



# Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

FORTIETH PARLIAMENT  
FIRST SESSION  
2020

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 20 August 2020

# Legislative Assembly

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**THE SPEAKER (Mr P.B. Watson)** took the chair at 9.00 am, acknowledged country and read prayers.

## PAPERS TABLED

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

### MIDWIFERY GROUP PRACTICES — WARREN–BLACKWOOD AND COLLIE

*Statement by Minister for Health*

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health)** [9.02 am]: I rise to update the house on the recent announcement that the McGowan government will establish midwifery group practices in the Warren–Blackwood district and Collie so that expectant south west families can access care closer to home. The new MGPs will be staffed by specialist midwives who will work in collaboration with local health practitioners to provide maternity and newborn care. Telehealth services will also be used to establish antenatal classes and specialist obstetric consultations in the local community. Local midwives, general practitioners, the South West Aboriginal Medical Service and consumers were consulted to determine the need for an MGP in the region.

The MGP is an internationally recognised, evidence-based clinical initiative that provides quality and sustainable maternity care through on-call midwifery services 24/7; increased access for local women to scheduled antenatal appointments; early discharge with postnatal follow-up and home visits up to four weeks; care and care coordination by a known midwife; increased access and support for expectant mothers; and attendance by the primary midwife and support at medical appointments. If there are risks or complications, MGP midwives will liaise with relevant hospitals to ensure the best possible specialist care for their patients.

MGP models have been shown to assist with reducing rates of birth interventions, lowering postnatal depression rates, increasing breastfeeding rates, shortening lengths of stay and greater patient satisfaction. The new south west MGPs will build on the commitment to this model of care with MGPs currently established in Broome, Northam and Bunbury. The Warren–Blackwood MGP service is expected to start in September, while details of the Collie MGP are currently being finalised.

### CORONAVIRUS — DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES — URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TASK FORCE

*Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services)** [9.04 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house about the Department of Fire and Emergency Services' Urban Search and Rescue Task Force and the truly admirable role it has played during the COVID-19 response. The USAR task force is a specialised group of 65 predominantly career firefighters who are highly trained to respond to complex and long-duration incidents. Since 2019, USAR members have been deployed to Samoa, China, Darwin and locations across Western Australia to assist the Department of Health to contain the pandemic. They are currently part of the Australian Medical Assistance Teams helping Victoria with its COVID-19 crisis within aged-care facilities. The response to this pandemic has also seen career and volunteer personnel step into a different role to assist the Western Australia Police Force.

It is fitting to recognise the USAR task force's integral role in assisting the Department of Health. USAR has dedicated more than 4 000 hours to performing difficult roles in challenging circumstances. I will mention just a few examples. A task force member was deployed to Halls Creek for 21 days to help protect remote Aboriginal communities from the spread of COVID-19. A career firefighter crewed the local ambulance alongside a special operations paramedic. He worked with Halls Creek Aboriginal elders to update the community and supported healthcare staff.

Six task force members were deployed to the Manigurr-ma mining camp in Darwin, where Australian citizens repatriated to Australia from Wuhan and the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship were held in isolation. Ten USAR task force members helped with the disembarkation of 800 passengers from the *Artania* cruise ship, which lasted 29 days and was successfully completed without a single outbreak. Three task members were deployed to Rottnest Island to help with the management of repatriated Australians. The task force members worked closely with local authorities to ensure emergency response and evacuation procedures were safely developed.

Although this is just a snapshot of the role that the USAR task force members performed, they also helped with logistics, decontaminated ship corridors and assisted with the set-up and dismantling of tenting. I am extremely proud of the efforts of everyone involved in these deployments. I am sure that all members in this house will join me in acknowledging members of the USAR task force for their role in helping to protect the community throughout the COVID-19 response.

**STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE VOLUNTEERS***Statement by Minister for Emergency Services*

**MR F.M. LOGAN (Cockburn — Minister for Emergency Services)** [9.07 am]: I would like to take this opportunity to inform the house of the fantastic efforts of our dedicated State Emergency Service volunteers. Our SES volunteers have once again done a tremendous job in responding to more than 80 requests for assistance during the recent storm that impacted the Western Australian coast on Sunday, 9 August 2020. The size of the storm front saw SES volunteers assisting people from Geraldton all the way down the south coast to Albany. The Perth metropolitan area experienced most of the impact, with roofs damaged, large trees falling on homes and driveways, and general water ingress damage and minor flooding. The SES helped with temporary roof repairs, securing damaged structures, clearing fallen trees and debris clean-up, often during heavy downpours of rain, in flooded areas and windy, blustery conditions. I am sure that everyone in this house will join me in thanking every one of those volunteers who put their own lives on hold to help their local communities.

This is also a reminder that storms are the most common natural hazard in Australia. Winter storms in May to October include tornados, lightning, hail, flash flooding and gale force winds that cause major destruction to the southern half of Western Australia. As storms are unpredictable and localised, their devastating impact can sometimes be underestimated. Storms cause damage to homes, property and businesses, and they also pose a threat to people, animals and the natural environment. The best defence against storm damage is getting a property ready early. I encourage everyone to prepare their properties before a storm hits and to be storm safe. For more information about how to stay storm safe, people should visit the Department of Fire and Emergency Services website. It is also important to stay up to date during a storm by visiting [www.emergency.wa.gov.au](http://www.emergency.wa.gov.au) and calling 13 DFES.

On behalf of all Western Australians, I acknowledge the extraordinary contribution of all our emergency services personnel who continue to dedicate their time and skills for our community.

**VICTORY IN THE PACIFIC DAY***Statement by Minister for Veterans Issues*

**MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee — Minister for Veterans Issues)** [9.10 am]: Victory in the Pacific—VP—Day is celebrated on 15 August each year. This year marks 75 years since the end of World War II, the most destructive global conflict in human history in terms of both the economic cost and the estimated 70 million to 85 million combatants and civilians killed during the fighting.

This date commemorates Japan's acceptance of the Allied demand for unconditional surrender in 1945. The previous six years had seen almost one million Australian men and women serve in bloody campaigns against Germany and Italy in Europe, the Mediterranean and North Africa, and against Japan in South-East Asia and other parts of the Pacific. The Australian mainland came under direct attack for the first time, as Japanese aircraft bombed towns in north west Australia and Japanese midget submarines attacked Sydney Harbour. At the time of the German defeat and Japanese surrender, 39 000 Australians had lost their lives.

I was honoured to attend the service on the weekend at the State War Memorial to acknowledge the sacrifice of our fellow Australians. Current estimates advise that approximately 12 500 veterans of World War II are alive today. To commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory in the Pacific and the formal end of hostilities, the federal Department of Veterans Affairs is striking medallions to be issued to all surviving World War II veterans. The state government is working with the Western Australian branch of the Returned and Services League to identify all remaining World War II veterans in WA.

Lest we forget.

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES — CHILDREN IN CARE — ACHIEVER AWARDS***Statement by Minister for Child Protection*

**MS S.F. McGURK (Fremantle — Minister for Child Protection)** [9.12 am]: I rise today to talk about this year's Achiever Awards. This program is open to Western Australians aged 15 to 25 years who have spent time in the care of the Department of Communities and are continuing with their educational or vocational pursuits. Like many other events that were planned this year, the annual Achiever Awards ceremony had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, but this did not stop these young achievers from receiving their prizes and having their successes acknowledged.

I take this opportunity to celebrate the young people who are the recipients of this year's awards. The Achiever Awards program is in its thirtieth year. To date, it has supported more than 500 young Western Australians with a lived experience in out-of-home care to further develop their skills, knowledge and resilience. Recipients are recognised in one of three category pathways—university achiever; registered training achiever; and apprenticeship or traineeship achiever. The Achiever Awards are a great opportunity to recognise the efforts of young Western Australians transitioning from out-of-home care and pursuing higher education and training to prepare for success in adulthood. We know that young people who have been in out-of-home care have often faced significant challenges in their lives. Although each of their experiences has been unique, collectively their achievements are a reminder that challenging circumstances need not place limitations on future success.

It is also important to recognise the critical role of foster families and carers in creating a safe and stable environment, which is fundamental to providing young people with the opportunity to learn, set goals and achieve. I also want to acknowledge those staff who have worked with these young people to support them to thrive. I again congratulate these young people who were recipients of these awards and wish them all the best in their endeavours. I look forward to hearing about their future success.

### **OFFICE OF DIGITAL GOVERNMENT — CYBER WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING PROGRAM**

*Statement by Minister for Innovation and ICT*

**MR D.J. KELLY (Bassendean — Minister for Innovation and ICT)** [9.14 am]: I rise to inform the house that the next cohort of cyber work integrated learning students from Western Australian universities and TAFEs have begun their internships in the Office of Digital Government's cybersecurity unit. I recently met with this fantastic group of students, whose internship will see them working with a number of state government agencies to provide technical support for cybersecurity initiatives, as well as conducting technical research and development. The internship runs for the duration of the students' final semester and provides fantastic opportunity for our future cybersecurity professionals to put their STEM skills into practice.

Since 2019, the Office of Digital Government—DGov—has benefited from the placement of more than 30 high-performing students to assist with a program of work to improve cybersecurity across the sector. The students gain valuable skills and experience to bridge the gap from completing their studies to real-life scenarios. Students provide technical support to DGov and are also placed in other agencies in the public sector, helping to accelerate cybersecurity maturity across government.

Western Australia is a world leader in the cybersecurity industry, and this program is an important pathway to ensure that government and industry have experienced graduates with the practical STEM skills they need to be job-ready. Many former students are now employed in the public sector, and it is a great promotion of where studying STEM can take them.

The McGowan government has also recently launched the Take 2 STEM campaign to promote to students and parents the importance of building skills in science, technology, engineering and maths. As Western Australia begins its economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic, Take 2 STEM and fantastic state government initiatives such as the cybersecurity internship aim to provide the skills and experience to position our young people for the jobs of the future. As we have learnt through the COVID-19 pandemic, skills such as problem solving, creative thinking and innovation are vital in responding to modern challenges.

### **WASTE LEVY — MCGOWAN GOVERNMENT POLICY**

*Grievance*

**DR M.D. NAHAN (Riverton)** [9.17 am]: My grievance is to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Environment; I believe it is the member for Baldivis. The grievance is about a strong concern with the government's changes to and current use of the waste levy and also the proposed introduction of a tax on waste energy.

Essentially, when the McGowan government came to power, it had a bipartisan approach, as it inherited it, to the waste levy. In 2014, the Barnett government's policy was to substantially increase the waste levy—a 250 per cent increase over four years to 2018—to generate around \$83 million a year. The budget the McGowan government inherited laid it all out, with the levy going to various experimental and research waste reduction projects. In other words, it was a carrot-and-stick approach: the stick was the levy and the carrot was the proceeds of that levy going to waste reduction.

Soon upon coming to government, the McGowan government made a decision: if you wish, eat the carrot and keep the stick. It kept the tax as scheduled and directed 75 per cent of the proceeds from the levy from waste reduction investment to consolidated revenue. More importantly, the remaining 25 per cent was largely used to fund the existing bureaucracy. Basically, it kept the stick. This is a very important issue because, in effect, it imposes a \$60 million-a-year tax on local government at a crucial time during the COVID-19 pandemic when local government is struggling, and local government is then passing it on to ratepayers. Cities differ in how they treat it, but most, like the City of Canning, impose a fixed household levy for waste removal. In other words, the government has turned a waste levy into a poll tax. I do not think that is good policy. This is a crucial time for the waste industry, as it is going through massive structural change. Quite rightly, overseas countries have stopped recycling waste paper and plastic from Australia. The major destination for most recycled material was Indonesia, China and other places.

The commonwealth government, quite rightly, has stated that in 2022 it will ban the export of those products from Australia. Our markets are very thin and volatile, and right now we do not have industries that are able to replace the overseas markets. This is the time to invest into recycling the \$60 million a year the government raised from the waste levy. More importantly, there are some structural problems with the waste recycling industry. In the south metropolitan area, there are three players: Cleanaway, South Metropolitan Regional Council and SUEZ. They have very few opportunities and their costs for receiving and treating recycled material are increasing. Indeed, the City of Canning pays about \$2.8 million a year on the levy, but the increases in charges to its various recipients—

I think it is SMRC—costs it \$1 million a year. That is a huge additional impost on the ratepayers of the City of Canning and my constituents, for no gain. It is a tax. Unfortunately, when the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation looked at this—it was under our policy—when it was a levy, and all the proceeds went into waste mitigation. Now it is a tax, and the committee of course cannot go back and look at it.

Another thing we did in government was to promote waste to energy. In terms of investment, the McGowan government has continued that policy, and I appreciate that. However, one thing being considered in this waste strategy—I emphasise that this is just under consideration at this stage—is to put a tax on the material going into waste energy projects that, in the bureaucrats' estimation, might be recyclable. In other words, if a certain percentage of quotas of recyclable material is not met because it is mixed up with producible waste, the proposal is to put a tax on that material going into waste energy. I emphasise that in the recycling industry the prices and capabilities go up and down; they are very volatile. The industry often does not have the capacity to recycle material, particularly now that we have shut off our external markets, which took essentially 100 per cent of our recyclable material. Now that we do not have those markets, we have to find a domestic alternative, and if we do not invest in finding an alternative, we will not have one, apart from waste to energy. Waste to energy basically takes waste material, burns it and sells it back to the community in the form of renewable baseload energy.

We had a policy that was appropriate for its time, but the government converted it into a tax and is now considering another tax on one of our most important mechanisms for recycling material. I ask the government to reconsider its behaviour, to not be greedy, to follow up its words with actions on recycling, to help local governments address one of our major problems, and to stop imposing \$60 million in excessive taxes on ratepayers, including \$1 million a year on the ratepayers of the City of Canning, and substantial imposts upon my constituents. Thank you.

**MR R.R. WHITBY (Baldvis — Parliamentary Secretary)** [9.23 am]: I am pleased to respond to the comments made by the member for Riverton. I will start by talking about the fact that, as the member observed, the waste levy has not changed from the previous government. The practice then was for about 25 per cent of the funds to be spent on waste levy issues, and for about 75 per cent to go to consolidated revenue. I would like to point out that this year we had a devastating fire at the Cleanaway plant. The state government invested many millions of dollars so that local councils could respond to that. I will also mention the many tens of millions of dollars in extra funding that the government has made available this year for waste recycling.

The Office of the Auditor General's audit report "Waste Management—Service Delivery" was tabled in this Parliament today and provides a good snapshot of the progress, highlights and key opportunities for achieving the targets and objectives set out in the state government's "Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030". The findings and recommendations in the OAG's report are aligned with the waste strategy and its action plan. The McGowan government is committed to supporting all local governments to move to better practice services that align with the state's target to increase material recovery to 75 per cent by 2030. The "Waste Avoidance and Resource Recovery Strategy 2030" aims for Western Australia to become a sustainable, low waste, circular economy, in which human health and the environment are protected from the impacts of waste.

There is a clear path forward set out in our waste strategy, and an action plan that has significant commitments from 14 state government agencies and organisations. Local governments are key managers of waste, and some have embraced innovative ways to avoid waste generation, improve their rates of resource recovery, and protect the environment. I am very pleased to outline some of the key actions this government has taken.

The waste strategy includes a headline strategy to roll out a consistent three-bin kerbside collection system, known as "food organics, garden organics", or FOGO, in the Perth and Peel regions by 2025. The transition to FOGO by many local governments is planned over the next five years and beyond, and this is intended to increase recovery rates of municipal solid waste to 60 to 65 per cent. A consistent three-bin FOGO system will achieve around 65 per cent recovery, and local governments using the system are achieving this rate. This significantly higher recovery rate reflects a growing community demand for better-performing waste collection and recovery systems. FOGO services can also reduce local government waste management costs by reducing the amount of material sent to landfill.

The member mentioned funding and the amount of money going into waste and recycling. Twenty-nine local governments have received funding from the Better Bins program, with more than \$16.8 million invested and committed through to the end of 2022. In addition, the \$20 million Better Bins Plus: Go FOGO program supports all local governments to introduce FOGO services, so there is quite an amount of money allocated to local governments there.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation is undertaking a state waste infrastructure audit and needs analysis in 2020–21, to provide further guidance on planning for future needs. The McGowan government supports the development of local reprocessing infrastructure through the WasteSorted grants, and there have been two recent major expression-of-interest processes for paper and cardboard processing, plastic and tyre processing, and regional processing. In July, just last month, the state government announced \$15 million to support local mixed plastic, tyre and regional processing, and access to industrial-zoned land worth \$5 million for processing infrastructure. This will provide funding for local governments and industry to find alternative options for the management of recyclable materials. The funding is expected to be matched by the commonwealth government and by proponents.

On 5 August, this month, the Premier also announced \$15 million towards developing wastepaper and cardboard processing capacity in Western Australia. This is in addition to annual waste grant funding, including more than \$900 000 in 2019–20 for 12 different local recycling infrastructure and behaviour change projects. This year, WasteSorted grants will provide \$1.54 million in funding to further support investment in local recycling infrastructure.

Of course, we also have the container deposit scheme, which is a major initiative that is finally being introduced in Western Australia after many, many decades in South Australia. The McGowan government will implement the container deposit scheme to reduce litter, boost recycling and protect the environment. The scheme is scheduled to launch on 1 October 2020. There are also financial packages for refund point operators in the order of \$3.5 million, and a further \$200 000 in community grants to help local community groups and not-for-profit groups to become collection and donation points.

There is a lot going on in this space. The state government supports consistent statewide communications, in a variety of ways, to get people to change their behaviour. A statewide behaviour campaign will launch later this year targeting waste avoidance, improved recycling outcomes and increased recovery. This will provide regular and consistent waste communications throughout WA. Local governments will be provided with campaign materials to help amplify the message.

In closing, I would like to assure the member that the McGowan government is confident that the current waste strategy and work that is underway by the Waste Authority and the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation, including the 2020–21 work on a state waste infrastructure audit and plan, will address the key findings and recommendations of the Office of the Auditor General's report. Western Australia, with strong community support, is moving to improved waste avoidance and management, with greater recycling, recovery and environmental protection, and reduced landfilling, single-use items and resource waste. I do not think more has happened in the waste space in this state for decades than what we are seeing now. There certainly has been a huge investment to make that happen.

#### **PALLIATIVE CARE — JOONDALUP HEALTH CAMPUS**

##### *Grievance*

**MS E. HAMILTON (Joondalup)** [9.30 am]: My grievance today to the Minister for Health is about palliative care at Joondalup Health Campus. I am proud to be a member of this McGowan government, which has made the bold decision to deal with a very complex issue and bring legislation into this Parliament to provide Western Australians with another choice at their end of life in voluntary assisted dying. What was very clear throughout the discussions on this piece of legislation was the need to ensure that everyone living in this great state has access to high-quality palliative care. We know that Western Australia has a strong palliative care community that has supported, and will continue to support, people of all ages with a life-limiting or terminal illness to live their lives as fully and as comfortably as possible. As part of the discussions around end-of-life choices, significant work was done to look at palliative care, and it became very clear that renewed investment was needed.

In 2018, the Department of Health released the “WA End-of-Life and Palliative Care Strategy 2018–2028”, which outlines the government's strategic statewide policy direction and the vision, values and priorities for end-of-life and palliative care in Western Australia to 2028, providing a 10-year vision for improving the lives of all Western Australians through quality end-of-life and palliative care. Also in 2018, following the report of the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices, a number of recommendations were made. I draw the minister's attention to recommendation 7, which states —

The Minister for Health should facilitate the establishment of an inpatient specialist palliative care hospice providing publicly funded beds in the northern suburbs of Perth.

I was pleased to hear that following this recommendation, the McGowan government allocated \$9 million for an additional 10 inpatient palliative care beds in northern metropolitan suburbs. However, I continue to call for these 10 inpatient beds allocated to the northern suburbs to be specifically placed at Joondalup Health Campus. It is critical that they are made available to patients in Joondalup as a matter of priority. Joondalup Health Campus already has one of the busiest emergency departments in the country, and it has a large and growing catchment area. We all know that Joondalup Health Campus is a hospital providing quality care to patients in a growing city centre; however, we recognise the rapid population growth in the northern corridor.

The McGowan government has previously indicated that additional funding will be provided to strengthen end-of-life care, and I am very interested to hear more from the Minister for Health on this. I am dedicated to ensuring that our state government continues to invest in key health infrastructure in Joondalup. This is why Joondalup Health Campus has received an investment from the McGowan Labor government of \$160 million for an upgrade and expansion, which has started, that will meet the demands of our local area. We are delivering additional emergency department bays, additional inpatient beds, new mental health beds, additional operating theatres and additional car parking bays. I am particularly proud that we have already delivered a \$7.1 million 10-bed mental health observation area and a \$5 million 12-bed stroke unit, both of which are being well utilised and are already saving lives. But there is still more to be done in palliative care in Joondalup.

I know that this is a very important issue for residents living in the Joondalup electorate, and I have been speaking with them about this for some time, as have several of my parliamentary colleagues in neighbouring electorates, including the members for Wanneroo and Girrawheen. At the end of 2019, the member for Wanneroo and I had a petition calling for the additional palliative care beds to be located at Joondalup Health Campus. At that time, over 1 000 local residents had signed the petition, which has been tabled in this Parliament, and I am sure that there is even greater support for this now.

The need for palliative care beds in Joondalup is a pressing issue for the community. Many local residents have felt that there needs to be more end-of-life support in the northern suburbs. I have had multiple residents contact me with similar stories about how their loved ones needed access to quality palliative care, but there was none available close to home, which forced them to spend a significant amount of time commuting to visit loved ones at hospitals and hospices some distance away. A further problem is that the cost of travelling can become a challenge for some of our families, let alone their time in the car, which means less time with their dying loved ones.

Highlighting this issue, and having already raised this matter in the Parliament, I had a situation in which a local couple had to be separated due to the lack of palliative care support in Joondalup. Despite the fact that the husband lived minutes away from Joondalup Health Campus, his wife, who had been fighting cancer for the previous 18 months, had to be transferred to Kalamunda hospice. Despite this difficult decision that the husband and their adult children had to make, at the forefront of their minds was that their wife and mother would receive the care that she deserved at her end of life. However, this move was less than positive for the husband, and it put a huge strain on the family financially. It meant that the husband had less time to spend with his dying wife, because he had to travel. It was a very traumatic experience for that family. However, unfortunately, this is just one of a number of matters that come to my office. We need to ensure that people can receive the quality health care they need close to where they live. The issue of needing more support and locations for people in Joondalup needs to be addressed in a timely manner to prevent further unnecessary challenges and suffering for families in the Joondalup area and more broadly in the northern suburbs. The family has since spoken to me about the loss of their wife and mother, who passed with dignity, close to home, and with her family at the end of her life. This is the experience of just one family in my electorate, but it reflects the common need of my community for palliative care services that can be accessed close to home.

I am of the view that we need to continue to invest in palliative care and the way in which it can be accessed. There should be more choice for patients and their families, particularly around where they will receive this care, as a hospital setting may not be the choice that everyone would make. I ask the minister: why do we not be clever about this and factor end-of-life care into the current plans to upgrade and expand Joondalup Health Campus? I hope to see palliative care provided at Joondalup, and I look forward to the minister's response. I am also interested to hear what other work has been done to answer the recommendations proposed in the end-of-life report. With an ever-growing and ageing population, a renewed focus on palliative care now in Joondalup is vital. Thank you.

