are happening at Joondalup Health Campus, there will be 32 new acute mental health inpatient beds, 12 emergency department bays, additional inpatient beds, critical care beds, an operating theatre and a catheterisation lab. We will also have the specialised urgent care clinic, like I mentioned, and parking bays. I am also looking forward to making sure that at our local hospital we support young people who are facing mental health challenges. Further to the investments and the upgrades that are happening, we have already seen a \$7.1 million investment for a new mental health observation area; \$5 million for a 12-bed comprehensive stroke unit; and \$1.9 million for five interim palliative care beds, which I hope will soon become permanent. The expanded hospital facilities will create hundreds of construction jobs and there will be real benefits for our communities. Particularly in these times, I feel that the health and wellbeing of our friends, family and community is what matters most. Joondalup Health Campus has one of the busiest emergency departments in Australia and is one of the largest hospitals in WA in one of the fastest-growing regions in Western Australia. We are delivering on these major upgrades to meet the growing demands and to ensure that locals can receive the quality health care they need close to home.

I must also acknowledge that Joondalup Health Campus has been at the forefront in dealing with the COVID pandemic. The agility with which the hospital dealt with patients from the *Artania* and other cruise ships at the onset of COVID and the way it has continued throughout the time we have faced COVID, is to be highly commended. I would like give thanks to each and every one of the hardworking hospital staff—nurses, doctors and administration staff—who has worked and continues to work at the Joondalup hospital, and to those throughout our entire healthcare system, we say thank you.

Further to the government's investment in health, I also am pleased to see that we are continuing to invest in training opportunities in the health sector, particularly through the two new free skill sets that have been added to the certificate III pathology collection course through the Lower Fees, Local Skills initiative available through North Metropolitan TAFE. These were implemented to meet urgent demand for trained pathology and COVID-19 specimen collectors. Pathology workers are in high demand and they play a frontline and crucial role in WA's COVID-19 response. Free for everyone, the short course has been developed in consultation with industry and delivers highly transferrable skills to prepare participants for work in hospitals, outpatient clinics, GP clinics and a range of other healthcare settings. Further in 2019, the health and wellness training centre at the North Metropolitan TAFE McLarty campus underwent a major refurbishment, with \$950 000 allocated there. The allied health and social assistance training areas at the campus have also undergone a \$1.85 million refurbishment, which is assisting WA to meet the skilled workforce needs of the NDIS rollout. These facilities delivered by the McGowan Labor government enable students to develop hands-on skills, a critical part of our work in boosting jobs and opportunities in this state.

It would also be remiss of me in making a contribution to the appropriations bill not to provide the house with an update on the progress of the very exciting Ocean Reef marina project. Work is on track. The Hodges Drive extension has been opened. The outer seawalls are being constructed. I am very happy to see that there are onsite learnings happening, and connections with local schools.

The time I have to contribute to this debate today is simply not long enough to address all the projects that are being delivered in Joondalup to our local schools, sporting groups, community groups and much more, but they are significant. I want to thank the local community for placing their trust in me for a second term. I am going to continue to work to ensure that they are represented in this Parliament. I would like to commend the 2021 budget to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mr D.R. Michael**.

*House adjourned at 9.15 pm*

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### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Questions and answers are as supplied to Hansard.

#### MINISTER FOR WATER — PORTFOLIOS — TRAFFIC INFRINGEMENTS

**197. Ms M.J. Davies to the Minister for Water; Forestry; Youth:**

I refer to all agencies or departments under the Minister's responsibility and I ask for the period 30 June 2017 to date:

- (a) How many traffic infringements have been received by employees for any taxpayer funded vehicle within any department or agency? Please detail each offence by financial year, cost of infringement and damage caused to the vehicle;
- (b) For those in (a) please detail:
- (i) Cost of infringement;
  - (ii) Damage caused to the vehicle;
  - (iii) If the vehicle needed replacement or repairs and if yes, the cost(s) associated;
  - (iv) If any injuries occurred, to whom and what type of injury;
  - (v) If the driver could not be identified; and
  - (vi) If WA Police seized the vehicle and for how long; and
- (c) What is the total value of infringements by each financial year?

**Mr D.J. Kelly replied:**

Aqwest

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021 – 3 August 2021
(a)	2	1	2	1	Nil
(b) (i)	1 infringement at \$200 each 1 infringement at \$400 each	1 infringement at \$600 each	1 infringement at \$200 each 1 infringement at \$400 each	1 infringement at \$200 each	Nil
(ii)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(iv)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(v)	Not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(vi)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(c)	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$200	Nil

Busselton Water

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020	2020/2021	2021 – 3 August 2021
(a)	Nil	2	2	2	Nil
(b) (i)	Nil	2 infringements at \$100 each	2 infringements at \$100 each	1 infringement at \$100 each 1 infringement at \$200 each	Nil
(ii)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(iv)	Not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(v)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(vi)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(c)	Nil	\$200	\$200	\$300	Nil

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Please refer to question on notice LA 198.

Department of Communities

Please refer to question on notice LA 196.

Water Corporation

	<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021 – 3 August 2021</b>
(a)	124	119	122	120	2
(b) (i)	67 infringements at \$100 each 50 infringements at \$200 each 4 infringements at \$300 each 2 infringements at \$400 each 1 infringement at \$800 each	77 infringements at \$100 each 36 infringements at \$200 each 4 infringements at \$225 each 2 infringements at \$400 each	73 infringements at \$100 each 37 infringements at \$200 each 8 infringements at \$250 each 4 infringements at \$400 each	86 infringements at \$100 each 27 infringements at \$200 each 5 infringements at \$300 each 2 infringements at \$400 each	2 infringements at \$100 each
(ii)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(iv)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable
(v)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(vi)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable
(c)	\$19 500	\$16 600	\$18 300	\$16 300	\$200

Forest Products Commission

	<b>2017/2018</b>	<b>2018/2019</b>	<b>2019/2020</b>	<b>2020/2021</b>	<b>2021 – 3 August 2021</b>
(a)	4	5	5	4	Nil
(b) (i)	4 infringements at \$200 each	4 infringements at \$200 each 1 infringement at \$400 each	3 infringements at \$200 each 2 infringements at \$400 each	4 infringements at \$200 each	Nil
(ii)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(iii)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(iv)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(v)	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
(vi)	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	No, not applicable	Not applicable
(c)	\$800	\$1 200	\$1 400	\$800	Nil