**MR R.H. COOK (Kwinana — Minister for Health)** [9.36 am]: I would like to thank the member for Joondalup for once again coming to this place to advocate on behalf of her community. The member for Joondalup is a tireless advocate, not only on palliative care, and, combined with the resources of the members for Girrawheen and Wanneroo, has been relentless in her pursuit to get around \$250 million worth of commitments for the redevelopment of Joondalup Health Campus. The member for Joondalup spearheaded the campaign for the 12-bed stroke unit at Joondalup Health Campus. It is great to be with the member once again to talk about the important issue of health care in the northern suburbs.

As the member pointed out, the Joint Select Committee on End of Life Choices highlighted some of the gaps in our palliative care system, in particular the need for beds in the northern suburbs. I acknowledge at this point the member for Morley, who was the chair of that committee. I am excited today to be able to announce that the McGowan government is getting on with the recommendations from the "My Life, My Choice" report. Indeed, I am delighted to announce that the need for access to palliative care beds close to where people reside is being addressed.

Members will be aware that the government has allocated \$16.3 million in state funding to enhance end-of-life supports. The government has committed \$1.9 million for five northern suburbs palliative care beds, and a public tender process is underway to meet the full recommendations of the committee. The Department of Health has commenced the tender process for the 10 beds in the northern suburbs. In the meantime, interim public palliative care beds have been brought online at Joondalup Health Campus. Five of those beds were opened in July 2019, and a further five beds were opened recently at the same location to meet the immediate need, pending the outcome of the tender process. I should say, member for Joondalup, that I am determined to have those 10 beds allotted in an appropriate setting. I am constantly amazed at how long the tender process can take, but, nevertheless, that will come about shortly. It will be good to at least be able to have those interim beds to make sure that we meet the immediate need.

The amount of \$5.7 million will be dedicated to greater palliative care support for residential aged care. The state of WA has entered into a national partnership agreement on comprehensive palliative care in aged care with the commonwealth of Australia to strengthen and improve access and service delivery of palliative care in residential aged-care facilities. The state funding of \$5.7 million will be matched by the commonwealth with a further

\$5.7 million for a total \$11.4 million, which will include the provision of a state in-reach specialist palliative care consultancy services; the development of workforce capability and capacity to provide palliative care services within the facilities; improved coordination and communication between specialist palliative care and other medical care providers; support the development of agreed goals for care for aged-care residents; and provide coordinated support in end-of-life care decision-making. In addition, \$2.4 million has been dedicated to advance health directives, education, the development of a central register, increased community awareness of palliative care and the establishment of a hotline service.

One of the things I have become acutely familiar with is the importance of relatives and family talking about people's end-of-life wishes. The great work done by Palliative Care WA in promoting advance healthcare directives has been really important in raising awareness. A central register will obviously be an important element of that.

A further \$720 000 has been allocated to increase community awareness and to establish a hotline to improve access and understanding of palliative care in the community. The tender procurement process is currently underway, which will close tomorrow, and the contract is expected to be awarded shortly afterwards. An interim community information hotline was implemented in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and a surge in concerns in the community and need for palliative care-related information. Timing of the successful tender commencement will align with the existing hotline and will be managed to ensure there is no gap in the service for the community. We have also allocated \$3.7 million to support delivery of the end-of-life care program of work. This includes exploring improvements to the provision of end-of-life care services, supporting healthcare providers to access information, education and training resources, supporting initiatives for care coordination of vulnerable population groups, and examining how technology can support better patient care.

Also, \$2.6 million will be allocated to support the implementation and continued operation of voluntary assisted dying. As many members will be aware, the voluntary assisted dying program is being implemented as part of the passage of the voluntary assisted dying legislation last year. The implementation leadership team will work closely with key stakeholders throughout this project to ensure that voluntary assisted dying is implemented safely and appropriately within the context of the existing care options.

I thank the member for Joondalup for her ongoing concern about palliative care services in the northern suburbs and I acknowledge her continued promotion of the need to have good health care in the northern suburbs. In partnership with the members for Wanneroo and Girrawheen, she has been doing great work to compel the McGowan government to work harder and continue to improve all health services in the northern suburbs. The palliative care strategy 2018–2028 sets out a sound pathway for the provision and improvement of palliative care in this state. I am very proud of the work of the McGowan government to continue to make sure we improve these services everywhere.

## **CORONAVIRUS — SMALL BUSINESS**

### *Grievance*

**MRS A.K. HAYDEN (Darling Range)** [9.43 am]: I wish to thank the Minister for Small Business; Tourism for taking my grievance today. My grievance is on behalf of the thousands of small and family-run businesses in WA and the many Western Australians they employ who are missing out on much-needed work as government contracts go over east. I was stunned, to say the least, when I learnt that this government is continuing to give Western Australian jobs to interstate businesses at a time when COVID-19 has devastated our local small and family-run businesses. I am also continually disappointed by this government's lack of empathy for the many Western Australians who have lost their jobs or are working fewer hours and are now struggling to keep a roof over their heads and food on the table. When WA has record unemployment and the second worst rate of unemployment in the nation, this government continues to hand out local contracts to the eastern states, including the \$2 million Wander Out Yonder campaign to Sydney. The Premier's own department has given a \$3 million media monitoring contract to a Victorian company and another to Victoria to supply barbecues in a park in Collie. I asked the Premier about this only last week during question time and I am sorry to say that his response was entirely unsatisfactory. All he could say was that the former government had engaged a South Australian company to provide barbecues to Rottneest in 2016. Yes, that was correct, but at the time, in 2016, we did not have the pandemic we are going through right now. WA also was not in the recession it is going through right now and it did not have the record unemployment levels it has today.

The minister and the Premier are telling Western Australians to shop local but they are refusing to follow the lead of Western Australians by doing it themselves. All they can do is point the finger and say, "Well, you didn't do it." Western Australians deserve more than this childish response that they are receiving. This is not about political pointscoreing nor is it a political popularity contest; it is about keeping Western Australians employed, giving our West Aussies jobs and keeping jobs local and doing everything we can to support our local small and family-run businesses and to keep them afloat.

Sadly, this is not about just barbecues. Since the end of April, in the middle of the pandemic, Tourism WA alone has given \$2.3 million worth of contracts to the eastern states. This includes \$68 000 for a customer relationship management system, around \$90 000 for a brand relaunch creative testing, \$52 500 for content management software,

\$100 000 for a destination logo identity and \$2 million for an impact research for events, which was awarded on 8 June. At the height of the pandemic, a contract worth \$2 million has been sent over east to work out how our events are managing. I would not be surprised if West Aussies are right now scratching their heads wondering what events this research could possibly be looking into while the state is in a shutdown period.

Sadly, it is not occurring under just the minister's portfolio. Contracts are going to the eastern states across every other area of government. I could spend a few hours standing here today rattling them all off, but luckily for him, I do not have the time. These contracts need to go to our local businesses and the minister is sending them straight over east or overseas. I will provide just a few examples of contracts awarded recently. The Department of Education awarded \$900 000 to a New South Wales business for notebook computers for teachers. Similar contracts have previously gone to a WA business. Why, when we are being asked to support local and shop local, has the minister's government sent money over to New South Wales when teachers have been supplied these notebooks by WA businesses before? Why could we not let these WA businesses continue to supply for this contract? The Department of Communities awarded \$73 628 to a Tasmanian business for Collective Impact Consulting Services and VenuesWest awarded a nearly \$5 million contract to a Victorian cleaning company for its services at HBF Stadium, HBF Arena, WA Athletic Stadium, Gold Netball Centre, Perth SpeedDome and Champion Lakes Regatta Centre. Huge sums of money are leaving this state and going to interstate businesses through government contracts at the expense of WA jobs. On top of that, more than \$2 billion worth of major infrastructure work is going to foreign contractors and denying opportunities for local WA mid-tier construction companies. These are prime examples of the government's bungled Western Australian Jobs Act, which states —

... suppliers of goods produced, or services provided, in Western Australia, another State, a Territory or New Zealand;

This government includes jobs in the eastern states and New Zealand as "local jobs". I believe that Western Australians looking for work will not think that passes the pub test; that is not local for them. Considering we cannot travel, local jobs must be in Western Australia, not in the eastern states or New Zealand.

Last week, the Premier told me that his government passed the Western Australian Jobs Act as if it solved the problem, but he failed to explain that the contracts that are going to businesses in St Kilda or Christchurch are not going to be helping people here in WA and certainly will not be helping the people in Darling Range who are looking for work. In March this year, Standard and Poor's reported that Byford, which is in my electorate of Darling Range, had the highest number of households in mortgage arrears in Australia at nearly six per cent. Many families are also in negative equity; they owe more on their mortgages than their house is currently worth. Those figures came out in the December 2019 quarter, before the COVID pandemic. Since then, the position is far worse. These same people who were struggling to pay their mortgages before are now losing their jobs and working fewer hours. I have spoken to people from my community who have asked for help to get access to their superannuation, because they simply do not have the money coming in. Many of these people were employed by small businesses. Sadly, as I highlighted yesterday, the minister has been ignoring our local small and family-run businesses that support these jobs. My concern is that unless he does something about it, we are not going to have jobs for Western Australians. I am asking the minister to keep contracts local and support WA jobs.

**MR P. PAPALIA (Warnbro — Minister for Tourism)** [9.51 am]: Interestingly, it appears as though the member has continued with the performance that we witnessed last evening during the debate on private members' business. Sadly, no more effort has gone into researching her grievance than that fairly pathetic example of a contribution last night. I might assist the member, because she seems incapable of doing research, or in fact even talking to small businesses. I might refer her to today's *The West* online and an article by Meilin Chew. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, which has undeniably impacted every business on the planet and created angst and challenges for just about anyone engaged in small business anywhere on the globe. Despite that, we in Western Australia enjoy an open economy. Small businesses in Western Australia are enjoying a far greater opportunity to pursue their business than anyone in the country, and possibly anywhere on the planet. We are the beneficiaries of great leadership, a wonderful governance system, and, above all, a willingness on behalf of Western Australians, including small business people, to sacrifice self-interest in the interests of protecting the health and wellbeing of their fellow citizens. They have given their support for the hard border that has been championed by the Premier against the protests of the Leader of the Opposition and which has resulted in us being able to open up the economy more than anywhere else in the country.

Meilin Chew's article in today's *The West* online is headed "WA small businesses buck doom and gloom trend". I suggest the member searches out that article. It refers to a survey of some 5 000 small businesses that indicates that half of WA businesses saw their revenue decrease compared with more than three quarters nationwide, and that there is great optimism amongst Western Australian small businesses. Some other parts of the world experienced dramatic downturns in their fortunes, but in Western Australia, we bucked the trend. That is revealed by the optimism amongst Western Australian small businesses, with as many as 84 per cent of those that were surveyed expecting to recover to pre-COVID levels within 12 months. That is far more optimistic than elsewhere in the nation, and, I think, reflective of what I have experienced as I talk to small businesses, because I do. I do not think the member opposite actually meets with small businesses. I talk to small businesses across the state. I spend time talking to

small businesses. I suggest that she should be out there talking to people. I know that the Labor Party candidate for Darling Range, Hugh Jones—an excellent candidate—is talking to people and small businesses. On behalf of Mark McGowan, he is going to small businesses across Darling Range and talking to people. He is actually hearing what they care about and hearing from them personally. That is what I think the member should be doing. I fear she does not really like talking to people.

The member referred to Tourism WA and made claims about other portfolios. I have no idea whether those are correct or not. If anyone was unfortunate enough to have been listening online to the member when she was making her grievance, I urge anyone in that unfortunate circumstance to treat whatever she says with a great deal of scepticism. I refer to the claims the member made about WA Tourism, because I know about that portfolio.

Tourism WA appointed four marketing agencies earlier this year. Three out of four of those companies are local Western Australian companies. That is a complete contrast to what happened under our predecessors. The Liberal Party record in tourism contracts is a woeful one. When the member for Scarborough—the Leader of the Opposition—was Minister for Tourism and the member for Darling Range was Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, more than \$20 million of tourism contracts went to companies in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide. In August 2014, the Leader of the Opposition, who was then the Minister for Tourism, oversaw a contract of \$17.8 million —

Several members interjected.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** I can barely hear myself speak, Acting Speaker.

**The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms J.M. Freeman):** Okay. That is enough. Thank you.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** The Leader of the Opposition as Minister for Tourism oversaw a \$17.8 million contract for advertising services on the Just Another Day in WA campaign, which was awarded to Melbourne-based company Cummins and Partners. In November 2014, she oversaw a \$2 million contract for media impact evaluation services for events awarded to a New South Wales company, Repucom. In October 2013, she oversaw a \$176 000 contract for search engine marketing services, which was awarded to Sydney-based company dgm Australia.

**Mrs A.K. Hayden** interjected.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Member for Darling Range, enough.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** Can we stop the clock, please, when she is interrupting?

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** No, we cannot. Minister, just go on.

**Mr P. PAPALIA:** In November 2015, the member opposite, as Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism, oversaw a \$185 000 contract for a strategic marketing consultant, which was awarded to a Sydney-based company, Enth Degree Pty Ltd; in June 2015, a \$100 000 contract for market research that went to Melbourne-based company BDA Marketing Planning; and in December 2016, an \$88 000 contract for digital marketing services to an Adelaide-based company, Chamonix IT Consulting. We all know the story of the barbecues, as well. As parliamentary secretary, the member oversaw hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of barbecues for interstate companies that were going to Rottneest Island. It is a disgraceful record. The member should let go of this; it is embarrassing for her.

## GLEN IRIS

### *Grievance*

**MR D.T. PUNCH (Bunbury) [9.58 am]:** My grievance is to the Minister for Transport, and I thank her for accepting the grievance.

When the McGowan government came into office, it came with a strong commitment to the City of Bunbury to grow the City of Bunbury as the state's second city, look at the quality of life and liveability of the city, and, in so doing, form the Bunbury Development Committee. The Bunbury Development Committee is made up of government agencies and local civic leaders, and they have a mandate to look at a number of specific projects within the city. One of those concerns the suburb of Glen Iris. My grievance today concerns planning for the sustainability and liveability of this suburb, and, more specifically, road safety and efficiency issues that have come out of the work of the Bunbury Development Committee.

It is worthwhile taking a really good look at Glen Iris, because until we came into office, it was very much a neglected suburb. It sits to the north of Bunbury and is isolated from Bunbury by the Preston River. It is constrained on two sides, by Forrest Highway—the major highway coming into Bunbury from the north and south—and South Western Highway to the east, and also by heavy vehicle movements. This is a suburb of around 4 500 people. It was created back in the 1990s with a lot of promises about civic amenity, but those 4 500 people have very limited access to parks and have no recreation space. Their suburb lacks any sort of centre or village heart. All roads lead to one road, Vittoria Road, which has become a major source of concern for the safety and amenity of the people who live in that suburb, who deserve significant rewards. They are working families, many of whom are young and starting out with their first home, building their family and living in a suburb that is largely neglected and isolated.

Vittoria Road is a particularly interesting road. At the northern end is a major intersection onto Forrest Highway. At the southern end is an intersection onto South Western Highway. All the north–south feeder roads into Glen Iris come out onto Vittoria Road, which was originally envisaged as a village heart and a centre for the suburb. I have been on that road, which is about one kilometre long, during the busy rush hour, when traffic build-up from the south has overlapped traffic build-up from the north, creating complete gridlock. I want to talk about why that is the case. At the northern end, near the intersection with the Forrest Highway, is a very successful farmers market, located immediately on a left-hand turn from the intersection. It is very popular locally and incredibly popular with visitors. A lot of traffic to the farmers market turns into Glen Iris, does a left turn and gets caught up in blockages at the entrance to the farmers market. Traffic that turns right off Forrest Highway into Vittoria Road gets constrained by that build-up of traffic that is turning left into the farmers market.

Further down is Grace Christian School, which is both a primary and high school, with a lot of pick-ups and drop-offs; Djidi Djidi Aboriginal School, with a similar number of pick-ups and drop-offs; and, on the north–south linkage, Bicton Primary School. Three primary schools feed into the traffic on Vittoria Road at similar times. Recent developments, such as the step-up, step-down facility, which the McGowan government has delivered on, medical practices, and churches have been established. This is all without a sense of the future of Vittoria Road. This has all built up on what was originally a reasonable intersection, but has become an intersection that regularly fails, particularly on weekends.

At the other end, near South Western Highway, there is an equal build-up due to traffic that turns right onto South Western Highway and traffic that comes down from the north onto South Western Highway that wants to turn right onto Vittoria Road. Vittoria Road functions almost as a regional distributor road between the industrial centres to the south and Forrest Highway and the faster route into Perth to the north. It not only distributes local traffic, but also acts as a regional distribution road, which it was not designed to do.

For all those reasons, we now have a conflict, particularly with people who park on one side of Vittoria Road and try to access either the schools or the farmers market across a very busy road. It clearly needs significant consideration. I know that Main Roads, the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Bunbury Development Committee have been advancing planning for this area. I support and am very appreciative of that. My request is to hear how we can advance construction of the proposed roundabout at the southern end of Vittoria Road and get that moving so that local people can see tangible evidence of what is happening. We also need to start engaging with the community around road issues to the north and the Forrest Highway–Vittoria Road intersection, because that is a very topical subject for local people. We need to work in a way that will enable future development in the Glen Iris area to develop a village appeal, a sense of sustainability, walkability and safety, and into a suburb that people can feel proud of and really appreciate. It can be looked at from the point of view of long-term sustainability by introducing greening and traffic-calming measures, and by diverting traffic into a more appropriate system of management, particularly the intersection with Forrest Highway.

The previous government did some work to try to address congestion in that area by building the Eelup roundabout, but it totally forgot to address the issues that confront the Forrest Highway–Vittoria Road intersection. This government's commitment to the Bunbury Outer Ring Road will make a significant difference to traffic in the future, but it is still a critical need to decide how we can get traffic management right and how that can facilitate sustainable planning to build a village centre within Glen Iris that will give those people a sense of community and so that it is not just a neglected suburb on the northern boundary of Bunbury.

**MS R. SAFFIOTI (West Swan — Minister for Transport)** [10.05 am]: I thank the member for Bunbury for this grievance. First of all, I can say that the member for Bunbury knows more about Bunbury than anyone I have ever met, particularly in this area. He has shown an absolute passion for and commitment to improving the amenity for those living in that area. He understands the potential growth that will happen. As the member outlined, Glen Iris is basically sandwiched between the two main corridors of Forrest Highway and South Western Highway. The farmers market down there is very successful. Anyone who has been down south has probably popped through that market. The range of products on sale has continued to grow, but that has created some significant traffic issues.

A commitment by the member for Bunbury that we have delivered on was the establishment of the Bunbury Development Committee to create a cross-agency approach to deal with some of these problems. Glen Iris was highlighted as a priority area. The member has been very proactive and we have spoken about the need to look at both short and long-term fixes for that area. It is true that the Bunbury Outer Ring Road will take some pressure off traffic movement along the Forrest Highway in that area. As the member knows, we will be making further announcements about it, but preparation for construction of that project is well advanced and it will remove some pressure. However, there will still be a need to improve the flow of traffic and safety. Of course, we have made a funding commitment to improve the South Western Highway–Vittoria Road intersection. The Forrest Highway–Vittoria Road intersection continues to be a challenge because of land constraints. We are working to see what we can do.

I will continue to work with the member, but after consultation with him and the agencies, we are preparing to deliver some short-term fixes to traffic problems over the next 12 to 18 months. We will look at how we can improve the turning capacity by changing how the traffic lights are signalled and seeing whether there is any room

to increase the number of lanes. That will be tight, but we will investigate all those options. We will also look at what we can do with proposed developments in that area. The member realises that this is not a stagnant area and that it will be an ever-changing area with not only residential, but also commercial proposals. My notes outline that we expect the volume of traffic to continue, but the Bunbury Outer Ring Road will impact that. There will be new developments and complexities around planning for future rail corridors in that area. I also understand that this is a residential area and needs a greater heart, which I think is the word the member used. I know that the member has been working with a number of agencies to create a commercial centre for that area.

We will commit to working with the member in identifying some short-term measures, to be delivered over the next 12 to 18 months, which will improve traffic movements over the next 10 to 15 years. We will commit to planning the long-term fixes—in particular, the road corridors and the negotiations with the landowners and the community. At the meeting next month, we will work with the Bunbury Development Committee and the member on the short-term issues, such as the timing of the signals of the lights; any road improvements on Vittoria Road; supporting any proposed developments by giving certainty about long-term road corridors; and access for any new commercial developments. The member is keen to continue to support the requests of the Glen Iris estate to improve amenities in that area. They extend beyond my portfolio, but the member raised them directly with me—that is, the issues of parking, public open spaces and making sure that this residential subdivision for 4 500 people can continue to grow successfully, with access to quality parks, local commercial and retail businesses and the district.

We will commit to providing long-term certainty for road corridors and short-term improvements that will help stabilise the traffic issue over the next 10 to 15 years, noting that the Bunbury Outer Ring Road will reduce some of that pressure by firstly stabilising the traffic issue and then creating the certainty to allow future development and amenity to be brought to that area.

### **INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020**

#### *Remaining Stages — Standing Orders Suspension — Motion*

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police)** [10.11 am]: I move —

That so much of standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable the Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 to proceed through all remaining stages without delay between the stages.

**MR Z.R.F. KIRKUP (Dawesville)** [10.12 am]: The opposition supports the motion moved by the acting Leader of the House to ensure that we can get the Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 through this place today and hopefully before we commence the motion for Hon Bill Grayden. We look forward to supporting the motion so we can make sure we get it to the other place.

Question put and passed.

#### *Consideration in Detail*

Resumed from 19 August.

#### **Clause 27: Part II Division 3AA inserted —**

Debate was adjourned after the clause had been partly considered.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** When we discussed this clause yesterday, we basically exhausted the area of forum shopping. Section 725 of the commonwealth Fair Work Act 2009 essentially tries to limit the capacity for people to forum shop or double-dip in relation to workplace bullying. Is there an intention to introduce a similar provision in the Western Australian legislation or is it even necessary?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Member, that is not actually what the Fair Work Act provides. The Fair Work Act provides a limitation when a matter has been dismissed, but it does not prevent the making of multiple applications, so it does not quite work the way the member described.

#### **Clause put and passed.**

#### **Clauses 28 and 29 put and passed.**

#### **Clause 30: Section 52A inserted —**

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Clause 30 inserts proposed section 52A, and a couple of other amendments follow in the subsequent clauses, up to clause 33, to tidy up what proposed section 52A will do. The new section relates to counterpart federal bodies. Can the minister provide an explanation of why this is necessary and what is the scope of this proposed section?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Proposed section 52A relates to organisations registered in both the state and federal system. Of course, organisations cannot be registered in both systems; they have to have a separate existence in the federal system and a separate existence in the state system. However, a long-understood practice is that a federal body can be declared to be a counterpart federal body. This applies only to employee associations.

I will give members a few examples. The Rail Train and Bus Union has a federal existence and a state existence, and at the moment the federal secretary of the WA branch is not the same person as the state secretary of the state

union; however, the branch secretary of the Shop, Distributive and Allied Employees Association of WA—one that I am very familiar with—is the secretary of the state union. On the other hand, the union now called the United Workers Union has a long history of amalgamations and its counterpart federal body, when it was called United Voice, had a section 71 certificate. A section 71 certificate holds that the election for the federal body is deemed to be the election for the state body; therefore, the person who occupies the position of secretary of the federal branch is deemed to be the secretary of the state union.

This is not controversial; this has been happening for decades. The problem is that the history of the federal body is now diverging from the state union, and so the federal union is amalgamated with what used to be called the National Union of Workers to form a union called the United Workers Union. The issue with the United Workers Union is that it does not have state branches; it has functional branches, such as a branch for enrolled nurses and health workers, a branch for cleaners and gardeners and a branch for warehouse workers, so it no longer has an equivalent federal branch in Western Australia. Therefore, the old section 71 arrangement is no longer relevant for that union, so we have to provide a system for the new structure, or the federal union, to be recognised by the state act.

Through these amendments, we are providing a system not for the automatic recognition of the federal structure, but rather for the right for the commission to recognise the parallel office that is deemed to be the equivalent office of the state. Another example is the Food Preservers' Union of Western Australia, which has a long history in Western Australia. Another union, registered under the federal act, was called the Confectionery Workers' and Food Preservers' Union, but they had nothing to do with each other. They had a similar name, but they were not related. The federal Confectionery Workers' and Food Preservers' Union of Australia amalgamated with the Automotive, Metals and Engineering Union to form the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union, whereas the Food Preservers' Union of Western Australia had always been associated with Manufacturing Grocers' Employees Federation of Australia, which amalgamated with National Union of Workers. Members can see that there might not always be alignment, even though they might have similar activities. Through all these amendments we are providing the Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission with the power, not directing it, to recognise that the federal union might not have a state branch and therefore it has to identify a different office to be the equivalent of the state secretary.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** To paraphrase that, this is really about union housekeeping to take into account the modern version of how unions evolve differently in different jurisdictions and are tending to move towards a federal-style or national-style structure rather than the old craft-based, state-based unions. Is that where we are heading?

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Sort of.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Sort of. So, essentially, this is to deal with internal union arrangements. I take it from that answer that it will not give additional powers to anyone in any way throughout the industrial relations system; it is just a matter of recognising where the appropriate office-bearers are in a circumstance in which the constitutional arrangements of a particular union do not align with the very structured nature of our recognition of counterpart bodies in the state system. Is that correct?

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Yes, the second half of the member's commentary is correct. It is not to direct, but to provide the commission the power, where it believes it is appropriate, to determine which office is the counterpart office. It is not quite the way the member described it; it is because there is a different process for certain unions. Let us take the Rail, Tram and Bus Union as an example. Generally speaking, it could ask for a section 71 certificate to be issued, and then whoever is elected to the federal office would be the secretary. But if it chooses not to, it is not required to change that, so the federal union can do whatever it wants and there is no impact on the state system because there is a state entity. It is only when there is a history of the state entity already having a section 71 certificate and the person elected to that office is deemed elected to the state office that an issue arises. Now we have to allow the commission the power when the federal union no longer has a state branch. If it has a state branch, it is not a problem. But if it no longer has state branches, it moves to a national organising platform. It is not about craft coverage, because we could have a craft union that also adopted a national structure; it is about being able to recognise that national structure in state legislation. As I said, it is not a direction; it is a power, and the commission can exercise that power when it sees fit. If the commission is not satisfied that it is proper, it will not exercise that function.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 31 to 33 put and passed.**

**Clause 34: Part IIAA inserted —**

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Clause 34 inserts a new part IIAA into the Industrial Relations Act 1979. This part was discussed at length during the second reading debate and the minister's summing up. It enables the minister to declare an employer to not be a national system employer. I think we traversed the history of this. The move from the old-style federal industrial relations system relied on the interstate nature of a dispute to bring parties to the Industrial Relations Commission to use of the corporations power under section 51(xx) of the Australian Constitution

and the express provision incorporated in section 14 of the commonwealth Fair Work Act to enable states to do this for a very limited class of employers. It does not say that the states have to do it, but it gives them that power. It contemplates that states can do that, and the minister is doing that.

The minister has brought this provision to bear and made his intentions clear. I will give him a tick for that. He has been very transparent. He is doing this because he intends to bring the Western Australian local government sector from the federal system, where most local governments have been for many years, and into the state system. That is his express intention.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** That's not quite right. That not quite what I'm doing. I will explain it in a second.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The minister might explain it later, but he has made it extremely clear that he believes that local government employment relations ought to be dealt with within the state system and that constitutionally they ought to be there. The minister has made that clear.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** You're not actually properly putting my position, but you give your speech and I'll give mine.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The minister can put his position. It is stated throughout the minister's second reading speech that he intends to use the powers contained in clause 34 to declare local governments across Western Australia not to be national system employers so that they come into the state system. The minister believes that is right way to go. The Western Australian local government sector has objected strenuously to that. Through its representative body, the Western Australian Local Government Association, the local government sector has written to all members of Parliament and had significant interactions with the minister. The sector has made it clear that it is happy where it is. A lot of local governments have been in the federal system since the 1980s or 1990s. Including regional councils, there are more than 140 local government authorities in Western Australia, and 121 of those have their industrial relations governed in the federal system. That is around 87 per cent of the sector. There are 114 federally registered enterprise agreements applying to 75 local governments and regional councils compared with 12 state industrial agreements. Quite clearly, the local government sector is more heavily involved in the federal industrial relations system, and it tells us it is happy with that. It is concerned about spending an inordinate amount of time and money, which is ratepayers' money because local government does not have a magic money tree—no government has a magic tree; all government money is taxpayers' or ratepayers' money—simply moving its industrial relations system from the federal to state system. The local government sector has expressed those concerns quite forcefully to us and made it very, very clear that it does not want that.

Like the minister, I believe that that power should be in the Fair Work Act.

**Mr A. KRSTICEVIC:** I would like to hear more from the member for Hillarys.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Extension granted.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Like the minister, I believe that there should be this power envisaged by section 14 of the Fair Work Act. It is only a matter of how a minister, or government, would exercise that power. When we talk about employee–employer relations, we need to rely primarily on the spirit of good faith, and reciprocity and mutuality; otherwise, the whole system breaks down. We are proposing with the amendment that I will move in a minute that if the minister does exercise a power to bring employers away from the national system and deem them not to be employers under the national system, that would be done only with the consent of the employer. In the minister's summing up of the second reading debate, he said that is unfair because the employer would have to consent but the employees would not. The minister is not bringing the employees into the system directly, only indirectly. Number one, it is the employer that will be deemed to be a national system employer. Number two, and most importantly, if the minister did have that intention and the employees wanted to be brought into the state system, they could directly petition the minister or ask him to do it. I do not know about other members of Parliament, but as shadow Minister for Industrial Relations I have had lots of representations from the trade union movement, both from the peak body here in the state and individual trade unions, and I continue to have, I think, cordial relations. We might not agree on a lot of things, sometimes we might not agree on very many things at all, but we have cordial relations. I have not had one trade union knock on my door, ring me, write to me, email me or text me and say that they would like local government in Western Australia to be taken out of the federal system and brought into the state system. Like local government, I do not think too many trade unions want to spend a hell of a lot of time or effort reinvigorating provisions in the state system that work perfectly well in the federal system. This is not about states' rights. We are agreeing that the minister can bring in this provision, and the Fair Work Act envisages it. All we are saying is that if the minister is to use this power, he ought to consult with the people he is bringing back into the system to see what they think, which is why we have debated this at length at the second reading stage. I think we will agree to disagree on this, which is why I would like to move the amendment to clause 34 standing in my name. I move —

Page 42, after line 27— To insert —

- (3) The regulations may make a declaration only if the Minister is satisfied that the employer has consented to the declaration.

If the minister thinks this is the right way to go constitutionally, he can contact the employers. Obviously, the employee representatives would have a similar ability to contact the minister, but the minister could not drag an employer kicking and screaming back into the state system if they do not want to do so and they are happy to be where they are. The employer would need to consent. If there is a constitutional issue, as the minister says, let the minister argue the constitutional issue. If he truly believes that there is a genuine constitutional issue to be addressed here, let him address the constitutional issue with the commonwealth government through the federal Fair Work Act. Let him address that constitutional issue, because clearly the local government sector does not believe that there is a constitutional issue, the trade union employees in the local government sector do not believe that there is a constitutional issue and, more particularly, the Fair Work Commission does not think there is a constitutional issue, because it continues to issue these enterprise agreements and register them federally. We do not think that stacks up, but if the minister does have a constitutional issue, there are other ways he can deal with it. We think dragging an employer body and all the employees—the hundreds of thousands of employees—back into the state system, causing dislocation, causing concern, causing costs and increasing costs to ratepayers, particularly at this difficult time, should be done only with the consent of the employer the government is trying to drag back in.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I thought I would get up so the minister can respond. The Nationals WA supports the amendment moved by the member for Hillarys. As he succinctly put, representations to the National Party from the Western Australian Local Government Association are clearly against this legislation because of the impact it will have on local governments right across Western Australia, and particularly regional WA. I believe there are 10 local governments under the state system, and the rest of the local governments are under the federal system. This is where we must allow for that choice to occur for local governments. Given the fact that this Labor government has put a freeze on the ability for local governments to increase their rates, this is a cost burden. This is not what local governments need at this present time. Local governments need to work out the huge impact they have borne, particularly in regional WA, where their revenue sources have been cut, whether it be through airport landing fees or something else. A lot of local governments have lost a huge amount of money, which has meant that they have had to trim back a lot of their costs. In some cases, they have had to offload quite a few employees to balance their budgets because of their inability to raise rates to deal with this financial problem that a lot of local governments have. The Minister for Local Government's response was that they should spend their reserves. A lot of local governments do not have reserves to spend, so they are in a financial pickle. Members in this house, local governments, particularly in smaller towns in regional WA, do not have the ability at the moment to increase rates, which is their revenue source, and other revenue sources have dried up. This amendment allows for that choice. It is all about being fair and equitable and having that choice.

We do not want to keep on imposing costs on local governments. Over time, local governments have seen a cost shift from federal and state governments, and it is now increasing more than ever because of the way this government is imposing a lot of pressure on them to spend up. Rather than the state spending up in regional towns, local governments have spent up using every cent they have. What happens when they run out of money, if they do have money?

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** Tony, let him speak.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** I am happy to have the member for Armadale's interjection, because not all local governments are in a good financial position. This clause will impose further costs on local government. When there are 21 000 local government employees who have to switch from the federal system to the state system, there is a cost involved. I plead with the minister to please understand that a lot of local governments, particularly regional local governments, are not in this financial position, especially when the minister in his other portfolio has increased costs for local governments in the Horizon Power network by 10.6 per cent for street lighting. That is another cost burden on local governments when they have been told that they cannot increase costs and pass them on to the ratepayer, but the state government can. The hypocrisy that exists in this government is astounding. This is another problem that will impose a huge financial burden on local governments around Western Australia.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I understand the bleating from the member for North West Central, and how ridiculous. This provision does not increase costs on local governments. In fact, it gives local governments an opportunity to save money. This is an opportunity to reduce their reliance on the expensive legal services that they are using in the Fair Work Commission. They can get away from that and come back to the simple layperson's jurisdiction of the state commission, and the government will help them with their industrial relations if they want. Further, member for North West Central, this provision has been designed in detailed consultation through a task force that included WALGA representatives to make sure that there is a simple transition by which the existing terms and conditions continue to apply. Every Western Australian Local Government Association representative will tell the member that because WALGA was involved in the design of the transition arrangement.

Let me turn to the member for Hillarys' amendment. Local governments are not constitutional corporations, which means that they are ineligible to be regulated by the commonwealth. We know that because during the former government's period, it passed legislation to specifically regulate the employment of the chief executive officer of

every single local government in Western Australia and they are currently regulated by a provision of the Salaries and Allowances Tribunal. That was done by the Liberal government, and the only way that that could have occurred was if the Parliament of Western Australia had the authority to regulate the employment of workers in local government, and that means that the former government did not believe that they were constitutional corporations.

The next thing is that nobody—not a single representation from any local government—has asked me not to proceed with this provision. On the other hand, a number of local governments have said that they want me to proceed with this provision. I accept that WALGA does not want to do it, but is it not interesting that when I first met with WALGA councillors after I announced that we were following this pathway, they accepted that this was a good idea? I agree that the paid officials are opposed to this. I meet with local governments constantly. I met with several local governments over the last three weeks and never once did they raise this issue with me. This is not an issue for local government. I agree and accept that it is an issue for WALGA, but it is not an issue for local government.

Instead of moving this amendment, the member for Hillarys should have moved an amendment that provides that any local government that holds a plebiscite that asks to remain in the federal system is allowed to remain in the federal system. This is not a question for WALGA; this is a question for the people of Western Australia. I believe in the right of Western Australia to assert its control over local government and not have Canberra regulate local governments because, let us understand, if local governments in Western Australia are saying that they are constitutional corporations, that means that the commonwealth Parliament can exercise any right to regulate them in any way that it sees fit, not just in respect of industrial relations but in any regard, including the election system for councillors of local government and the rates of pay for the elected officials of local government. They cannot be part pregnant—they are either in or they are out. If local governments are constitutional corporations—if that is their argument—then they are constitutional corporations and the commonwealth can do what it likes. But they are not. I point out to the member that if local governments want to give up their rate power and no longer collect taxes—because that is what a rate is—they would then become constitutional corporations. But they cannot have it both ways. They cannot collect rates that are given to them by the Parliament of this state but not be regulated in other ways by this Parliament. It cannot happen.

#### Division

Amendment put and a division taken, the Acting Speaker (Ms L. Mettam) casting her vote with ayes, with the following result —

#### Ayes (18)

Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr P.A. Katsambanis	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr D.T. Redman
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Ms L. Mettam	Mr P.J. Rundle
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Dr M.D. Nahan	Mr A. Krsticevic ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mrs A.K. Hayden	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.C. Nalder	
Dr D.J. Honey	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr K.M. O'Donnell	

#### Noes (33)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr P. Papalia	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr M. McGowan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mr R.H. Cook	Ms S.F. McGurk	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr D.R. Michael ( <i>Teller</i> )
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms R. Saffioti	
Mr T.J. Healy	Mr Y. Mubarakai	Ms A. Sanderson	
Mr M. Hughes	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw	

#### Pair

Ms M.J. Davies

Mr D.A. Templeman

**Amendment thus negatived.**

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 35 to 53 put and passed.**

**Clause 54: Part VIB inserted —**

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The issue I want to raise relates to the last insertion in clause 54, which is contained on page 82 of the bill. It inserts new division 4, section 97H, which prohibits certain types of advertising. Proposed subsection (1) states —

A person must not advertise the availability of employment at a rate of pay that is less than the minimum wage applicable to the position under the MCE Act —

That is the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 —

or an award, order of the Commission or an industrial agreement.

Proposed subsection (2) makes a contravention of subsection (1) not an offence, but liable to a civil penalty. The basis for the prohibition is sound. A series of minimum wages is applicable to various occupations, some of which are set by award, some of which are set by agreement and some of which are set by the order of the commission in minimum wage cases and the like. There is bipartisan acceptance that nobody should be paid less than the minimum rate that they are entitled to, and if someone wants to pay them less than the minimum rate, they should be precluded from doing so.

The question about this provision that has arisen from a number of stakeholders is the situation in which there may well be an inadvertent breach. I will give the minister an example. For instance, someone might have a standing agreement to run an advertisement because they have regular need for workers. The applicable wage rate might be \$25 or \$30 an hour and they might advertise in April, May and June. On 1 July, the rate might change to \$25.37 or \$25.90 or whatever it is, but the ad was renewed in the middle of June and it ran for a monthly period to the middle of July, and it inadvertently indicated the incorrect wage rate because it had changed in the middle of the advertising period. First of all, the employer had no intention of advertising the wrong rate; and, second, there is no evidence that the employer ever paid the wrong rate, and, if they had paid the wrong rate, they should be liable for penalty in the same way as they would be in any other case. In relation to inadvertent breaches, particularly during a change in the wage rate, how will proposed section 97H deal with that or will there be a need for us to look at this provision between the houses to ensure that some form of intent is written into it? Otherwise, it would personalise inadvertent breaches, and I do not think anyone wants to penalise inadvertent breaches that are simply technical in nature.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Thanks for the very reasonable question. I do not believe any amendment is required. Firstly, it is not creating an offence; there is no criminal element to this. The only penalty would be if an industrial magistrate determined that a penalty was appropriate, and it would of course be a civil penalty, not a criminal penalty. There are two levels of protection: the first is that it is not a criminal matter and the second is that the industrial magistrate would have to believe that a penalty was appropriate. If it was inadvertent, I do not know how an industrial magistrate would be satisfied that a penalty was appropriate.

This legislation is clearly trying to remind everybody that they should comply with good practice. This is a specific recommendation from Tony Beech's inquiry. He found that it was an important change. Industrial inspectors in Western Australia are aware that people in the horticultural industry, for example, are advertising work as a "life experience" and are taking advantage of people in the backpacker community and others. That is clearly not appropriate, and I know that the member would not agree with it. That is what this provision is aimed to prevent. Remember, if someone contravenes this provision, there are two levels of protection for them: firstly, it is not a criminal matter, so they cannot be criminally penalised; and, secondly, they would be penalised only if the industrial magistrate was satisfied that it was appropriate in those circumstances. I am sure that the member, as a former lay tribunal member, can accept the capacity of not just a lay tribunal member, but a magistrate to make a decision in these sorts of cases.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I certainly think that once it gets to a magistrate, the magistrate will apply commonsense and will read in *Hansard* what the minister has just said about the intention. The concern, of course, is that often the punishment is the process. For a small business to be dragged to the Magistrates Court in itself is significantly costly and time consuming, which is why I think it may be worthwhile contemplating between the houses simply inserting words like "a person must not deliberately or recklessly advertise the availability of employment at a rate of pay", or whatever, to ensure that it is limited and that small business people are not punished by the process of going to the Magistrates Court. Clearly, there is no infringement notice condition in this proposed section; it will be handled by process rather than by infringement notice. We do not want people to be inadvertently caught up.

I agree with the minister; if someone deliberately advertises a rate of pay that is lower than the minimum, it says one of two things to me: firstly, they are ignorant of the rate of pay that they should be paying, which means that they are paying the rest of their employees wrongly as well; or, secondly, they really do not care what the minimum rate of pay is, and that is wrong too. I have no sympathy for those people—none whatsoever. It is totally bipartisan. I have read what Tony Beech and other inquiries of the like have said in this space and I understand how a very small minority of employers may not be acting in good faith. But when someone does act in good faith and still gets caught up in this and ends up in the Magistrates Court, I think it is cold comfort to say, "Go to the Magistrates Court and plead your case", because they have to give up work time, they have the stress of being served with papers, and they have to seek legal advice, because small business people are not lawyers. Yes, I am sure that the magistrate would take that into account: "I booked the ad on 15 June. It was the right rate then, but it changed on 1 July. When I rebooked my ad on 15 July, I changed the rate. I had no intention of doing the wrong thing. I didn't pay anyone wrongly." I am sure that the magistrate would accept that. Again, I raise this matter because it has been raised with me by a number of stakeholders who have concerns that people will be inadvertently caught by something like this and that they might win in the Industrial Magistrates Court, but the process of getting to the court itself is an unfair burden on someone who was trying to do the right thing and had no intention of doing the wrong thing and got caught up by accident.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I understand the member's position; I just do not agree with it. This is a pretty simple provision. As the member says, the provision is fixing a genuine harm. Firstly, I trust that the inspectorate will not unnecessarily burden small business employers, just as it does not unnecessarily burden small business employers in other matters already. The legislation will provide additional authority to the industrial inspectorate to use the tools under the Fair Work Act and our state legislation so that they do not have to prosecute in every case. This is not providing for a criminal penalty. If the member wants to say something about it being deliberate, let us make it a criminal penalty and have a criminal sanction. If he is talking about prosecuting only those people who do things deliberately, that would make it a criminal matter, and we are not trying to do that. Seriously, there are many options for prosecution under the act today, but they are not leading to hundreds and hundreds of prosecutions. Those prosecutions that do get to the industrial magistrate are not leading to injustice.

I do not accept the basis of the criticism. I understand that a couple of employer associations are raising this. As the member has said, we are trying to do something important. If we find in five years' time that it is being misused and that all these small businesses are being dragged into the Magistrates Court, I will be very happy to look at it then. Unless the member is suggesting that we should criminalise the behaviour, which we are not proposing, I think the provision is exactly the way it should be.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 55 to 57 put and passed.**

**Clause 58: Section 98 amended —**

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** This clause seeks to amend section 98 of the principal act. This part of the act gives powers to industrial inspectors—not trade union officials, but industrial inspectors employed by the department—to enter business premises to inspect certain things. Industrial inspectors have pretty broad-ranging powers now. However, the concern is that with the extension of the definition of “employee” to “domestic workers”, we need to provide an additional level of protection for industrial inspectors who enter into someone's home. The term used in proposed section 98(3A) is “premises principally used for habitation”. The premises are principally used for habitation, but a business is also being conducted on those premises. The new provision requires that at least 24 hours' written notice be given for the proposed entry. That is good. We support that. As I have said, the powers of inspectors are quite broad. They are not powers that are required more generally when they are entering business premises.

The proposed subsection provides that there are two ways of getting around the 24 hours' written notice. The first, which is spelt out in paragraph (a), and which we do not support, is that —

the owner or occupier is carrying on an industry at the location or premises; ...

The second, which is spelt out in paragraph (b), is that —

the Commission has made an order waiving the requirement under this subsection to give the notice.

I will get to the second part in a minute. The first part is “carrying on an industry at the location of the premises”. We had this argy-bargy during the second reading debate. I said at that time that the term “carrying on an industry” is not defined. The minister said it is defined in section 7 of the act. The term “industry” is defined in section 7 of the act. However, it is defined extraordinarily broadly. The term “carrying on an industry” is not defined. I do not think the minister is a lawyer, but he has had significant involvement in legal-style proceedings, particularly in industrial relations. The minister would know that those terms have a specific meaning. The words “carrying on an industry” need to be defined, and they are not defined. Therefore, there would need to be jurisprudence around that.

Secondly, we are talking here about entering someone's home. Therefore, we need some form of notice period, unless it is really, really serious, and in that case an order of the commission is justified. I am not saying we should not have an order; we agree with the order. However, we do not think an inspector should be given the power to enter someone's home simply because they think someone in those premises is carrying on an industry. As I have said, that term has not been defined. The term “industry” itself is extremely broadly defined. It can mean almost anything that relates to work.

We have also turned our minds to how the commission can make an order. Interestingly, proposed section 98(3C) states —

The application may be heard in the absence of the owner or occupier of the industrial location or business premises.

The industrial inspector can go to the commission and seek an order to enter someone's home, and the home owner does not have to be heard. The matter can be heard *ex parte*. Already, the inspector has decided to not use the 24-hour notice period. We believe the 24-hour notice period is fair and reasonable.

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** Madam Acting Speaker, I like what the member is saying and I seek that he be given an extension.

**The ACTING SPEAKER:** Extension granted.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Thank you, member for North West Central.

We have a circumstance in which an inspector has decided not to use the 24-hour notice period to enter someone's home and instead go to the commission to seek an order. The home owner does not even get a chance to have their say. Obviously, the inspector wants to seek some information. The inspector wants to inspect the premises, or find documents within the premises, because a business is going on at those premises, as well as it being a home. What rights should a home owner expect when their home is being entered into by an inspector? A 24-hour notice period seems reasonable. We are happy with that. In any other circumstances, we are proposing that the industrial inspector should be able to go to the commission. However, the home owner should have the right to be heard. The home owner does not have to be heard if they do not want to, but they should have the right to be heard. They should not be denied natural justice. This is a recurring theme. A home owner should not be denied the natural justice that comes with being in quiet possession of their own home, where their family and children live, and perhaps where elderly relatives live. A home owner should be allowed to be heard before an inspector can march into their home without notice.

Moreover, we are saying that the information sought by the industrial inspector should be the sort of information that cannot be obtained in any manner other than by entry into the industrial location or business premises. As we said in relation to entry by authorised representatives, obviously bringing the parties to the commission would enable the concerns of the industrial inspector and what they are looking for to be ventilated, and that might get the business owner and home owner to provide that information, or simply to consent to entry. A person's home is their castle. If an industrial inspector wants to march into those premises, the least they can do is give people notice. If they want to barge in, with no notice whatsoever, they should at least give those people an opportunity to be heard and to provide the information that is being sought in some other way if they do not want their premises, their home, entered into. If in the end that cannot be resolved, the commission will make an order, and the industrial inspector will be able to enter the premises.

In the amendments that I am about to move, the inspectorate will be pushed down the pathway of having to give 24 hours' notice. We think that is the least they should be required to do for entering someone's home. Yes, I understand that there may be some egregious circumstances. However, we think that is the least they should do.

I seek advice about whether I can move both of my proposed amendments to clause 58 contemporaneously.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members, is leave granted? Leave is not granted.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I move —

Page 85, line 30 to page 86, line 3 — To delete the lines and substitute —

proposed entry unless the Commission has made an order waiving the requirement under this subsection to give the notice.

This amendment provides that an inspector will not be allowed to enter a premises simply because they believe the owner or occupier is carrying on an industry at the location of the premises, without first giving 24 hours' notice. We believe that if an inspector does not give 24 hours' notice, they should not be able to enter unless they get an order from the commission. That is the essential difference between the minister and ourselves. That is the position that we are putting. That is what this amendment seeks to do.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** The reason I want these two amendments to be dealt with separately is that although I do not agree with the amendment, when the bill goes between the houses I will be proposing an amendment to clarify the provision in proposed section 98(3A)(b) to place an obligation on the commission to act only in exceptional circumstances. I will go back to explain why I do not agree with what the member is proposing. Proposed subsection 98(3A)(a) reads —

the owner or occupier is carrying on an industry at the location or premises;

That is the existing law; that is not new law. That is simply translating the existing rights of the inspectorate to the new structure of the act. Let me make that clear. That is why we are not proposing any change. That is the existing law as it stands in Western Australia today, as has been the case for a long, long time—40 years plus. As a number of employer associations have said to me, it is the job of government to enforce the law. That is why that provision is there—to allow the government to do exactly what industry associations tell us is the responsibility of government.

Proposed subsection 98(3A)(b) is the new provision to allow for, effectively, an emergency situation. This is for circumstances that are not in respect of an industry. As the member said, we know what "industry" means. Therefore, in proposed subsection 98(3A)(b), we are talking about domestic service. That states that if there is an emergency situation in which the inspectorate would have its task defeated if it gave 24 hours' notice, then it can go to the Fair Work Commission and seek entry in those circumstances.

I am happy, because I think it is sensible, to clarify the responsibility there so that it is clear that it is for emergency situations. Let us take the example that we have talked about of the Sydney person who is currently being prosecuted for paying somebody \$2 an hour. Is the member honestly telling me that the inspectorate has to tell that

person 24 hours in advance so that they are given 24 hours to get their books written up, deal with the person that they have been stealing from and get their affairs in order before the inspector arrives? There is nobody in the world who would think that is a sensible idea. Nobody in the real world thinks it is a good idea to say that before the government inspector exercises the function of saving somebody from slavery, they need to give the slaver 24 hours' notice. Nobody agrees with that; I do not agree with that, either. However, I am very happy—I will do this between the houses—to come up with an amendment that will make subclause 98(3A)(b) clearer about what the commission needs to do. It might be that we do it by including some new drafting. That will deal with the issue that the member has raised. Clearly, nobody with a brain thinks that we need to tell somebody involved in modern slavery that we are coming to check their books. Nobody thinks that is a good idea. I do not, and I am sure that the member does not, now that he has realised the challenge. I am happy to fix the problem that has been identified—that it is not clear enough that this is for exceptional circumstances—but we are not supporting this amendment.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I am partially heartened by that response. However, I think that, fundamentally, in the example the minister has used whereby we have evidence that somebody is being paid \$2 an hour, I do not think any inspection in the world would matter in that particular case, because there is already evidence of the payment of \$2 an hour. The inspectors have seen the payments and understand the payments; they have the affidavit work. Barging into someone's home in those circumstances may well be justified. There would be other criminal activity that is associated with it, and I would argue that the right authority to barge into a property in that situation would be the police, because there would be other criminal activity being conducted in the case of modern slavery. If our Criminal Code in Western Australia does not deal with modern slavery adequately enough as a criminal offence, let us bring in some laws to fix that. But let us not use an outlier to confuse what this legislation is about. This is entry into someone's home by industrial inspectors who have been given the not-so-onerous task of providing 24 hours' notice to the person whose home they are entering—they do not have to give reasons; they just have to give notice, "We're coming in"—or to go to the commission, but, no, there is this third limb. It may have been in the law previously when domestic work was not included in the Industrial Relations Act, but now that domestic work is included and therefore the number of homes that could be subject to this provision is so far increased, we look at this provision and we think that it is not right. We believe that a home owner's rights to quiet enjoyment of their property and to their home being their castle are important, and they should not be trampled over, so we will insist on this amendment. If the government does not support it, it does not support it.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Let me make this clear: the provision at proposed subsection 98(3A)(a) already exists in law. It has been in place longer than 40 years. That is not controversial. There is no industry association in Western Australia that has ever come to me to complain about the existing law, and if anybody is complaining about it now, it just shows what a disgrace they are. Nobody is complaining about proposed subsection 98(3A)(a).

In respect of proposed subsection 98(3A)(b), I accept that that should only be exercised in the most exceptional circumstance—for example, if somebody has been paying somebody \$2 an hour to work in their home. I tell the member that I will proudly vote against his motion and then I will proudly vote in favour of the bill. I have promised that, between the houses, I will bring in an amendment that clarifies that this is in those sort of exceptional circumstances. Then the member can decide whether he supports this or not. I tell the member that if he wants to vote against that, what he is saying is that he wants to give 24 hours' notice to somebody who is paying \$2 an hour so that they can concoct paperwork to cover up their crime. I reminded everybody on Tuesday night when I gave my second reading reply speech that this is being watched by people around the world. If the member wants to support people who are involved in modern slavery by giving them the opportunity to create evidence, falsify information and make it harder for the government employees who are asking to deal with this matter, and if the member wants to make it harder to prevent modern slavery, he should go ahead and do that. The member should proudly say that he is supporting people who are paying \$2 an hour, because that is what he is proposing. He cannot have this both ways.

I accept that this is a provision that should be used only in those exceptional circumstances—not in ordinary circumstances—where the inspectorate has some information that leads them to think that they need to take action like this. I have already said that if we need to clarify the law on that, I am happy to do so. It is the inspectorate's job to enforce these provisions—provisions that we need to insert to allow Australia to sign on to the Forced Labour Convention. If the member is saying to me that he is going to vote against Australia taking action to enforce that, then I am proudly against the member.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** This is either the minister being tricky; the minister not actually understanding the law; or, thirdly, full recognition of my point that "carrying on an industry" is not well defined. The minister will say to me, "That's well defined; that's the existing law."

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** That's right!

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Is someone who employs a nanny carrying on an industry?

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** No.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Is someone who employs a domestic worker carrying on an industry?

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** No.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** The minister is saying no to both of those. Is someone who hires a carer to look after them in an aged care or disability circumstance carrying on an industry?

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** In an aged-care facility, of course.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** Not in a facility; in their own home.

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** No.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** If an individual hires a carer in their own home?

**Mr W.J. Johnston:** No.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** No. This power would not be enlivened if they were being paid \$2 an hour. If they were being paid \$2 an hour, this power would not be enlivened. This would not work in the example the minister is using. I think the minister is picking up the Sydney example of someone who was working in a cafe for \$2 an hour and also working in someone's household and the like.

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

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister!

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** I have five minutes. The minister does not have to answer right now.

The minister is trying to conflate two separate issues, which proves that “carrying on an industry” is not properly defined. Even if someone were being paid \$2 an hour to do domestic work, which we do not think they should be and we oppose, this clause could not be used. The application to the commission could be used. I am heartened by what the minister has said about looking at proposed section 98(3A)(b), which we have a concern about, and the interaction between that and proposed sections 98(3C) and (3D). I am very heartened by that. At this stage of the proceedings, given the commitment the minister has given after having seen the amendments that we have proposed to this clause, to look at this between the houses, the last thing that I would want is to have half-baked clause, so I am prepared to take the minister at his word that he will look at this proposed clause. It is clause 58, but we are talking about the insertion of proposed section 98(3A). We would be very happy to look at what the minister proposes. The debate can be enlivened after we have seen what the minister proposes between the houses. On this occasion, I am happy to take the minister at his word on that.

Let us not conflate these things. We do not support modern slavery. We oppose it, and are at one with the federal government and the Western Australian government. We should never be accused of not opposing modern slavery. We want that practice to be abolished in this country. This legislation will not solve the problem. It will help, but we need more than just legislation; we need a real focus on that issue. I will not accept in any way that we are party at all to that horrible, nasty and nefarious activity. Based on what the minister has suggested, I am happy to look at a new construction of proposed section 98(3A) and the rest that flow on from that. We will look at the construction the minister comes up with between the houses and see whether it meets our requirements. I have moved the amendment, but on that basis, we can revisit this after we have seen the rewrite. I am glad that the minister has given us that assurance.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Let me make it clear: I am proposing an amendment to only proposed section 98(3A)(b). There may be consequential amendments that lead to some other contextual rewrites. I am not proposing any change to proposed section 98(3A)(a). These are two separate powers. The inspectorate already has the right to enter a home without notice if an industry is being conducted at that site. That is not new law. As I keep saying, I do not believe that anybody in Western Australia opposes the maintenance of the existing law, which is what proposed section 98(3A)(a) is, and I will not accept any amendment to that provision. It is not as though I read every single word of a bill. It is a long bill, and I take advice and all those things. Having had this drawn to my attention, I am very happy to make it clearer that this is about exceptional circumstances. Let me make it clear: we need a provision that says the inspectorate can do something without notice. Imagine if we were talking about the police enforcing their part of the Criminal Code. Should they say, “By the way, I’m going to come tomorrow to see whether you’ve been involved in a fraud”? Should they say, “I’m going to come tomorrow to see whether you’ve been involved in a conspiracy”? Should they ring up the bikies and say, “Tomorrow, I’m going to come and see whether you’ve got any drugs”?

That is what this provision is. In exceptional circumstances, in order to do exactly what industry associations have asked us to do, which is to have the inspectorate enforce the law, it has to have powers to do things in exceptional circumstances. That is what proposed paragraph (b) does. Let me make it clear that proposed paragraph (a) will not be amended. I do not believe that the Liberal Party, after 40 years, will now wind back existing law. I will clarify proposed paragraph (b) between the houses.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hillarys, are you wanting to withdraw your amendment?

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** It should be put, but we will not divide.

**Amendment put and negatived.**

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The member for Hillarys also has a second amendment on the notice paper.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** A second amendment to clause 58 is on the notice paper. Based on the minister's undertaking to look at this issue while the bill lays over between the houses, I am happy to have it noted that the amendment was on the notice paper so that everyone is aware of what we are proposing. I am very interested to see the minister's proposal. At this stage, I will not move this amendment, and the clause 58 can be put.

**Clause put and passed.**

**Clauses 59 to 61 put and passed.**

**New clause 61A —**

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I move —

Page 88, after line 30 — To insert —

**61A. Section 112A amended**

After section 112A(3) insert:

(3A) Subsection (3) does not apply to a disqualified person.

(3B) In subsection (3A) —

*disqualified person* means a disqualified person as defined in the *Legal Profession Act 2008* section 3 except that —

(a) it includes —

(i) a person whose name has been removed from a foreign roll as defined in section 3 of that Act; and

(ii) a person in relation to whom the grant or renewal of a local practising certificate as defined in section 3 of that Act has been refused;

but

(b) it does not include —

(i) a person whose name has, for reasons other than or in connection with disciplinary action, been removed from an Australian roll or foreign roll as those terms are defined in section 3 of that Act; or

(ii) a person whose local practising certificate as defined in section 3 of that Act has, for reasons other than or in connection with disciplinary action, been suspended or cancelled.

This amendment is made at the request of the industrial registrar. Very late in the drafting process, the industrial registrar drew to my attention a challenge that has come up about a person who is registered as an agent at the commission, but was previously disqualified under the Legal Profession Act 2008. At the point when they make their application, the registrar can refuse the registration, but if they have been registered and it is subsequently discovered that they were a disqualified person under the other act, the registrar cannot then withdraw the registration of the lay advocate. The registrar has asked for this provision to be included. It will give the registrar power to subsequently remove the person from registration.

Sorry. I will clarify that. It has the same effect. If the person has been disqualified, they are not allowed to be indemnified to act as a civil agent. Therefore, they will still be acting in a legal capacity and will, therefore, be in breach of the Legal Profession Act 2008. Sorry, I got that wrong. I apologise. It has the same impact because the person would not be able to practice as a registered agent as they would be carrying out legal services. Because they are prevented from carrying out legal services, under the Legal Profession Act 2008 they cannot be a registered agent in the Industrial Relations Act.

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** This is an interesting provision and we support it. The intention is not to have people who have been debarred from legal practice continuing to act in a legal or quasi-legal capacity in the industrial relations system. It is interesting who is disqualified and who is not disqualified. I want to explore that area to make sure that we are doing what we are intending to do. If someone has been disciplined and has been told that they either cannot practice anymore or cannot practice for a particular period of time, we do not want them acting. It includes a person whose name has been removed from a foreign roll, which is a roll of any other state as well as other nations, or the grant or renewal of a local practising certificate has been refused or their name has been struck off a roll, but it does not include someone who took themselves off a roll or someone who has had their local practising certificate suspended or cancelled for reasons other than in connection with disciplinary action. There

could be a number of reasons why a person had their practising certificate suspended or cancelled that are not connected with disciplinary action. One of the main reasons is they have not provided a current certificate of insurance. Do we want those people to be continuing to practice?

Conversely, as we are dealing with people who not only have a practising certificate, but have their name on a roll, there are loads of people who have their name on a roll who do not have a practising certificate for many reasons, such as by choice. When a person is admitted to practice, they get on a roll. I am one of those people. I do not have a current practising certificate. I do not think I should. Some people when they enter Parliament choose to have a current practising certificate and some do not. I do not need to have that conflict brought up when I am giving advice to someone in my electorate office, whether it is legal advice or advice as a member of Parliament, but some people choose to keep their certificates and some people do not. As I understand it, someone who is on a roll but does not have a current practising certificate can continue to act as an agent. We are not attempting to go to those people; we are only looking at those people who have been barred for disciplinary action, and no more than that. I seek that clarification from the minister.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** I apologise for getting the advice wrong originally. This is a very narrow class of people. It is important to remember that under the act, except for an unfair dismissal, there is no automatic right of appearance for a lawyer; it is only done by leave; therefore, there has to be this other category of people. Traditionally, when there was an 80 per cent to 90 per cent unionisation rate, employees did not go to the commission, only unions went, and employers were usually represented by an employer association. But as the unionisation rate has fallen, there have been all these other people starting to appear in the commission, many of them former union officials who are able to appear because it is a lay tribunal and it is designed to not have lawyers.

Having said that, I cannot remember the last time a lawyer was refused leave to appear and it is becoming much more legally orientated than it was 30 years ago when I was down there. But one way or another, there has to be this other category of people. If those people are lawyers, they are not able to appear in the tribunal except by leave, even if they are employed by, say, a bargaining agency, as those are registered.

If they are legally trained like the member for Hillarys but without a practice certificate, as the member just described, there would be no issue with that person—other than good character—getting their registration.

**Mr P.A. Katsambanis:** And any form of indemnity for the client—well, that's not an issue that they initially concern themselves with.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** That is a separate issue and is not dealt with by this provision. That is a separate area of debate. One way or another, an agent is not supposed to be a lawyer. A person may no longer be a lawyer because they have been excluded from the roll of lawyers, and so this provision outlines that they also cannot be an agent because they are, effectively, presenting matters on behalf of their clients, which is legal work. They are excluded under the Legal Profession Act 2008.

#### **New clause put and passed.**

#### **Clause 62: Section 117 inserted —**

**Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS:** There are two amendments in my name on the notice paper in relation to clause 62. They are consequential amendments to the first amendment that I moved yesterday in relation to the removal of proposed section 37D. Given that that substantive amendment was defeated, obviously these two amendments are not required and I remove them. I do not intend to move them.

#### **Clause put and passed.**

#### **Clauses 63 to 104 put and passed.**

#### **Title put and passed.**

### *Third Reading*

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Industrial Relations)** [11.38 am]: I move —

That the bill be now read a third time.

**MR P.A. KATSAMBANIS (Hillarys)** [11.38 am]: I will be brief. I think that was a useful consideration in detail—in particular, the commitment that the Minister for Industrial Relations made in looking at clause 58 and the new sections being added, post-section 98(3). We look forward to seeing the product of the ministers' deliberation between the houses. We still have some serious concerns with this bill. Let us be frank, we made those concerns very, very clear in the second reading stage. We are particularly concerned about union right of entry to people's homes. We recognise given the changing landscape and the inclusion of domestic work that there may be a need to provide for that right of entry in extraordinary circumstances, but we believe it should be properly calibrated. A serious concern remains, obviously, about the Western Australian local government sector's direct objection to being forcibly removed from the federal industrial relations system, where it appears to be very happy, and put into the state industrial relations system.

I outlined in my contribution to the second reading debate that if those concerns were not addressed materially, we would not be in a position to support the passage of the bill. That is disappointing because we support large aspects of the bill. We support the modernisation of the language. We support the modernisation of the Western Australian industrial relations system. We support a lot of the changes to notifications for long service leave and the like. In particular, we support all the clauses that will ensure we have an industrial relations system that can properly react to the horrible curse of modern slavery. We do not support modern slavery in any way. We abhor it and we want to tackle it. We want to work with everybody to remove it from our society. As I said in one of my contributions, we do not think the Industrial Relations Act is the panacea to deal with that, but we do need provisions in the Industrial Relations Act. Perhaps we need stronger criminal penalties as well. We need to look at the Criminal Code in relation to that. We also need strong enforcement at both the state and the federal level and a lot more cooperation internationally to resolve modern slavery, but we need to address it, and we support any measure that addresses it. In particular, we want to make sure that our federal government can sign up to the International Labour Organization protocols that protect against modern slavery.

Although we support so many aspects of the bill, we are disappointed that there are serious issues that remain unresolved, and in its current form we cannot support it.

**MR V.A. CATANIA (North West Central)** [11.42 am]: As I put on the record in my contribution to the second reading debate, the Nationals WA do not support the Industrial Relations Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, although, as the member for Hillarys outlined, there are lots of aspects that we do support. We do not support modern slavery at all. I want to put that on the record. We are not opposing ways in which we can introduce laws to get rid of modern slavery. I want to make quite clear that the Liberal and National Parties do not support modern slavery.

The National Party does not support this legislation. The member for Hillarys moved a few amendments that the National Party supported, but the Labor government rejected. We knew that would be the case, but I hope that the minister can reflect on the debate in this house and perhaps make some changes to legislation in the other place. The major reason for that is the lack of consultation with industry and, in particular, local government. As I highlighted in my contribution to the second reading speech and during consideration in detail of the bill, that this will put another cost burden on local governments that are under pressure, particularly our regional local governments. They have been hit quite hard with COVID-19. Like I said, their income streams have been hit and they have been told that they cannot increase rates to cater for that loss. Local governments have been told to spend their reserves, yet the government continues to impose costs that make that even more difficult. I believe this legislation will impose further costs on local governments. As I said, there has been a 10.6 per cent increase in the cost for local governments on the Horizon Power network to provide street lighting. The COVID-19 recovery and the portrayal of fees and charges not being imposed or increased is smoke and mirrors, because we all know it is happening by stealth. The public has a right to know this is occurring. The danger is that when a government believes its own popularity, it rushes in legislation, like the industrial relations bill.

*Point of Order*

**Mr S.J. PRICE:** The debate has to be relevant. The member is off on some obscure little tangent that has nothing to do with the bill.

**The DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Forrestfield. I think it is probably appropriate that I remind the member for North West Central that this is the third reading debate, so he can only reflect on issues he has raised already.

*Debate Resumed*

**Mr V.A. CATANIA:** In my contribution to the second reading debate, I raised the issue of the legislation being rushed in without consultation because of the perceived popularity of the Premier, which has enabled him to do and say as he pleases. That is why it is important for the opposition to scrutinise legislation, push back and say, “Yes, there are some good things in the industrial relations bill and, yes, we need to modernise the legislation, but the lack of consultation prevents the National Party from supporting this legislation.” I hope the minister can reflect on that and do some further consultation with industry, as I outlined in my contribution to the second reading debate, to make sure that we have good legislation that is robust and that we look at unintended consequences.

Issues were raised by industries, including the building industry, the Western Australian Local Government Association, local governments and small business. As I said in my contribution to the second reading debate, small businesses are critical for our recovery in Western Australia. We talk a lot about industry and the resources sector, but this government is failing small business—the mums and dads and sole traders in the Western Australian economy. The National Party is here to protect our small businesses and the rights of employers and employees. We will do that without fear or favour. We are happy to oppose legislation if we feel it is not right based on our consultation with industry. I urge the minister to properly consult with those industries that have raised concerns to make sure that we have the best legislation, because that is our job in this place. The opposition needs to be able to scrutinise a government that is going off on a tangent because without proper scrutiny, that is a danger to democracy in this state at the moment.

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington — Minister for Industrial Relations)** [11.47 am] — in reply: In the short time I have left to me, I want to first come to this rubbish about not consulting. On 22 September 2017, the inquiry was announced. On 18 February 2019, the wage theft inquiry was announced. On 11 April 2019, the final report was released with a detailed list of the recommendations we were going to take forward in the legislation. The Western Australian Local Government Association participated in a task force that I set up to design the words of the bill, but the member said that WALGA did not know about it; WALGA co-designed the legislation. On 6 December 2019, the outcome of the wage theft inquiry was announced. On 25 June, we introduced the legislation. On 3 July this year, we announced grants for combating wage theft. The wage theft inquiry consulted extensively. There were the interim and final reports of the Ritter review. I point out that organisations such as the Master Builders Association had extensive discussions with Mark Ritter in that process. They had extensive discussions backwards and forwards about details and got right down into the weeds. The idea that there was not consultation is a complete and utter furphy, and I reject it completely. It is the argument of the weak person when they do not have an actual reason to oppose something, so they say they were not consulted. It is not a genuine criticism of the legislation, and it is embarrassing for the Western Australian Local Government Association. It co-wrote the bill. It co-designed the bit of the bill that affects local government, so nobody should suggest that WALGA was not aware.

Effectively, the Liberal Party opposed three things, and the Nationals WA supported the Liberal Party. I will go through them in the reverse order. The first was the access of industrial inspectors to people's houses in extraordinary circumstances, and I have accepted that that could be clarified.

The second was the use of modern technologies by union officials. I make the exact same statement that I made earlier. I am looking forward to talking to people about what they want to see in the bill that will allow union officials to use modern technologies. As the member for North West Central outlined in quite some detail, there are already videos circulating around the place. That has nothing at all to do with this legislation. The problem of that happening today will not change with this legislation. Not one word of this legislation has anything to do with the issues raised by the member for North West Central. This is about how we will regulate what is already happening. I keep saying that I accept that we could do with some amendments in that space. It is not like the union movement is running to my door and saying that we are doing a really good thing. They are not saying that at all. If employer associations want to tell me the parameters in which the twenty-first century technologies should be used by union officials, they should do so. They cannot say that they are satisfied with the current arrangements, because they are all complaining about them, and the member for North West Central outlined those complaints in his contribution. That is the second issue that was discussed. I will leave aside local government.

The third issue was the question about the commission's capacity to lead the rewrite of the scope clauses. This is not a matter of controversy. I know that some organisations have spoken to the shadow minister about this, but the commission already has the power to take action under the existing act. I am indebted to the staff of the department, who tell me that the commission has had the power to take action on its own motion since 1925. I do not understand why anyone would suggest that a power that has existed for 95 years is a controversial change. Somebody has to be in charge of the process that will lead to the new clauses. There are two alternatives. The alternative that I have adopted is the same one that was adopted by Graham Kierath when he was then Liberal Minister for Labour Relations—that is, to have the commission lead this process. I remember the Kierath changes because I lived through it as an industrial officer, so I will remind members that the Kierath changes forced every single award to be amended. This provision allows the commission to program it at its choosing. Eight awards have about 90 per cent of common rule coverage. They are the awards that we need to deal with because they are becoming unenforceable. Unless the employers are saying that they want them to be unenforceable, which perhaps is their agenda, something has to be done with the scope clauses. Who will lead it? There are two choices. If the Liberal Party wants me to do it, it should support the amendment it proposed in the other house, because that will be the consequence. But if the Liberal Party wants it done independently of my office, it should support what I have proposed, which means that the minister will not be in charge of the proposed rewrite. Remember, I am a section 50 party and can therefore propose amendments to every award. Let us see what would happen then. I could get the lawyers in and bury the private sector employer associations with evidence. If that is what they are asking me to do, fine, but I think they would prefer a system that they co-design and are in charge of instead of me.

I will finish on WALGA. Let me make it clear: no local government has ever said to me that it is opposed to this provision. I agree that WALGA has, but no local government has ever said it. In fact, local governments have told me that they support the proposal. The final issue is that it is not about whether we agree or disagree; it is about the facts. The facts are that local governments are not constitutional corporations. Let us understand what that means. I could take action to cancel those agreements through the courts. That would cost millions of dollars and tie up ratepayers' money. Instead, I have had WALGA co-design the transitional arrangements, and that is what we want to do.

At the end of the day, the Liberal Party can give as many platitudes as it likes about wanting to end modern slavery, but we will see how its members vote. If the Liberal Party votes against this legislation, we will hold it to account. On the genuine issues that have been raised with me during this debate—the first being the question of the right of entry of union officials and the second being the right of entry of the inspectorate into homes in exceptional

circumstances—I am happy to talk about amendments and perhaps we will be able to suggest something between houses. But when Liberal Party members vote, they are either voting for action on modern slavery or against it. It is their choice—go ahead.

*Division*

Question put and a division taken with the following result —

Ayes (33)

Ms L.L. Baker	Mr W.J. Johnston	Mr S.J. Price	Mr C.J. Tallentire
Dr A.D. Buti	Mr D.J. Kelly	Mr D.T. Punch	Mr P.C. Tinley
Mr J.N. Carey	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr J.R. Quigley	Mr R.R. Whitby
Mrs R.M.J. Clarke	Mr M. McGowan	Ms M.M. Quirk	Ms S.E. Winton
Mr R.H. Cook	Ms S.F. McGurk	Mrs M.H. Roberts	Mr B.S. Wyatt
Ms J.M. Freeman	Mr K.J.J. Michel	Ms R. Saffioti	Mr D.R. Michael ( <i>Teller</i> )
Ms E.L. Hamilton	Mr S.A. Millman	Ms A. Sanderson	
Mr T.J. Healy	Mrs L.M. O'Malley	Ms J.J. Shaw	
Mr M. Hughes	Mr P. Papalia	Mrs J.M.C. Stojkovski	

Noes (17)

Mr I.C. Blayney	Mr P.A. Katsambanis	Mr J.E. McGrath	Mr D.T. Redman
Mr V.A. Catania	Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup	Ms L. Mettam	Mr A. Krsticevic ( <i>Teller</i> )
Mrs L.M. Harvey	Mr S.K. L'Estrange	Dr M.D. Nahan	
Mrs A.K. Hayden	Mr R.S. Love	Mr D.C. Nalder	
Dr D.J. Honey	Mr W.R. Marmion	Mr K.M. O'Donnell	

Question thus passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

**HON BILL GRAYDEN, AM — 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY TRIBUTE**

*Motion*

**MR M. McGOWAN (Rockingham — Premier)** [12 noon] — without notice: I move —

That this house congratulates Hon Bill Grayden, AM, for reaching the major milestone of his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 5 August 2020 and acknowledges his service to Western Australia.

It is a pleasure to be here today to acknowledge the achievements of a long-serving member of this place, Mr Bill Grayden, who is in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon. Although this place often reflects on the lives and successes of its members, it is rare that the subject matter is in the gallery to hear those reflections in person. It is lovely to acknowledge someone during their lifetime.

Bill Grayden has undoubtedly lead a big life. He has been a soldier, parliamentarian, miner, author, documentarian, campaigner, journalist, mechanical engineering apprentice and real estate agent. He undertook the last of his three occupations before the age of 20.

In his own words, Mr Grayden is a true family man. His life revolves around his family. He is husband to Betsy, father to five sons and five daughters, grandfather to 34 children, great-grandfather to 37 great-grandchildren and great-great-grandfather to one!

Bill has fit a lot into his 100 years on this planet, a great deal of it in service to the public of Western Australia, including more than 39 years as a member of the Legislative Assembly and one-time father of the house. He is a very notable and well-known Western Australian. It is hard to know what to focus on in Bill Grayden's life. Perhaps most notable is his war service. Indeed, I saw and spoke to him last weekend at Kings Park at the Returned and Services League of Australia event for the Victory in the Pacific Day, which marked the end of the Second World War and the close of hostilities in one of the largest and most brutal theatres of war the world has ever seen. Mr Grayden, like many young Western Australians, misled the authorities about his age to enlist in the Second World War; not only that, but he changed his name to do so. He wanted to enlist in the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> because his father has been in the 1<sup>st</sup>/16<sup>th</sup>. Despite desires to be a stretcher-man, he instead found himself in officer training. He served in Syria in the fight against the Vichy French and the Foreign Legion. His battalion narrowly avoided being captured in the Fall of Singapore. He served in New Guinea, including on the Kokoda Trail and the Ramu–Markham Valleys campaign. He also served in Borneo and was on patrol behind enemy lines when the war finally ended. But his services to his nation would not end there.

Bill Grayden would go on to serve in both the commonwealth and Western Australian Parliaments, jumping between the two. His election to federal Parliament as a Liberal in 1949 marks him as one of the last, if not the last, of that generation of MPs known as “Menzies’ men”. Bill Grayden was famous for using his position in public life to campaign for causes. He was a part of a long tradition of “Independent Liberals” and whether inside or outside

the official Liberal Party tent, I have no doubt that he constantly created headaches for Liberal Party leaders! But despite his outspoken nature, and unlike many modern day “rebels”, in his reflections on his time in public life he is extremely complimentary of the leaders of the day, whether those leaders were Chifley, Menzies, Brand, Tonkin or Court.

Bill strikes me as the kind of person who wanted to do good in his time in public life. His documentary and book about Aboriginal Australians in central Australia, stemming from his participation on an expedition looking for the famed Lasseter’s Reef, not only forced the commonwealth to acknowledge that the land was not uninhabited, protecting the Ngaanyatjarra from the fallout of nuclear weapon tests, but also helped to change attitudes across the nation to First Nation peoples, which would be crucial for the success of the 1967 referendum.

Bill was a famous campaigner. He campaigned against the relocation of the Barracks and for the preservation of the Nullarbor Plain. He campaigned for the Narrows Bridge, which was notable given he was the member for South Perth. He loved election campaigns, and if members listen to his oral history with the Parliamentary Library, they will learn that he took great pleasure in beating his opponents, whether Labor or Liberal.

Bill was a minister in the Charles Court government across a number of portfolios. Perhaps most notable was his time as the education minister when he was involved in the establishment of the health education curriculum in Western Australian schools and in the establishment of Tuart and Canning Colleges, not to mention the introduction of performance-oriented courses of music, dance and drama at the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts in Mt Lawley. Ultimately, he served in this chamber for 39 and a half years. It is a long chapter in a remarkable story, one with far too much detail to go into in the short time I have today—his family details, achievements in the private sector, his retirement and so on, not to mention the countless more instances of advocacy on behalf of causes and groups. I went back to when Bill was first elected to this place in 1947 to the former electorate of Middle Swan and to his maiden speech. As members know, it is normal to tell the chamber a little bit about yourself, to tell your story, in your first speech. Mr Grayden chose not tell the story of how he came to be here. Instead, he got stuck into the issues affecting his electorate, mainly housing, and got into arguments with members on the opposite side during his inaugural speech! That was as clear a sign as any that Bill was outspoken, passionate, focussed on the issues before him, not to be trifled with and not focused on personalities or himself. It is fitting that we get to tell his story today while he is here with his family.

On behalf of the government of Western Australia and the state Parliamentary Labor Party, I thank Mr Grayden for his services to this state. Thank you very much, Bill.

**MRS L.M. HARVEY (Scarborough — Leader of the Opposition)** [12.08 pm]: It is my great pleasure to contribute to this motion to honour the service of Mr Bill Grayden.

Bill Grayden was born on 5 August in 1920 in Bickley, the son of Leonard Ives, a mine manager and grazier, who had served with the 1<sup>st</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> battalion and been wounded at Gallipoli. His mother, Ethel, was the daughter of Nat Harper, former Liberal MLA for Beverley and Pingelly from 1910 to 1914, a mine manager and founder of Winterbottom Motor Company. After his parents divorced, Bill and his elder sister and younger brother took their stepfather’s surname, Grayden.

The family lived in Britain from 1925 to 1928 and in Victoria from 1929 to 1937, where Bill attended school, wrote articles for a sports magazine and *The Bulletin* at the age of 14 years, and became a real estate subagent at 15 years of age. He returned to Western Australia in 1938 and did a course in mechanical engineering at Perth Technical College and then an apprenticeship, followed by employment at Winterbottom Motor Company.

Bill sought to enlist at the outbreak of World War II, but was rejected. He then succeeded in 1940, when he put up his age and changed his name from Wilbur to William and joined the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion. He was almost immediately made a lance corporal and was selected to attend Officers Training School at Bonegilla in New South Wales, where, after three months, he graduated as a lieutenant. In 1941–42, he served with the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> in Syria, where the Vichy forces, including the French Foreign Legion, were defeated.

Bill Grayden was recalled to Australia and then sent with the rest of the 21<sup>st</sup> Brigade to fight the Japanese in Papua in August 1942. He was part of over three weeks of the continuous fighting withdrawal along the Kokoda Track. Three battalions, each with fewer than 600 men, had defeated a larger Japanese invading force, with the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> afterwards mustering only 143 fit men from an initial 550. Bill was the only surviving officer from the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Brigade Hill bayonet charge against an entrenched, encircling enemy that cost 65 casualties. Later at Ioribaiwa Ridge, he was knocked unconscious by a 15-inch shell that landed just two feet away.

The 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> was later back in action at Buna-Gona; the Ramu–Markham Valleys campaign of 1943–44, when Bill was promoted to captain; and the July 1945 landings at Balikpapan in Borneo. When hostilities ended, he was posted to Celebes, where he exercised major responsibility in the repatriation of surrendered Japanese troops. It was not until February 1946 that his military service ended.

Bill Grayden worked as a freelance journalist in Perth and became an active member of the Liberal Party. At the September 1946 federal election, he stood as an Independent Liberal for the seat of Swan, which then comprised the northern wheatbelt and the outer suburban areas of Bayswater and Guildford–Midland. With minimal resources,

he polled 12 856 votes, or 23.2 per cent of the total, and his preferences enabled the Country Party candidate to regain the seat from Labor by 240 votes. Swan was the only coalition victory in Western Australia in an otherwise disappointing national election result.

At the March 1947 election, Bill contested the Legislative Assembly seat for the district of Middle Swan for the Liberal Party. This included such outer eastern suburbs as Bayswater, Belmont and Greenmount. Vigorous campaigning and the distribution of Country Party preferences resulted in a 51-vote victory over a long-serving Labor incumbent, delivering a vital seat that enabled the McLarty Liberal–Country Party coalition to form government after 14 years in opposition. At the age of 27 years, Bill Grayden was the youngest member of state Parliament and dealt with such major problems as unemployment and housing shortages. He was prepared to break ranks with his colleagues on issues such as the appointment of a state Ombudsman and banning cigarette advertising.

July 1948 saw his wedding to Betsy Chadwick, a long and happy marriage that resulted in five sons and five daughters.

On 27 October 1949, with the state election due in early 1950, he resigned from the Legislative Assembly, without causing a by-election, to recontest the federal division of Swan at the December election. A major redistribution had transformed Swan into a Labor-leaning suburban seat that comprised the subdivisions of Bayswater, Midland, Belmont, Victoria Park and South Perth. Bill Grayden won the seat by 2 122 votes, with 52.4 per cent of the vote and a swing of over 11 per cent. He polled well ahead of the candidate on the coalition Senate ticket, an indication that the Liberal Party could not have won Swan without his personal vote. In 1951, he retained Swan with a further swing in his favour.

As a federal member in the early 1950s, Bill had to endure 14-hour air journeys and had to sometimes maintain his young family in a Canberra hotel. He successfully campaigned for the lifting of the export ban on manganese, leading to the establishment of mines in the Pilbara. He became an advocate for Aboriginal rights, campaigning for improved conditions in Laverton and Warburton and opposing the forced removal of children. In 1953, he wrote and published *A Nomad was our Guide: The story of a journey through the land of the Wongi—the Central Desert of Australia—1953*.

At the 1954 federal election, Bill Grayden narrowly lost Swan after heavy enrolment growth. Although a subsequent redistribution improved Liberal prospects in Swan, his growing family led him to focus on the state district of South Perth, where the Liberal MLA was not recontesting the 1956 state election. Unfortunately, a long-serving branch secretary had locked up the Liberal nomination and Bill contested South Perth as an unendorsed Liberal. In those days, there was a firm Labor vote in South Perth, ensuring that its candidate did not finish third, with its preferences then going against an endorsed Liberal. It has been said that because the ALP resented Bill's successful campaigning in its former strongholds, it contested the seat to reduce his chance of success. However, in a tight contest, Bill Grayden edged ahead of the endorsed Liberal by 260 votes to defeat Labor on Liberal preferences. It was to be the last time he needed preferences or was at serious risk of defeat at any election.

Three years later, in 1959, Bill Grayden was re-elected in South Perth by 837 votes, with 54.5 per cent of the vote, in a straight fight with a far more credible Liberal opponent. Soon afterwards, the Liberal Party invited Bill to rejoin it as part of the coalition government led by David Brand. Bill's commitment to the people of South Perth saw him re-elected 11 times. His last contest in 1989 gave him another absolute majority and a final vote of 61.3 per cent. Altogether, over 47 years, he has fought 13 state elections and won them all, as well as four federal contests, and he fought every one of them as a true Liberal, even when denied endorsement.

On the election of Sir Charles Court's government in 1974, Bill served as Minister for Labour and Industry; Consumer Affairs; and Immigration until 1978. Between 1980 and the retirement of Sir Charles in 1982, he was Minister for Education; Cultural Affairs; and Recreation. He was a conscientious and deeply loyal minister. From 1986 until his retirement in 1993, he was father of the house. Bill Grayden is remembered not so much as a fluent and polished debater, but as a forceful and passionate one. In earlier years, he had been ahead of his time in his sympathy for Aboriginal people.

In 1994, he was awarded membership of the Order of Australia for his services to the Parliament and the community. In retirement, Bill has continued to support his local community, serving on the Manning Senior Citizens Centre board of management from 1985 until 2009. He has been president of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> AIF Association and has assiduously attended Anzac Day and other commemorative events, honouring fallen comrades and supporting veterans.

In preparing for today, I went back to Bill Grayden's inaugural speech in this place, and I would like to quote from his offerings at that time, bearing in mind that we are talking about a 27-year-old man in 1947. These are some of the things that Bill had to say —

If I can on some occasions in this House direct the attention of members to iniquities existing in our society, to cases of hardship and want, and ways and means of increasing the health and happiness of our people, I shall feel justified in having the confidence of my electors.

He then went on in his speech to detail the plight of an Aboriginal family with four children who were living in a tent in August, in the middle of winter. It was not a waterproof tent and it had no fly. Bill Grayden went to work on

trying to find accommodation for that family and he found accommodation for them in the backrooms of an unused ex-RAAF hall. The one thing that Bill was really moved by was the attitude towards that family by members of the community who did not want them in the tent. The local roads board was going to dismantle the tent and, as a result, the seven-year-old child in that family—the mother was in hospital having another baby—had to run to East Perth to tell his father that their tent was going to be dismantled and that they would have nowhere to sleep that night. As a result of their plight, Bill stepped in and found them accommodation. In doing so, the community was outraged that these people of colour, as they called them back then, were living in that ex-RAAF hall. What Bill noted, though, was that the school principal at the time said that those children always turned up to school impeccably dressed, and very good scholars, because their father understood the importance of an education. Bill said about the attitude towards the Aboriginal people in this country at the time —

The biggest thing we can do for them is to judge them by their worth and not by the colour of their skin. It does not lie within the power of Governments to direct the attitude of individuals towards these people.

Bill went on to talk passionately about housing, the plight of age pensioners in this state, and problems with housing, drainage and transport. Yes, he also called to account a member of the other side who had derided the principle of soldier preference. Bill challenged that, and he was challenged back, but he stood his ground.

In closing, it was outstanding that a 27-year-old man in 1947 would stridently hold the views that he held about the first Australians. I am very, very proud as Leader of the Liberal Party in this state Parliament to say to this Parliament that it was the 100-year-old man who is sitting in the public gallery who at the age of 27 had the bravery and courage to bring forth those views to this place and to campaign for the rights of the first Australians, and others, as part of his 46 years of service to our community.

Congratulations, Bill. It is a great honour to share this motion with you.

Members: Hear, hear!

**MR R.S. LOVE (Moore — Deputy Leader of the Nationals WA)** [12.21 pm]: Mr Speaker —

**The SPEAKER:** Leader of the National Party. Sorry, member for Moore. There must have been a coup overnight!

**Mr R.S. LOVE:** Rumours of a changeover are much exaggerated!

It is a great pleasure to be here today, on behalf of the National Party, to speak on this motion to congratulate Hon Bill Grayden on having reached the major milestone of 100 years of age on 5 August, and to acknowledge his great service to Western Australia and to the nation as a whole.

Mr Grayden, on behalf of the National Party, we give you our sincere congratulations. It is a great honour to meet you today, and also to meet your son, John, in the chamber. John is one of 10 children, so not only have you made a tremendous contribution to the state through your political service and your service in war, but also in terms of the population of this state you have done a tremendous job.

Before entering Parliament, Bill Grayden enlisted to serve Australia as a 20-year-old. As we have heard, he served in the Middle East, Singapore and New Guinea. He was one of those men who halted the Japanese advance on the Kokoda track, men who will always be revered in this nation as heroes. I cannot even begin to imagine some of the wartime conditions that Bill and his fellow troops endured, but I thank each and every one of them for their service to this country—a debt that we all owe.

Hon Bill Grayden had a wonderful and vast political career, the longest of any serving member, with 43 years across both state and federal Parliament. He commenced as member for Middle Swan in the Legislative Assembly, and in 1949 he was elected to the House of Representatives as the member for Swan at the return of Sir Robert Menzies to government. He held that seat until 1954. In 1956, he returned to this place as member for South Perth, and he held that seat until his retirement in 1993. Bill Grayden served multiple terms as a member of this Parliament, including as a minister in the government of Sir Charles Court, holding at times the portfolios of labour and industry; consumer affairs; immigration and tourism; and education, cultural affairs and recreation. As we have heard, from 1986 until 1993, he was the father of the house.

Bill was a metropolitan member of Parliament, but he was very close to his grandfather, Nathaniel Harper, who was a regional member of Parliament and was, as we have heard, the member for Beverley and Pingelly from 1910 to 1914. Perhaps the influence of his grandfather as a regional member helped form the foundation of his strong advocacy for Aboriginal rights and welfare, particularly for those in the Laverton and Warburton desert areas.

Bill was also a very strong supporter of opening up the trade for magnetite, a commodity that has been much in the news of late, and one that is being extracted across regional Western Australia and is trading at a strong price today.

Bill has been referred to as a strong contributor to this Parliament. He was somewhat of a rebel at times, crossing the floor to vote on issues that he believed in. It became clear that he was dedicated to serving his community and its interests, rather than succumbing to the pressures of party politics. He was also described as winning the unwinnable elections, and as a tremendous campaigner. I add that his length of service indicates that he was a true champion of the political game.

Mr Bill Grayden, your milestone is incredible—a life and a career that spans so much of the history of our state and our nation. You were born into a community and a family that was still touched by World War I, with your father a Gallipoli veteran, and a country that was just coming to terms with the aftermath of that affair and the hideous pandemic of the time, the Spanish flu. You grew up through the Great Depression. You fought for this nation in its darkest hours. You were a huge contributor to the development of our nation since the war. You served alongside political giants like Menzies and Billy Hughes. You were in Parliament with state giants like Sir Charles Court and David Brand, and the Tonkin and Hawke premierships also occurred when you were in this Parliament.

Your 100 years comprises 36 525 days, 876 600 hours, and 52 596 000 minutes. On behalf of the National Party, I heartily congratulate you, and also your family, who are obviously looking after you very well, and I wish you many, many more enjoyable years, hours and minutes ahead.

Members: Hear, hear!

**MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth)** [12.26 pm]: As the soon to be departing member for South Perth, in March next year, it gives me great pleasure to support this 100th birthday congratulatory motion for Bill Grayden. Since 1956, there have been three members for South Perth in the Legislative Assembly of Western Australia. That is three members in 64 years. It is my great honour to be a member of that trifecta. But I have to admit I have only a small part in that trifecta, because of those 64 years, the service of Bill Grayden, who turned 100 years old on 5 August—yesterday fortnight—outdid the other two members of that trifecta. Bill Grayden served the electorate of South Perth from 1956 until 1993 before his retirement, and he preceded the election of Phillip Pental, who served from 1993 until 2005, and my own term of service, which began in 2005. So despite Phil and me representing South Perth for more than three terms—that is, 12 years, and 16 years—we were dwarfed by Bill’s tenure of serving South Perth for 37 years. Coincidentally, Bill worked as a freelance journalist after serving in World War II, and wrote sport for *The West Australian*, something I did not realise, so I may be following in his footsteps in some regard as a former sports writer at *The West*.

Bill and his late wife, Betsy, had 10 children and have more than 70 grandchildren and great grandchildren. This is not just a matter of reading a biography. Wherever I go in South Perth, I see members of the Grayden clan. I see Bill’s children and grandchildren when I go to the local footy club, or to schools. I see the name Grayden at end-of-year school events. Bill, you have certainly left your mark in the City of South Perth.

Bill’s achievements in South Perth are many and varied. Perhaps the most telling was in his first year as the member for South Perth, when as the local member he put his support behind a group of protesters. It was not unusual for Bill to be a protester when there was something that he believed in. Back then, when the Narrows Bridge and Kwinana Freeway were being planned, the Old Mill was going to be a victim of the development. It was going to be knocked down and relocated so that this freeway could go through. This led to a lot of resentment among the people who lived there, and Bill Grayden was a champion for that cause, so much so that the Minister for Works, John Tonkin, wrote in May 1957 to the Historical Society of South Perth to advise it, “If you restore the mill and the adjacent cottage, we will not demolish them.” The freeway was moved to go around that wonderful building, the second-oldest industrial site in Western Australia, the Old Mill, which still stands in that position. That is a perfect example of a local member standing up for something in his community and the government of the day listening.

Bill also spoke about the freeway that was to become the Perth to Mandurah freeway—back then it was called the Perth to Kwinana highway—and Bill was concerned about the route that it was about to take. In Parliament, he said, according to *Hansard* —

The highway is to run along the foreshore adjacent to the existing Melville Parade. I would like to emphasise to the Minister for Works that ... the highway should not run too close to residential areas. The residents of South Perth have already presented a petition in regard to that matter to the South Perth Municipal Council and the municipality endorsed the principle of it.

Bill continued —

On the other hand, a certain amount of reclamation could be done and the road could be put well away from the homes.

Lucky it was back then, Bill; you might not have had much luck with it today! He continued —

It might cost a little more to reclaim a certain portion of the river foreshore, but it would be more desirable from the point of view of the residents of South Perth.

The freeway went through and it was not right alongside the back doors of the people who lived on Melville Parade.

Bill also fought hard to save Como Beach. As Bill said in Parliament —

Many thousands of children use the beach each year and accordingly we are anxious to see a beach at least equal to the present one built at Como, when the present road is completed.

Unfortunately, Bill did not have a win on that one. A year later, in August 1957, the first permanent bridge pile was driven into the riverbed. Sadly, something had to go, and Como Beach was not able to be successfully replicated, which is still something about which the people of South Perth feel they got a raw deal.

In 1959, Bill became a founding member of the South Perth Senior Citizens Centre, and he served on the board of management for 50 years, including 44 as president. I was at the centre on Tuesday when they held a special 100-year commemoration for Bill. They invited two other local residents, a lady who is 99 and another lady who is 101, so, along with Bill, those three people had a collective age of 300 years. If it was divided up, it was an average of 100 years. It was a fantastic moment to see Bill being so recognised by the local people.

As has been mentioned earlier, Bill was also a founding member of the Manning Senior Citizens Centre and served 25 years on its board. In 1994, Bill was recognised for his lifelong service to the community with the award of the Member of the Order of Australia, AM, and he was also awarded Honorary Freeman of the City of South Perth.

Bill, as someone who followed you to become the member of South Perth, I always said it was a hard act to follow. You have done an amazing job and I am really proud and pleased that the Parliament is recognising you today.

Members: Hear, hear!

**MR S.K. L'ESTRANGE (Churchlands)** [12.33 pm]: Hon Bill Grayden, happy birthday. What a fantastic and remarkable contribution to the state of Western Australia and to our nation. I first met Bill back in 2007, when I was fresh back from a year at the Australian Command and Staff College, the new commanding officer of the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion. My regimental sergeant major called into my office and said, "Sir, the old diggers of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> want to meet you." Clearly, they wanted to suss me out. It was actually here, Bill, that you invited me to Parliament House with you and some of your remaining Kokoda vets to have a chat and a lunch where I could listen to you, and you and your friends could share with me your recollection of battles in the Middle East and in New Guinea. There were stories of your near misses. You will recall that you shared many stories with me, including the amazing story of your mate Keith Norrish, who received a machine gun burst to the chest that deflected off a steel mirror and a wad of 17 letters from his wife to be, which helped prevent a fatal wounding. It took him six days to get down the track, and he still lived to the age of 95. You guys are made of something special. It is quite remarkable.

Back then, when I was in 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion, you and your mates kept in touch with the battalion. You set up a special scholarship to send young soldiers off to 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion battlefields to help them understand the history of the battalion and the importance of that unit to yourselves and, of course, to them. I also recall the small group fireside chats that the old diggers would have with the young diggers, sharing stories and gaining that sense of culture and love for the battalion. Of course, it is easy to understand why Bill is so fond of his old 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion. His father was a member of the 1<sup>st</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion back in World War I serving at Gallipoli. He was shot in the chest, repatriated to Australia, and lived well into his 70s. These were tough, tough people.

Bill, as mentioned by many here today, your legacy is significant. The fact that you have 82 direct descendants is quite remarkable, as is the fact that you have a parliamentary career spanning 44 years, mainly state with some federal. This is an amazing amount of service to the country. In fact, as I was listening to the member of South Perth talk about your time as the member for South Perth, I realised that my father was a schoolboy at Aquinas College in your electorate, as was I, so you were there as the local member through two generations, and many others who went to that school in the South Perth electorate have probably passed through this place.

For me, the most significant aspect of our celebrating your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday is recognising the contribution you made for us as Australians in that Kokoda Track campaign. We should never, ever forget what you and your mates went through. We understand that at the time, Australia was in the grip of panic as the Imperial Japanese Army was sweeping through southeast Asia. We had the fall of Singapore. It was not supposed to fall. It was going to hold the Japanese imperial force; it did not. It fell very quickly in February 1942, and then Darwin was bombed in the same month. We had your division, the 7<sup>th</sup> Division, recalled back from the Middle East to try to help stem the flow, and you are famous for that, of course, with Brigadier Potts and the 21<sup>st</sup> Brigade. In the context of army units, it was that very small force of the 21<sup>st</sup> Australian Infantry Brigade with you and the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion stopping a 15 000-force Japanese advance on that track towards Port Moresby, while Australians back here worried that if New Guinea fell, Australia was next.

They were very difficult and challenging times. You and your mates faced ferocious battles, bayonet charges through thick jungle, and you and your men had to fight your way out of a Japanese encirclement at Mission Ridge. At the end of the campaign, the Japanese had been defeated, and I am advised that only 143 fit soldiers of the 2<sup>nd</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Battalion remained out of the starting 550. Lucky for us, Bill Grayden was one of them. Of course, you went on to serve your country as a fantastic local member of Parliament, a minister, and a real flag-bearer to stand up for people and to look after them.

Bill, on behalf of all the soldiers out there, we congratulate you on your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. We thank you for your service to our state and, of course, to our nation. Congratulations.

Members: Hear, hear!

**MRS M.H. ROBERTS (Midland — Minister for Police)** [12.38 pm]: Congratulations on your 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, Bill Grayden—100 years old on 5 August this year. That in itself is a fantastic milestone. Unfortunately, in this house, we do not have both sides reflect positively on the contribution of a member of Parliament generally until we get to a condolence motion. In the 26 years that I have been here, I do not recall having had a motion for someone's birthday before, but a 100<sup>th</sup> birthday milestone is certainly one to be celebrated. I congratulate you for the contribution that you have made to the Parliament of Western Australia and to the community of Western Australia.

The member for South Perth is not the only one who, as we heard today, followed in Bill Grayden's footsteps. Bill Grayden represented the whole of my electorate, including Guildford, Midland, up to Greenmount, Hazelmere and beyond, including Bayswater and a much broader area of Swan. He represented a huge area. In those days, it would have been very rural. You would not have had to go to Beverley to have that rural experience. Indeed, over 20 years ago when I first got to know the people in the Hazelmere community, it certainly felt like I was in a very rural place there. My children made comments like, "Mum, you've got kangaroos in your electorate!", which was a very exciting thing. It was a very broad area.

Often, when I congratulate someone on their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday, if someone else has not already asked, I ask, "What's the secret of your longevity?" I have had some very interesting answers over the years, but having listened to the contribution that Bill Grayden has made, I think there is one very clear secret to his longevity—that is, a very active life. He has made a huge contribution to the community. In everything that he has been involved with, he has not been a bystander; he has been an integral part of it. That kind of community and family engagement clearly has to have been a major factor in him coming up to 100 years. Because of that connection with my electorate, I have met many of Bill's descendants, including Julie, and others who have made a significant contribution to communities and suburbs in my electorate. I also know his granddaughter, Natasha, who is also a journalist.

Congratulations on behalf of the whole community, especially those of us involved in the Midland area. Your contribution is still recognised. As it is for many of us, your biggest legacy, without doubt, is your five sons, five daughters, and all of the grandchildren. Your legacy will live on.

**MR P.C. TINLEY (Willagee — Minister for Veterans Issues)** [12.42 pm]: I rise as the Minister for Veterans Issues of the government of Western Australia to conclude the motion before us today congratulating Hon Bill Grayden on his birthday and his service. We have heard of a life of connection, continuity and intersection. Every speaker that has got up has talked about the lives and the issues that you have touched, and I think that none of us in this chamber, if we look hard enough, would not be able to find some kind of connection between our electorates, our issues, and, indeed, our people.

I also rise as a veteran to represent not my party but the many veterans who have come through this place. Members might not be aware of this, but we pass by it many times every single day. There is a board out there, and it contains the names of 60 members of this place who served in the Second World War. Four of them served in the First World War and the Second World War. It is a significant contribution. As a veteran myself, and a former Army member—in fact, my first unit, Bill, was the 16<sup>th</sup> Battalion when I first joined the reserves—I am often asked, "What are the lessons that you've learnt that carried you from your military service to political service?"—that is, apart from, as they see it, public service in a different uniform. I was reading through Bill's oral history and I marked some similarities, connections and intersections with my own life and, I am sure, any others who have served in the military would understand the sort of stories and issues that are raised in military service that you carry over. One is certainly perseverance, and we heard about that in your military service. Another is a singularity of thinking. We heard about that through the issues that you champion. But there is also good judgement. Good judgement is something that you learn from bad experiences, and you are no different. As other members have said, your commitment and service on the Kokoda Track is emblematic of the resilience that you and your generation showed. I read one excerpt with some interest about when you were fighting the withdrawal along the Kokoda Track back to Port Moresby. For those who are not familiar, being in command of a withdrawal is singularly the hardest thing to do. You have fear; you have casualties; you are running out of supplies and you are folding back. Morale is the biggest issue. To lead in those circumstances is typically very hard. In the jungles of Papua New Guinea, it is doubly so because of the visibility, and night movement was always difficult. I will read this excerpt to close this out. It states —

When moving in the jungle in single-file at night lots of men would tuck a piece of phosphorescent fungi or something like into ... their webbing or their belt to aid the next person following them.

That is how dark it was —

One morning I woke in bright sunlight. I looked around and all the sentries were sound asleep—exhausted from days of fighting and the trek over the ranges. During the night the whole lot had gone to sleep. One pair hadn't woken the next shift up. I looked over a log lying across the track and to my horror discovered our Brigadier, Arnold Potts, —

Another great Western Australian —

sound asleep apparently confident in our diligence. And we were the only troops between the battalion and the Japanese. I thought it advisable to wake the platoon up before I woke the Brigadier.

Sir, good judgement, always!

On behalf of all veterans who have passed through this place and all members, thank you for your service and happy birthday!

Members: Hear, hear!

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Mr Speaker, on that note, I seek your permission to bring Mr Grayden to the floor.

**The SPEAKER:** Permission granted.

[Hon Bill Grayden escorted to the table of the house by Mr P.C. Tinley (Minister for Veterans Issues), and greeted by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition. Photograph taken.]

Question put and passed.

[Applause.]

**Mr P.C. TINLEY:** Mr Speaker, with your indulgence, *Happy Birthday!*

[Members sing *Happy Birthday.*]

Members: Hip, hip, hooray!

**Hon BILL GRAYDEN:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the offer to be here today. It has been a great privilege and I greatly appreciate it. Thank you.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you.

[Hon Bill Grayden vacated the chamber.]

### **MARJORIE CHARLESON**

*Statement by Member for South Perth*

**MR J.E. McGRATH (South Perth)** [12.49 pm]: Marjorie Charleson came to Australia from New Zealand in 1965 to pursue an acting career, but her influence on Western Australian horseracing is where she left an indelible mark. A racing trailblazer, Marjorie was the first female public relations officer of any thoroughbred club in Australia when employed by the Western Australian Turf Club. During the 1970s and 1980s, Marjorie was known for her persuasive talents in luring Australia's best horses, trainers and jockeys to the Ascot Racing Carnival. Her efforts also saw international jockeys Lester Piggott, Gianfranco Dettori, Willie Carson and Steve Cauthen ride at Ascot Racecourse, while visiting celebrities spotted on the lawns included Gina Lollobrigida, Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe, the Duke of Edinburgh and Princess Margaret. In Marjorie's time, it seemed anyone of any note who was in town was invited to the races. Marjorie was a fierce and passionate advocate of female participation in racing. She initiated the Powder Puff Derby for amateur female riders, which became the forerunner to women becoming jockeys. Marjorie was able to entice top eastern states trainers Bart Cummings, Tommy Smith, Colin Hayes, George Hanlon and Geoff Murphy to bring their star gallopers to Perth. Arguably, Marjorie's greatest accomplishment was attracting Smith's great champion Kingston Town to Perth for the Western Mail Classic in 1982, which he won at what was to be his final racetrack appearance. In 2019, Marjorie's selfless dedication to racing was recognised when a race was named in her honour, the Marjorie Charleson Classic. Sadly, Marjorie Charleson passed away on 8 August. May she rest in peace.

### **PEDESTRIAN SAFETY — BICTON**

*Statement by Member for Bicton*

**MRS L.M. O'MALLEY (Bicton)** [12.51 pm]: Situated on the banks of the beautiful Swan River, the electorate of Bicton is filled with natural and vibrant community hubs with cafes, restaurants, parks and public art. Staying actively connected is important to our community, and being able to walk safely and easily is fundamental. That is why since being elected as the member for Bicton, I have worked hard to improve local pedestrian safety. Two current local issues are of particular note. Students from the suburbs of Bicton and Attadale attending Melville Senior High School are suffering from a lack of safe and convenient options to cross Canning Highway and access their school by either bike or bus. Therefore, I am working with local families to campaign for Melville Senior High School transport options. Thank you to local champions Nick and Karen for their outstanding community advocacy. In the growing hub of Carrington Street in Palmyra, residents and business owners have told me that the volume and speed of traffic is having a negative and potentially dangerous impact on them. Thanks to Palmyra small business owners Meray from Oushk, Mel from And the Store and Ashleigh from the Hair Hive for working with me in seeking a solution. Congratulations also to the City of Melville on their Safe Active Streets pilot project. There is no doubt that the best campaigns are community-led, and that is why I am working with my community to remedy these issues and increase local pedestrian safety.

### **JAMES RUTTEN — KIDS' CANCER PROJECT**

*Statement by Member for Warren-Blackwood*

**MR D.T. REDMAN (Warren-Blackwood)** [12.52 pm]: Two and a half years ago, I invited a then nine-year-old boy from Bridgetown to Parliament House to meet the Minister for Health. The minister kindly met with

James Rutten and his family and friends, and James outlined his belief that more funding needs to be invested in childhood cancer research. James started raising money for the Kids' Cancer Project after losing his best friend Declan Kane to neuroblastoma in May 2017. Since that meeting in Parliament House, James has walked a 42-kilometre section of the Bibbulmun Track with his sister Bethany and friend Tilly in an effort to raise money. He has participated in the SuperKids–SuperHeroes project—a project founded by Declan's parents—involving a 600 kilometre scooter ride from Bridgetown to Perth Children's Hospital that highlights the courage and bravery of childhood cancer patients and the need for research to find a cure, and the fundraising continues. He has been growing his hair since last year so it can be shaved off on 8 September as part of the Kids' Cancer Project's Lose Your Locks fundraiser. I applaud James for his commitment to this important cause, and for continuing to honour the memory of his friend Declan. James is now 11 years old and has a special message for the Minister for Health. He says, "I know Roger Cook is busy with all the COVID stuff, but could you please remind him how important it is to support the scientists and find a cure for childhood cancer." I think we will be hearing a lot more about James in future years. Perhaps one day, Mr Speaker, he will be sitting in my seat and representing the people of Warren–Blackwood.

**KALAMUNDA ELECTORATE — SCHOOLS  
KALAMUNDA HOSPITAL — PALLIATIVE CARE**

*Statement by Member for Kalamunda*

**MR M. HUGHES (Kalamunda)** [12.54 pm]: I am thrilled that schools in my electorate will receive a total of \$33.5 million in funding. Kalamunda Senior High School and the co-located Kalamunda Secondary Education Support Centre have been allocated \$18.3 million for a much needed purpose-built education support facility, new library and IT centre, and new classrooms. Lesmurdie Primary School has been allocated \$15.2 million to rebuild the school on its existing site. I have strongly advocated for these projects since my election and identified that I would pursue funding for them as a matter of priority.

That is not the end of the good news! On 13 August, the Minister for Health announced a \$9.5 million investment to enhance palliative care services at Kalamunda Hospital in accordance with the McGowan government's commitment to the importance of quality palliative care and end of life choices. Our 39-bed Perth hills hospital now incorporates 25 palliative care beds. Kalamunda Hospital is now a district specialist hospital continuing to provide low-risk endoscopic surgery services as well as palliative care. The enhanced palliative care section of the hospital will better care for patients when they are unable to get the care they require at home. It will provide an integrated model of care, incorporating proactive outreach and improved service linkages and capacity within the East Metropolitan Health Service, in addition to a day hospice and outpatient services, including telehealth. This wise investment responds to the need identified by my community in a petition to the Assembly and will deliver high quality, evidence-based palliative care and inform and educate both palliative care practitioners and carers.

**BYFORD SECONDARY COLLEGE**

*Statement by Member for Darling Range*

**MRS A.K. HAYDEN (Darling Range)** [12.55 pm]: I would like to congratulate staff and students of Byford Secondary College who have been busy sewing library bags and collecting books for children across the Pilbara. The books and bags were donated to Gumala 3A Indigenous Playgroup, which provides high-level support and education for Indigenous children and their families. Bags have been delivered to children at playgroups in Karratha, South Hedland, Warralong and Wakathuni, and North Tom Price Primary School. Students are now sewing more bags to send to children in Roebourne and Wickham.

Together they have shown true community spirit and improved the lives and literacy of children in our regions. I would like to thank home economics teacher Stephanie Nash, the year 12 students, families and the community. A special shout out to Ally Snook, Nathalie Chabant, Breanna Possingham, Chrystelle Baldock, Cassidy Argus, Thalia Carlucci, Makayla Harris, Georgia Bradford, Skye James, Eva Ngenambona, Airi Tsuchida, Annabelle Stillitano, Elliot Nichols, Lily Grevett, Shannon Crowhurst and Elyssa Hayden. Guys, you are awesome. As your local member of Parliament, I am extremely proud of your achievement and the work you are doing to help our community. Well done.

**ROD SIMEONS**

*Statement by Member for Swan Hills*

**MS J.J. SHAW (Swan Hills)** [12.57 pm]: Mr Speaker, I would like to acknowledge the distinguished career of Mr Rod Simeons, an educator for over 54 years and retiring principal of Anne Hamersley Primary School.

Mr Simeon's early career established his reputation for assisting troubled schools. He demonstrated outstanding leadership and a unique ability to collaborate with local communities, particularly in Meekatharra and Gosnells. In the electorate of Swan Hills, from 1988 to 1996, Mr Simeons was the principal of Upper Swan Primary School. He served as the foundation principal of Aveyley Primary School for three and a half years, and has been Anne Hamersley's foundation principal for the past five and a half years, where he had the rare opportunity to apply his wealth of experience and knowledge to the school's design. Mr Simeons has made an enduring contribution to so many families in the electorate of Swan Hills, shepherding thousands of our children through primary school. He has also served our broader community through Rotary and Lions clubs.

We are so very grateful for Mr Simeon's tireless work, his outstanding leadership, and the warm, inclusive and nurturing school communities that he has built throughout his career for students, staff, parents and visitors alike. He represents the very best of public school leadership. I thank him on behalf of my constituents for his distinguished service. We all wish him every happiness in retirement. Thank you so much, Rod.

*Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm*

### QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

#### DOMESTIC GAS POLICY — LNG JOBS TASK FORCE REPORT

**590. Mr W.R. MARMION to the Premier:**

I refer to the Leader of the Opposition's question to the Premier yesterday about a report commissioned by the LNG jobs task force undertaken by ACIL Allen Consulting on domestic gas. Can the Premier advise whether he has read the report; and, if so, can he advise the house on its recommendation?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The advice I have is that a tender was issued two and a half months ago to undertake such a report. The report has not been conducted and we have not received a report. The advice I received just before question time is that there is no report. I do not know what the member is talking about. I was advised that the former Premier was commenting on these issues earlier today. My view is that Western Australia's domestic gas entitlement is Western Australia's entitlement. Other people, including the former Premier, are arguing that it should be piped to the east. If it is Western Australian domestic gas, it is Western Australian domestic gas. We do not say to Queensland, "You give us a share of your gas," or to New South Wales, "You give us a share of your gas." If we have a 15 per cent domestic gas policy for Western Australia, that is for Western Australia. That is not for other states. I urge all members of this house to support us in ensuring that the domestic gas obligation contained within the 2006 policy launched by then Premier Alan Carpenter remains in place and that Western Australian domestic gas is not sent overseas or to the eastern states.

#### DOMESTIC GAS POLICY — LNG JOBS TASK FORCE REPORT

**591. Mr W.R. MARMION to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Can the Premier explain to the house how a report costing \$137 000 of taxpayers' money looking into the opportunities for the development of gas-intensive downstream industries was not considered before he made a decision to change the state's domestic gas policy?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I find again that the opposition does not listen to the answer. I just explained it to members: a report of some description has been commissioned in relation to gas. It is not prepared; it has not been given to government. There is no report that has been given to government. I just told the member that. Opposition members do not seem to process the first answer before they ask their supplementary question. It is written down for them and they do not listen. I cannot be clearer with them. What the government announced the other day was a change to our domestic gas policy to ensure that the Western Australian allocation of domestic gas is available for Western Australia and is not sent to New South Wales, Queensland or Victoria. I note that the former Premier came out on this issue. I do not really know why he picks some issues and not others, but he selected this issue to say that Western Australia's allocation of 15 per cent domestic gas should be piped to the east. I do not understand that. Why would he say that? Why would anyone say that? It does not seem to me to make any sense. What we have to do is make sure we take account of the needs of Western Australia into the future. We expect that by the end of this decade there will be a shortfall of domestic gas; therefore, we have to make sure that we get our fair share for Western Australia—for Western Australian households and Western Australian industry. That is what the policy is about. I just wish the Liberal Party would support us for once.

**The SPEAKER:** Members, I have just got a text to say that it is Roger Cook's birthday today; is that right, Roger?

**Mr R.H. Cook:** It is, Mr Speaker; do you want to talk?

**The SPEAKER:** No, no. It is also Dr Buti's birthday's today. We have already sung *Happy Birthday* to a 100-year-old, but if you add their two ages together, it is probably the same.

#### LEACH HIGHWAY–WELSHPOOL ROAD INTERSECTION — UPGRADE

**592. Mr S.J. PRICE to the Minister for Transport:**

Can I just say, Mr Speaker, that the next time we sing *Happy Birthday* in the chamber, maybe you should turn off your microphone!

Several members interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** There is fake news and all of that—I call you to order for the first time for insulting the Speaker!

**Mr S.J. PRICE:** I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion Western Australia recovery plan that includes a significant investment in job-creating transport infrastructure across the state.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's record investment in road projects, in particular the upgrades to the Leach Highway–Welshpool Road intersection?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house what this project will mean to motorists in the eastern suburbs?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

I thank the member for Forrestfield for that question.

- (1)–(2) It was another busy day as we announced the third proponent of the new Leach Highway–Welshpool Road interchange. We also turned the first sod on the first stage of the Stephenson Avenue extension project, a project that was put forward by the member for Balcatta. It is another project that was ignored by the previous Liberal government for eight and a half years. I remember visiting the City of Stirling when we were in opposition. It put forward why it needed the Stephenson Avenue project to facilitate the growth of the Stirling city centre. It was a project it could not get traction on under the previous government, but there we were today, with the federal government and the City of Stirling, announcing and turning the sod on the first stage of that project—another project that has been brought forward as part of our recovery plan.

The Leach Highway–Welshpool Road project is a \$90 million project involving a consortium of WA companies. That intersection has been ranked either the first or second most congested intersection across the network since about 2014. This has been a problem for many, many years and it is the McGowan Labor government that will fix it.

The final contract is due to be awarded in December this year. The government has brought forward this project six months from the previous schedule. Early works are expected to commence by the end of this year. Those who drive past that intersection will have seen the pipes and services that need to be relocated. The Leach–Welshpool alliance consists of local companies BG&E Pty Ltd, Georgiou Group Pty Ltd and Golder Associates Pty Ltd. Currently, 50 000 vehicles pass through that intersection every weekday. The area services key commercial activities in the Welshpool commercial area, Perth Airport, Kewdale freight terminal and surrounding residential areas.

As the members for Victoria Park, Cannington and Belmont would know, this intersection, together with the project to remove the level crossings through Welshpool and Victoria Park, will completely transform how we move around that corridor. It is a much-needed boost of infrastructure spending, creating jobs across the state. This government will continue to focus on and provide infrastructure and new jobs. Other projects that were brought forward are the Bunbury Outer Ring Road; Leach Highway–Welshpool Road, which I have mentioned; Stephenson Avenue, the second stage of which has been brought forward; the Fremantle Traffic Bridge; and, of course, Roe Highway and Kalamunda Highway, which are also progressing very well. Other projects along Roe Highway and Great Eastern Highway will be brought forward, as well as the Albany ring-road, the Lord Street extension, the Tonkin Highway gap, which is a much-needed project, and the freeway extension and widening in the north. Projects around the state are being brought forward, creating jobs and helping to stimulate economic activity in WA.

#### DANGEROUS SEXUAL OFFENDERS — MICHAEL ROBERT CARROLL

**593. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Attorney General:**

I refer to the dangerous alleged child rapist Michael Robert Carroll, who is currently still on the run from authorities. How did he get bail in the first place?

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

I thank the member for his question. Mr Carroll was charged with offences relating to events in 2011 and 2014. He was arrested five years later in 2019 upon complaint. As I understand it, he appeared in the Albany Magistrates Court, where the police prosecutor appeared on the complaint. There had been no allegation of offending in the intervening period and there is no evidence that the police prosecutor on the day opposed bail. I am informed that the police had no basis at that time to oppose bail. Mr Carroll was remanded through to a committal hearing date and subsequently his bail was renewed on each appearance because he had complied with the set bail conditions. He was then committed to the District Court to stand trial and there was a pleas mention date, as I understand, on 30 June 2020, at which he complied with his requirement by audio link because it was during the COVID-19 period. Counsel appearing for Mr Carroll assured the court that he had been in some regular contact with him. The court renewed his bail on the same terms and conditions. At that time, a trial date was fixed for 17 August 2020. There had been no breach of bail conditions in all that time and bail was once again renewed. Unfortunately, regrettably and distressingly for the victims, Mr Carroll failed to appear on 17 August. He absconded and this has caused, of course, not only inconvenience to the court, having to abandon the three-day trial, but also distress to the victims who had prepared and braced themselves to give evidence at the trial, which had to be put off. Under the Bail Act, the initial police

prosecutor in the Magistrates Court did not oppose bail. Mr Carroll was presumed to be innocent and met the requirements of the Bail Act. The police prosecutor did not choose to oppose bail on each subsequent appearance. Having responded appropriately to his bail conditions, they were rolled over.

**DANGEROUS SEXUAL OFFENDERS — MICHAEL ROBERT CARROLL**

**594. Mr P.A. KATSAMBANIS to the Attorney General:**

I have a supplementary question. Given that the Attorney General promised to get much tougher on these types of offenders after the Edward Latimer debacle, does the fact that people such as Michael Robert Carroll can simply thumb their noses at the justice system—a manhunt is now underway for this person—not show that the Attorney General had absolutely no genuine intention to get tough on sex offenders?

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

The answer to that, of course, is plainly no. The member predicated his question on the basis that Carroll is an offender. He has not been convicted of an offence and although people in the community want to jump to the conclusion that a person charged is, in fact, guilty—as the member has mistakenly done and characterised him as an offender—the court, prosecutors and the police are required to extend to him the presumption of innocence until a guilty verdict has been returned. On first appearance in the Magistrates Court upon the charge, he had to be dealt with on the presumption of innocence and under the terms of the Bail Act. We have never promised to change the terms of the Bail Act in relation to people charged with an offence who do not have a history of offending. There was no need for Mr Carroll to establish exceptional circumstances or anything because he was first appearing on these charges and the court dealt with him in accordance with the Bail Act, extending to him the presumption of innocence. That is a requirement of the law in Western Australia. We have never undertaken to reverse the presumption of innocence of a person charged with an offence but not yet convicted.

**CORONAVIRUS — ECONOMIC RECOVERY PACKAGE — OCEAN REEF MARINA**

**595. Ms E. HAMILTON to the Minister for Lands:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's investment in major job-creating projects that will support WA's recovery from the economic impacts of COVID-19, including Ocean Reef marina. Can the minister update the house on the work that is underway to deliver Ocean Reef marina, which has been talked about for decades, and outline to the house how this project will support local jobs and help drive economic growth?

**Mr B.S. WYATT replied:**

I thank the member for Joondalup for that very, very good question about a very important project that has been many years in the making. On Sunday, with the member for Joondalup and the Premier, and a member who is not in the chamber, we announced the start of work on Ocean Reef marina, which will become a landmark retail, recreational, residential and tourism precinct for the northern suburbs. Now that we have started, we estimate that over the course of construction, in terms of both the public and private components, there will be 8 500 jobs and more than 900 ongoing jobs once the marina is complete. All up, on top of the nearly \$130 million that the state government is putting into the project, we expect this to attract approximately \$650 million in private sector investment and provide an estimated \$3 billion boost to our economy. When completed, of course—it will be completed over the next decade or so—the marina will include capacity for 550 boat pens, as well as 200 boat stackers, 12 000 square metres of retail and commercial space, high-quality public amenities, including a protected beach, and, as announced by the Premier, a coastal pool, which I know has been a big part of the feedback received by the member for Joondalup about this particular project. I am also pleased—badgered as I have been regularly by the member for Joondalup—to put in another \$6.5 million to ensure that the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club and Marine Rescue Whitfords are given new premises. That is something the local community will be very happy with.

Residential development is a key part of this project. One issue I have noted in the protests about this and in some of the public comment from Liberals who oppose it is that residential has always been a key component of this project. Between 900 and 1 000 proposed residential lots have been a part of this project since it has been talked about. There has been a change in how we mixed up the diversity of those residential lots, but it has certainly been a part of the marina proposal for at least the last decade.

Importantly, because I know that people are worried about the environmental processes, this has always been done according to the highest levels of environmental protection. The marine component of the development has been subject to a public environmental review by the Environmental Protection Authority, which found that the project will not have a significant impact on the environment and hence approval was granted in 2019. I note that DevelopmentWA is working closely with the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development above and beyond the conditions imposed on it to relocate 100 000 rows of abalone stock to protect the future sustainability of the species.

Work has commenced on this project, and it will continue to take place over the next decade or so until it is complete. Ultimately, when people talk about transformative projects, the projects with vision that some former politicians

might refer to, it is exactly these sorts of projects that they are talking about. Member for Joondalup, this will be transformative for the tourism and residential offering for people across Perth, not just those in the northern suburbs. I am delighted that we have been able to, with our project partners and the City of Joondalup, get this project underway.

#### CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

**596. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Premier:**

I refer to the application process for Western Australians seeking to return home from other states under the current COVID-19 border restrictions.

- (1) Has the Premier imposed a weekly cap on the number of interstate applications that can be approved?
- (2) If so, what is the limit and why has it been imposed?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

- (1)–(2) Certainly not as far as I am aware.

#### CORONAVIRUS — INTERSTATE BORDER RESTRICTIONS

**597. Mr D.T. REDMAN to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. Does the Premier's response mean that the state will cater for and allow back into Western Australia as many people who chose to make an application?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

No, because there is a process by which people have to apply for an exemption, and only those who are granted an exemption will be permitted in.

**The SPEAKER:** The birthday boy—the member for Armadale. In 41 years, we will sing you happy birthday!

#### CORONAVIRUS — WA RECOVERY PLAN

**598. Dr A.D. BUTI to the Minister for Mines and Petroleum:**

I can think of no better birthday present than to ask a question of the Minister for Mines and Petroleum!

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's fantastic \$5.5 billion recovery plan that includes significant investment in unlocking future mining opportunities. Can the minister outline to the house how this government's investment in exploration technology will create more opportunities for the Australian resources sector and what that investment means for Western Australian jobs and Western Australian workers?

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

I should start by wishing the member for Armadale a happy birthday.

I can, in fact, help the member with the answer to that question. It is exciting that the strong and stable leadership provided by the Premier is allowing Western Australia to recover faster than any other state. That is reflected in the mining sector in particular. The Premier's strong leadership has allowed the mining sector to continue to work through this difficult time. Recognising that this is a difficult time, the government is supporting the industry to do even more in the future. As part of the government's \$5.5 billion recovery plan, the government has allocated \$3.6 million to Curtin University to join the commonwealth government in funding the installation of a brand-new ion microprobe for Curtin University. This will be one of only five such devices in the world and keeps Curtin University and Western Australia at the leading edge of modern technology that allows even more resources to be found underground. This will make sure that Western Australia continues to be the number one destination in the world for investment in the mining industry.

In addition, we have allocated \$5 million over the next 12 months to top-up the exploration incentive scheme to a total of \$15 million over the next 12 months. Of that additional \$5 million, \$2 million is allocated to Geological Survey of Western Australia to keep Western Australia's publicly available pre-competitive geological data at the leading edge globally. It is very important to understand that this pre-competitive data collected by Geological Survey is one of the reasons that we continue to be the destination of choice for explorers globally because they can de-risk their investments by choosing targets that have been acquired in that pre-competitive data. This is a very critical part of keeping Western Australia at the forefront of mining investment.

We have gone further and provided \$3 million for co-funded drilling to incentivise drillers back to our state as we recover from COVID. We all understand that probably only one in 100 drilling programs actually finds a viable mine site. De-risking and co-funding these drilling operations means that it is much more likely that we will get early stage investment in the exploration sector so that we can then develop the mines of the future. Have we not done well over the last short while?

**Mr W.R. Marmion:** It is a great Liberal and National Party initiative.

**Mr W.J. JOHNSTON:** Hon Norman Moore wanted to keep it away from royalties for regions but I understand that the Liberal Party threw it under the bus by tying it to royalties for regions, but that is a separate issue.

This is very good for Western Australia because it means that we will continue to find new resources. It will also create new jobs, including for drillers and geologists, and attract new investment and keep Western Australia at the cutting edge of geological understanding, because the next big deposits will be found underground.

#### MURDOCH MEDIHOTEL

**599. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Minister for Health:**

I refer to the minister's recent announcement that the Murdoch medihotel will not open until 2023, six years after the minister's media release titled "Work begins on WA's first Medihotel". Can the minister confirm that the \$55.5 million set aside for the operational costs of the medihotel over four years equates to \$475 per bed per night, which is at least double the rate the minister promised at the election of between \$120 and \$200 per bed per night?

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

I thank the member for raising the issue of medihotels. It is one of our successful policies that is working really well. We are very excited.

**Mr Z.R.F. Kirkup:** It is not working at all. You haven't even started.

**Mr R.H. COOK:** Royal Perth Hospital is going nicely, thank you very much. We have a medihotel at Royal Perth Hospital. I will tell members a story about a patient from the Kimberley with a respiratory illness who was brought to Perth, had a short stay in the intensive care unit and was ready for discharge by 6.00 pm. The options for that patient were to either find herself a place to stay that night in a city that she was unfamiliar with in a community that she had no networks in or, as happened, be assisted by the staff at Royal Perth Hospital to stay in the medihotel at Royal Perth Hospital that night and be transferred to the hospital the following morning by our Aboriginal meet-and-greet service. That is the power of institutions like medihotels.

The medihotel that we are developing at Fiona Stanley Hospital will be an 80-bed facility. Its development has taken longer than we all wanted but by doing so we will have an integrated \$200 million medical facility to support the public and private hospitals on that precinct. Obviously, the 80-bed medihotel will be an important part of that, but it will also offer other aspects of health services, including BreastScreen WA, which will take up space at that facility, as well as, I think, PathWest. It will be an integrated facility. All good things come to those who wait and although we have had to be more patient about this development, what we have now is a greater and much improved opportunity. Of course, we could just go and jam some public money into building a building out the back that stands alone and is not integrated, but in this context we have added value and will create an outstanding facility that will enhance the clinical and support services available to people who go to that hospital, and we will meet our important election promises.

#### MURDOCH MEDIHOTEL

**600. Mr Z.R.F. KIRKUP to the Minister for Health:**

I have a supplementary question. I thank the minister for his answer. Why is the WA Labor government unable to deliver the Murdoch medihotel project on time and on budget, and where is the funding and what are the delivery dates for the remaining medihotels that the Labor Party promised during the last election campaign, including the Joondalup medihotel that the government has failed to build?

**The SPEAKER:** That question had a preamble, member, but I will allow it.

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

For the first eight months I was a bit busy trying to open the hospital the former government could not open. Maybe we should overlook the first few months as my time as the Minister for Health when I tried to unravel the wreckage that was the mismanagement of the Perth Children's Hospital development by the previous government. The medihotel will come on stream soon and will be an outstanding hospital. It is part of Labor's vision to put patients first in Western Australia and I very much look forward to continuing to work with all our partners in health to improve health services in Western Australia.

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES — INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

**601. Mr D.T. PUNCH to the Minister for Emergency Services:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion WA recovery plan that includes a significant investment in maintaining state government assets.

- (1) Can the minister update the house on this government's investment to upgrade fire stations and new emergency services infrastructure across Western Australia?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will support local jobs and local businesses?

**Mr F.M. LOGAN replied:**

Thank you very much indeed, member for Bunbury, and I thank you for your superb support for emergency service workers in the south west, particularly in Bunbury.

- (1)–(2) As we all know, there is a significant investment by the government, \$5.5 billion, in the WA recovery plan. That includes \$15 million to upgrade emergency services facility. Thirteen million dollars will be spent on maintenance, and upgrades and additions, to facilities, and some new facilities will be built too; and \$2 million will be provided to bush fire brigades to provide them with 100 static water tanks across the state. That will increase the response capability for volunteers in protecting their communities.

I am so pleased that this money could actually be found for emergency services and it will be spread across regional Western Australia. The projects that we have already announced are specifically in the areas of Western Australia. For example, \$13 million will be to improve facilities on priority stations for bush fire service brigades, volunteer fire and rescue service brigades, State Emergency Service units and volunteer fire and emergency service units across the state. The types of projects that have been envisaged as part of this upgrade are projects between \$17 000 and up to \$3 million. They are targeted at regional WA. They are the right sized projects for small building companies and small businesses in regional Western Australia. This investment means that there will be work for builders, carpenters, electricians, plumbers, tilers, concreters, welders, painters, bricklayers, cabinet-makers and plasterers.

I will give an idea about where this investment will be made. For example, in the volunteer fire and rescue services, it will be in the areas of Brookton, Wagin, Kellerberrin, Tammin, Eucla, Dongara and Waroona. For the bush fire brigades, it will be in the areas of Torbay, Baandee, Mt Caroline, Kellerberrin north, Nungarin and Julimar. Some of these facilities are being built in areas where there has never been a bush fire brigade facility whatsoever. The pumps were usually stored in one of the facilities on somebody's farm. There has never been a centre for the bush fire brigade to do their training, and store vehicles. This is a terrific result for places like Baandee and Mt Caroline, which have never had a bush fire brigade facility.

I said that the investments are modest—between \$17 000 and \$3 million. Three million dollars will be invested in a new facility for the SES in Albany, which is the Speaker's electorate. Mr Speaker knows where the SES facility is; it is by the football ovals. It is a funny little old place that is certainly way, way past its use-by date. I am very pleased that this money could be found in order to upgrade that facility. In fact, it will be a very good facility. It will be a joint facility and it will be a major addition to emergency services in Albany.

**The SPEAKER:** Thank you, minister.

#### GERALDTON HEAVY VEHICLE BYPASS

**602. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Transport:**

I refer to media reports this week that a decision has been made to choose route 6 to the north of Geraldton, and route 1 to the south of Geraldton, for the proposed Geraldton heavy vehicle bypass. Can the minister confirm whether a final decision on the route has been made?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI replied:**

Mr Speaker —

**Mr R.S. Love:** We would all like to know.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** A decision has not been made. A planning study was undertaken by Main Roads WA, which heavily consulted with the four councils or shires involved. A route definition study and a preferred option report have been forwarded to my office. I will be looking at the report over coming weeks, including seeking feedback from the relevant shires and council. What happens as part of this is that Main Roads consulted with the three shires and the council involved. One of those mayors came out and attacked the decision, even though no decision has been made. We have now had feedback from two other councils or shires saying they want to distance themselves from the attack because they want to work collaboratively to choose the best option.

These projects are difficult. Determining routes for major roads is always difficult. There will always be debate. That is why we have gone through the process. A study arrived in my office on Monday and we will now be working through the process to make a final decision. This whole idea of politicising these types of projects, creating battles before the battles need or should happen, means these types of projects will sometimes take years, rather than months, to finalise. When the federal government looks at trying to provide funding for projects, it is looking at what is a unified position by state and local governments. I urge people, on these difficult projects; this is one that Main Roads has been working on with the key stakeholders. A report has come to my office. The mayors are briefed, as they should be, and then one mayor goes out and wants to launch a political attack. If that is how people want to do business, they will see those projects never actually eventuate because when the federal government wants to determine where it should put funding, it wants to see a consensus approach between state and local governments.

I urge the local governments involved, particularly one of them, to sit back, work and be constructive. If it really wants the outcome, be constructive and be part of the process, as it has been in the past. Work with the state in determining the final outcome. As I said, these decisions are never easy because there are always differing ideas on what route should be undertaken. I know the member for Geraldton wants the project to go ahead. The only way these projects go ahead is if they are sans controversy and political battles at this stage.

#### GERALDTON HEAVY VEHICLE BYPASS

##### **603. Mr I.C. BLAYNEY to the Minister for Transport:**

I have a supplementary question. Given the importance of this decision to the Geraldton community and the level of concern about the choice of route 1 in the community, when does the minister think we will get an announcement?

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

Mr Speaker —

**Mr M. McGowan:** What is your view?

**Mr I.C. Blayney:** I do not support route 1.

**Mr M. McGowan:** What do you support?

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Whatever the mayor tells him to!

Let us go through it —

Several members interjected.

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** Whatever the mayor tells him to!

**The SPEAKER:** Members!

**Ms R. SAFFIOTI:** One wannabe candidate and one who is the current candidate.

As I said, it is far too premature to launch this sort of political campaign. The other shires are very keen to work with the state government, as they always have been. I remember meeting with a number of them saying that it is difficult. Determining these types of routes is probably one of the toughest decisions a transport minister has to make. We need to ensure that some of the objectives about freight efficiency are met and that landowners and all the communities along the way respect it. As I said, there are always debates.

Main Roads has been working on this very diligently. Its report landed in my office on Monday. By that stage, there was a Facebook comment attacking us for our decision! That was even before the report landed in my office. Launching political campaigns before we have had the time to consider all the different factors, and for me to consult with relevant stakeholders, is not the right thing to do. That is why under eight and a half years of the previous government it never built anything. All it did was launch political campaigns and it did not work to get the right outcome!

**Dr A.D. Buti** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Birthday boy, I call you to order for the first time! Members, I am on my feet. Member for Armadale, I call you to order.

#### CORONAVIRUS — WA RECOVERY PLAN — ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

##### **604. Ms S.E. WINTON to the Minister for Water:**

I refer to the McGowan Labor government's \$5.5 billion WA recovery plan, which includes a significant investment in infrastructure and essential services in the state's remote Aboriginal communities.

- (1) Can the minister outline to the house what the almost \$39 million investment in upgrading water services will mean for those living in those Aboriginal communities?
- (2) Can the minister outline to the house how this investment will create local employment opportunities for Western Australian workers?

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

I thank the member for what is a very important question.

- (1)–(2) Most people in Western Australia take it for granted that they have access to clean, safe drinking water. Sadly, in Western Australia there are communities, largely Aboriginal communities, that do not enjoy that basic human right of having access to safe drinking water. That fact was highlighted in an Auditor General's report in 2015—a number of communities that do not have that basic right that certainly non-Aboriginal communities have.

In 2019, along with the Minister for Housing, we announced a commitment of \$23 million to upgrade the water supplies of three Aboriginal communities—Bidyadanga, Mowanjum and Bayulu. That was the start of the work to deal with those issues that were raised by the Auditor General in 2015. As part of the

\$5.5 billion recovery plan, which I am very pleased we were able to announce last week in Broome, an additional \$39 million will go into Aboriginal communities to ensure that they can have the safe, clean drinking water that the rest of the Western Australian community takes for granted.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** Is that royalties for regions, minister?

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The member can look at the report himself.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** You don't know.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Listen to the answer.

The four communities we announced in Broome last week are Ardyaloon, Djarindjin, Lombadina and Beagle Bay. They will be upgraded to the tune of \$29.5 million. An additional \$3 million was announced to do the preparatory work for three additional communities, and an additional \$12 million has been earmarked for town-based communities. The town-based communities that will benefit have not yet been identified, because an important part of this program is that we consult with Aboriginal communities before we launch an upgrade of services. We cannot just replicate what we do in the metropolitan area in what goes on in an Aboriginal community.

It was a pleasure to be in Broome to meet with some of the elders representing the four communities that I have already referred to. I would not say that there was a lot of excitement, because a lot of them said that it was about time. These upgrades of services have been long overdue. I had the great pleasure of meeting the first Aboriginal liaison officer employed by the Water Corporation based in regional WA. She is a Yaru woman who is based in Broome. She has worked with the Water Corporation for a period of time and is really happy that she is going to be working on her own country to regularise water services that other Western Australians take for granted. It is about not only clean, safe drinking water, but also creating jobs. It would be easy for the Water Corporation to simply come in, do the work and get out. The Water Corporation has a really good record in Aboriginal engagement, so a very important part of this project is to ensure, as they go through this program, that they can access local contractors and local Aboriginal businesses, and that they can upskill Aboriginal people so that there is a skills transfer and there are opportunities for development of careers and Aboriginal businesses so that we get the bang for our buck out of this project.

**Mr D.T. Redman:** I'm just wondering whether there are mutual obligations and investments that the government can negotiate.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** Mutual obligations—this is an investment by the Western Australian government. We are not asking for a financial commitment from these communities. Is that what the member is talking about?

**Mr D.T. Redman:** No, I am thinking about, for example, school attendance.

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The member for Warren–Blackwood is suggesting—if that is what he is saying—that we should be providing these communities with clean drinking water but only on the basis that they give something back, like school attendance: “If your kids don't come to school, we're not going to provide you with clean drinking water”! Member for Warren–Blackwood, that is one of the most ridiculous things I have heard in this place.

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** The member for Warren–Blackwood would know that we are building a pipeline from Albany to Denmark to secure the water supply of Denmark. I have not gone down to the people of Denmark and said, “In order to get that upgrade, you've got to behave yourself on the weekend.” That is a ridiculous proposition! Really? Seriously?

**Mr D.T. Redman** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Warren–Blackwood, that is enough!

**Mr D.J. KELLY:** I was going to conclude my answer by acknowledging the role that the member for Kimberley has played in these decisions. She has announced that she is not going to recontest the seat of Kimberley. She has been a magnificent representative of the Kimberley. One comment I was going to make was that it must have been very difficult for her to come to this place, because some very unsavoury things have been said in this place about Aboriginal people over the years. We just had an interjection from the member for Warren–Blackwood that probably typifies some of those attitudes. The member for Kimberley has done a magnificent job in this chamber. She has had a stellar career as a representative of her people, and I personally want to pay my respects to the work she has done and I wish her well.

#### DOMESTIC GAS RESERVATION POLICY — WAITSIA PROJECT

##### 605. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:

I refer to responses to parliamentary questions in the Legislative Council yesterday, and I quote —

The government's intention to change the domestic gas policy was not discussed with any developers.

Given that both that the Chamber of Minerals and Energy and the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association have confirmed to me that they did not know about the change to the policy, why did the Premier decide to exclude the Waitsia project from the policy change if no-one had asked for it to be excluded?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

I think that the Leader of the Opposition is deliberately misinterpreting what I said. We announced a policy—our 15 per cent gas policy—to ensure that that gas remains in Western Australia and is not piped to the east. I do not understand the question.

## DOMESTIC GAS RESERVATION POLICY — WAITSIA PROJECT

**606. Mrs L.M. HARVEY to the Premier:**

I have a supplementary question. The Premier stated that he changed the domestic policy, and I quote, “very swiftly and very quickly”. What was so urgent to not discuss the matter with any directors from Mitsui E&P and Beech Energy that resulted in their exemption being granted to the Waitsia project?

**Mr M. McGOWAN replied:**

The policy and the Waitsia project are different things.

**Mrs L.M. Harvey:** There was an exception.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** The policy is about the 15 per cent gas policy and offshore projects to Western Australia. We have said that that must remain in Western Australia. We are not piping it to the east and we are not selling it overseas. I have heard Colin Barnett out there saying that Western Australian gas should be piped to the east. I do not agree with that. Does the Leader of the Opposition agree with that?

**Mr W.R. Marmion** interjected.

**The SPEAKER:** Member for Nedlands.

**Mr M. McGOWAN:** It is very, very plain. Waitsia, on the other hand, will come onstream at the time that we need it later this decade—50 per cent of the project will come onstream into the Western Australian domestic market later this decade. It is a project that will ensure, through the decision we made, that it goes ahead. It will mean 200 jobs in the Geraldton region. I do not understand the basis of the Leader of the Opposition’s question. We are ensuring that the project goes ahead, we will earn 50 per cent and we are guaranteeing domestic gas supply. What is the Leader of the Opposition’s point?

**The SPEAKER:** That is the end of question time.

**PREMIER’S STATEMENT***Consideration*

Resumed from 13 February on the following question —

That the Premier’s Statement be noted.

**MR T.J. HEALY (Southern River)** [2.50 pm]: I look forward to making my contribution to the Premier’s Statement. It has been a long time coming. I wrote my speech at the start of the year. It was the Chinese New Year when we first had this conversation, and I would like to extend a happy year of the rat to all the people in my community. The year of the rat has special significance to the members for Geraldton and North West Central. I wish all members very, very well.

Today I seek to provide updates on the ongoing delivery of major projects in my electorate of Southern River. I am very proud that we have kept our promises in our community. We have built all the things that we said we would and we did all the things we said we would do. I am very proud of what Mark McGowan and our government have done to look after the people of Canning Vale, Gosnells, Huntingdale and Southern River, and of course Western Australia. Today I will talk about some of our local wins and milestones. I also want to thank the student leaders of the schools in my electorate. I thank my local community for all their efforts through COVID-19, which is continuing. I certainly thank them for their efforts during that peak period of craziness earlier in the year. I thank everyone in Canning Vale, Gosnells, Huntingdale and Southern River for everything they did to keep us all healthy and safe—the educators and students of all the schools, families, cleaners, nurses, health workers and retail champions—during COVID. Of course, I could not not thank Mark McGowan and Roger Cook for what they did. We will do our best to keep WA strong. To my community, those who have lost their jobs: we will do our best to get you back to work as soon as we can.

The Premier’s Statement was delivered in this chamber before the COVID peak hit us. One of the statements he made is certainly true. It remains true during the COVID period and it remains true during the recovery. The Premier stated —

... a path where WA jobs are everyone’s number one priority; a path where local content and local employment are key because “WA made” means quality; a path where education and training is valued because it unlocks so many opportunities; and a path where our health system is sustainable and patients are put first.

I would like to make a brief comment about racial tensions and incidents that have occurred within our community. I make this statement to my community with regards to Black Lives Matter and a number of other matters. I am honoured to be your member of Parliament. It often took me some time to find the words to say but it is certainly true in our community, unfortunately, that historically, Aboriginal people die in custody more often in Australia than non-Aboriginal people. I believe it is true that Australians with darker skin colours feel that they are treated differently from Australians with lighter skin colours in shops and around the community. More African–American people are in custody in the United States than non-African–American people. That does not mean that all police or prison officers are bad. It does mean that there is more work for us to do. I know that many WA police officers are saddened by what is happening and support change. It is a good thing if you think the current situation needs to change.

If you are listening to my speech at home or you are reading it, and you are unsure why so many people are talking about things like this, I ask you to please ask a family member or friend from an Aboriginal family or from a culturally and linguistically diverse background how they feel about this. Have that conversation. If you do not know someone, you can call me and I will connect you with someone. My family is deeply affected by what is happening overseas and in Australia. My family, like all Australian families, is a multicultural family with a variety of skin colours and languages. I reach out to everyone to move together on this journey and to think what we can all do differently so that black deaths in custody will be as foreign a concept to the next generation as the concept of the illegality of interracial marriage is to the current generation, which was Australian law until only a few decades ago, for example. Again, if you live in Canning Vale, Gosnells, Huntingdale or Southern River and surrounds or WA or around the world, I look forward to working with you to move forward.

I will now move to some of the exciting things that are happening in Southern River. Members will know that we delivered on our promise to start building the Canning Vale train line in my community, something that was promised multiple times by the previous government and never delivered on, which I guess is the earmark of a number of train projects. Members would know that in September 2019, geotechnical works began on the Thornlie–Cockburn Link—the two Canning Vale train stations at Nicholson Road and Ranford Road, extending from the Thornlie line all the way through to Cockburn. A contract was signed in December 2019. NEWest Alliance, a great local company, along with the Downer Group and CPB Contractors, was awarded that contract and has been doing some great works preparing the shifting of the sand and trees to make sure that when the pipeline needs to be shifted, it is ready and there are no earthworks. It is absolutely fantastic. It is great to see the preparations for the widening of the Karel Avenue bridge. It is also great to see the Denny Avenue contracts awarded.

Works commenced in September 2019. We invited a couple of hundred people to the Nicholson Road site. We invited people from all the local schools in the area—student councillors, P&C presidents, board chairs, community leaders and student councillors. I baked a cake in the shape of the three new train stations. We gave everyone a piece of cake, a commemorative piece of the track and a shovel, and a couple of hundred of us all dug the train line together. It was a wonderful event.

It is fantastic that we are dedicating the building of this train line, especially during this period of COVID, to ensuring that local people and local trades get local jobs, as promised. We are building railcars here in WA for the first time in a generation, which should have been done in the first place, so that your family and my family get the work out of these projects. It has been absolutely brilliant.

In February 2020, the Premier, Hon Sue Ellery and I opened one of those biggest promises in my electorate—the \$8.4 million sports hall at Southern River College, the school at which I used to teach. We named it the Pat Morris Pavilion on my recommendation, which was very much agreed upon by everyone in the community. For those who do not know, Pat Morris is an exceptional role model for the young people of Gosnells. She mentored me. It was her idea that I run for council in the first place. She often came to my class. She was also a chair of the school board at Southern River College. I often invited her to my class. She spoke and guided my students in career classes and other classes. Pat Morris spent many decades as an elected member. She was Gosnells' first female mayor, and was re-elected for multiple terms. She was the first woman awarded the WA local government medal—a true titan, and a true champion of Gosnells. She is involved in almost every school and community group, including girl guides, cricket, football, schools, our board, other boards, and history and heritage committees. The new sports hall that was built, promised and delivered at Southern River College is amazing. If you drive past it at night, it is literally a beacon of light. The lights around it light up Gosnells. That is one thing that I certainly reflect upon with this brand-new fantastic facility—it is a beacon of light. When Gotham City needs help, it lights the bat signal. By naming this after Pat Morris, in Gosnells they will light the Pat signal to guide their future.

Funding of \$150 000 went to the Gosnells District Cricket Club. We opened the indoor facility earlier this year, in February or March. The Gosnells District Cricket Club built new indoor cricket nets for young cricketers. Now, more young people can play cricket and sport at Sutherlands Park. They can play day or night, rain or shine, throughout the year. There are more playing grounds. I congratulate Ross Leipold, Bruce Bussanich, Di Meakins, the Gosnells council and all those members of the club who contributed—the membership, the players and the families. Members will probably be aware that we had a community opening of this facility. We had a great evening, where all the members came and had a barbecue meal. I thank my office again for this: we actually created

the biggest ribbon that I have ever seen. It was 100 metres of blue and yellow ribbon. It went round the entire length of the indoor cricket club. We collected a hundred-odd pairs of scissors and every member of the club who was there that night cut the ribbon. We all did that together, taking ownership of that club. I congratulate every member.

It is great to see the Thornlie TAFE jobs and skills centre running well. I again commend the government for its discounted TAFE fees. One reason I ran for office was the over 500 per cent increase in TAFE fees. It was brilliant to see that discount.

We broke ground on the second primary school in my electorate, as promised, earlier this year. The Premier came with Hon Sue Ellery. That was the second of the two primary schools. We built Southern Grove Primary School, which opened in 2019. The planning name for this school is Southern River Primary School, and it is in the Riverbank estate. I again baked a cake, which people told me was lovely—or so-so. The Premier came. We invited the community of Southern River. Dozens of people came. There was a little baby there, who is looking to enrol when the kindy opens. There was also a toddler, who will be one of the foundation students next year. I want to say congratulations to our new principal, Chris Burgess, who has been appointed at this school.

The Huntingdale Primary School nature playground is still popular. This week, \$200 000 of additional air conditioning has been placed in this school. We now, of course, need to build block B. I say congratulations to Scott Olney and the hardworking Huntingdale Primary School Parents and Citizens Association.

The Ashburton Drive Primary School science lab is going well. The maintenance blitz at our schools is providing millions of dollars across my community.

Our bus stop campaigns are having some wins, such as in Harry Street in Gosnells and Southern River Road in Riverbank. These things are doing fantastically.

We have had extended hours at the Canning Vale Police Station. I thank all the police officers in my community.

We have had a number of wins in my community. We have had footpath upgrades and all sorts of local wins. I want to talk about a number of things that we have been able to do as a community to achieve things with local, federal and state departments. I say to my community that if they need help, they should never hesitate to call. If they need help with any government agency—local, state or federal—on any local issue, just give us a call. Just in the last 12 months, we have had wins in getting the kitchen works commissioner to get builders to do the right thing. We have had shade sail repairs at local parks. We have helped build pathways. Laneway barriers have been installed. Security cameras have been placed and street lights fixed at local parks. We have helped sort out ambulance bills. We have helped have kiss ‘n’ drive areas painted and constructed. We have helped to stop trucks from going down some of our minor routes and discussed with the owners of the companies how we can best find that balance. We have helped people with Homeswest. We have helped get the traffic lights working better for pedestrians at the corner of Ranford Road and Wright Road in Southern River. There is the brand-new post office at the Vale. We have helped get the pharmacy a lotto agency in Huntingdale. I again thank the council and our federal members for all their work every day. To my community I say: call me, email me, pop in for a chat. If you think that we can help, my office and I will always do the best that we can to help.

I doorknock every week, and I am very proud to do that. Last year, I doorknocked well over 4 000 homes. There has been a bit of a break during the COVID-19 period, when no-one was able to doorknock for a couple of months, but I am now out every weekend to talk to my constituents and my community and to hear what they have to say. To make sure that my electors get a chance to tell me about the issues that are important to them, it is important that I doorknock. I also convey to them what I do.

I congratulate the Huntingdale Facebook group, Huntingdale Community Chat, which is celebrating five years this year. It was set up in January 2015. I congratulate the administrators of that site, Jenn Clune, Natasha Bakranich, Adrian Lord, Jasmine Webber and David Nye. It is a community page where people can ask questions, share local information and keep in touch with locals. The page brings together our community, and it certainly does that in Huntingdale. It builds a strong and supportive community. It is about when neighbours’ fences blow down, when the community bands together to help others. It informs others about local small businesses and missing dogs and cats. It is a place to share the history of our suburb, community forums, local government and state government information, and employment and crime information. I again say thank you to those who run our local Facebook chat page—congratulations to all those people.

I would also like to say congratulations to Monkey Bars Play and Learn Centre in Canning Vale, which is a fantastic facility that has been there for 10 years and has looked after many, many children.

[Member’s time extended.]

**Mr T.J. HEALY:** I would now like to congratulate a number of the elected student councillors from my community and thank them for their work. This has been a year like no other. For those student councillors who have had to operate from home amid the changing circumstances in primary and high schools, I say congratulations and thank you. It has been great to be able to meet with quite a few of them. We had a wonderful Zoom forum with Hon Sue Ellery

recently. It was a chance for student leaders to talk with us via Zoom. About 50 people and their families logged on. I will keep meeting with them. We will invite them in for lunch. We will try to get out to their schools. I am looking forward to graduation ceremonies, if we can do them this year. I again say thank you to those student councillors who have put themselves forward. It is, of course, an honour to represent your community, be it as either a state member or a local student member. I cannot do my job well unless I hear from my youth elected members.

At Ashburton Drive Primary School, I would like to say congratulations for your election and thank you for your service to EJ Bongtiwon, Summer Brinkworth, Alyssa Knott, Western Russell, Tia Papas, Arie Pearson, Juliet Viramai and Alexis Tadeo. Congratulations to our Ashburton Drive student councillors for all the work that you have done and will continue to do this year.

At Bletchley Park Primary School, I would like to say congratulations and thank you to Jeeva Liju, our head boy; Priyanshi Trivedi, our head girl; and our councillors Aleeza Bajwa, Sean Kennedy, Beatrix Keith-Magee, Shriya Bhat, Rishi Das and Sanjay Jojo. I also thank our faction captains at Bletchley Park: for Bradman, Oliver Mortensen and Taliah Quinn; for Farmer, Tai Wilson and Angelina Gregoire; for Fraser, Alex Gillet and Rylee North; and for Strickland, Adiel Chidukwani and Ashlee Barry.

At Caladenia Primary School, I would like to say congratulations to our student leadership. Of course, this school carries the mantle and responsibility of being WA Primary School of the Year. I believe that because there will be no education awards this year, Caladenia will hopefully continue its reign for two years. I want to say congratulations to the student councillors at Caladenia Primary School—Ella Broadley, our head girl, and Lewis Conick, our head boy; our student executive, Elysha Spencer, Jorja Sartori, Anuju Withanarachchi, Claudia Forrester, Siena Barr, Flynn Reid, Tyler Wilson, Luke Robinson, Kanye Cho, Dihein Samarasinghe; and our faction captains, Madison Phillips, Alex Crofts, Kushi Kattakola, Amber Wood, Isaia Philips, Luke Liu, Isabella Busuttill, Kade Carthew, Makayla Dunn, Raenah Jain, Lucas Werder, Albie Elson, Krina Vaidhya, Taj Needle, Kayla Troy, Ingrid Priscott, Stanley Rivers, Tharul Ranamuka, Jayda McNally, Abiyie Riakgol, Darlene Haniel, Vivian Nwokeiwu, Riley Walker and Zane Sutherland.

I would also like to congratulate Campbell Primary School student councillors for all the work they have done on our student leadership. I thank Hashini, Mya, Lakshmi, Keona, Roylisa, Ashlen, Janice, Hazelle, Eloise, Mia, Eunice, Stany, Rithvik, Ayush, Dexter, Caleb, Tejas, Oliver, Jayden and Justine.

At Canning Vale College I would like to congratulate our college captains and say thank you to Holly Peberdy and Caleb Burah, and our councillors Hallee Pileggi, Zoe Hart, Noor Radiy, Josh Carriera, Lauchlan Ross, Thomas Burns and Max Dickson.

At Excelsior Primary School I would like to say congratulations and thank you to the student councillors Baneen Al Absawi, Safwan Anwar, Angela Dong, Daniel Eisenmann, Grisha Jindal, Zali Luxa, Ahmad Qalandari and Maddison Watts. In Delphinus faction I thank faction captains, Phoebe Halton and Adam Marlow; and vice captains, Shakila Imtiaz and Damon Yorke. In Phoenix faction I thank faction captains, Emma Chambers and James Martin; and vice captains Krystal Creighton and Corbin Boylson. In Pegasus faction I thank faction captains, Kiara Liddelow and Joshua Stewart; and vice captains, LeeLee Cornwall and Levi Johnson. In Lacerta faction I thank faction captains, Emilie Fay and Mohammed Bazzi; and vice captains, Milena Dickinson and Ethan Walsh.

I turn to Harrisdale Senior High School. I acknowledge the fantastic leadership of our student leaders Rachel Watson, Misri Patel, Kalei Parianen, Yoshna Naidoo, Shubham Joshi, Byron Davies, Josh Sutherland, Bailey Hart, Rhea Monga, Elizabeth Cheav, Natalie Chelvan and Alex Coe.

At Huntingdale primary school I want to say congratulations and thank you to the incredible student leaders Harry Gilling, Taj Rowe, Cooper Robinson, Benjamin Ward, Caitlin Kelly, Rebecca Kremer, Imogen Hornblow and Koline Tang. I congratulate you for being part of the GRIP Leadership Conference in March. It was a wonderful opportunity for other leaders and other primary schools. Your camp in March was also very well worked hard for. At Southern River College, I would like to say congratulations to our head boy, Connor Nicol; head girl, Alexia Lozada; and deputies, Katarina French, Jenny Jackson and JJ Cordova.

At St Emilie's Catholic Primary School, I would like to say congratulations to all 63 year 6 students. At St Emilie's they are all considered student leaders. I say thank you to all of you for the work that you do in representing your community and doing the best that you can in year 6 through your school.

At St Munchin's Catholic Primary School, I would like to say congratulations to all year 6 students again, because all year 6 students at St Munchin's are considered leaders and councillors. There are teams of students who organise different aspects of school life and I thank you to the teams for school pride, pastoral care, environment, tech, the arts and all of our sports captains.

At Providence Christian College, I would like to say thank you for your service and congratulations to Ben Freeman, our head boy, and Amy Warren, our head girl. I say thank you to our prefects Jill Dutt, Avnish Mohabeer, Katie Mushaurwa, Jackson Halse, Sarah Pfitzner, Kalani Kandegama, Misty Ross, Caleb McDonald, Lynelle Taylor, Llain McNamara, Mataeo van Niekerk and Aleisha Meiselbach.

At Wirrabirra Primary School, I would like to say thank you to Dusty Kehoe, our head girl, and Haashir Ahmad, our head boy. I say thank you to our year 6 councillors, Charlie O'Farrell, Keira Milloy, Jac Rodgers and Sam Jones; our year 5 councillors, Tahnee Cadman, Dylan Jong, Sanday Kur and Junior Tomda; our year 4 councillors, Raven Javier, Ishaan Madampath; and year 3 councillors, Angad Singh and Amirtha Thiruppathi.

At Southern Grove Primary School, I would like to say congratulations to our student councillors and also our faction captions. I thank in Banksia faction, Ethan and Vibha; in Hovea–Blue faction, Therese and Yusuf; in Acacia faction, Maikayla and Gokul; and in Waratah faction, Asa and Vibhor. Your responsibilities in which you have all done so well are encouraging and supporting your team, modelling good sportsmanship, maintaining the sports shed and making sure that everyone is well looked after.

I would also like to make a quick mention of three of the canteen ladies at Southern River College who stepped down recently after decades of service. Not only did they look after me when I was a teacher at Southern River College, but they also received special awards of excellence recently. They are constituents of mine and also very, very appreciated workers of the P&C at Southern River College. First of all, to Terry O'Connell, we say thank you. She dedicated herself to the Southern River College canteen for 25 years. Commencing as a canteen helper and then going on to be canteen manager, Terry was welcoming to staff and students and was always a friendly face behind the counter. Terry has lent a helping hand with various school events, end-of-year fairs and various fundraising events. She has also happily assisted with catering for special events such as Beacon and parents' nights. Thank you, Terry, for your dedication, talent and determination in running our school canteen. We could not have done it without you. I thank Terrie Walshe, who has been at Southern River College for over 10 years. In this time, Terrie has been an integral part of the canteen and a member of Southern River College. We sincerely thank you for the years of reliable service you have given us in our canteen. I also thank Faye Munday in our school canteen. Faye has given her time and assistance to the Southern River College canteen for a number of years. She was always willing to lend a hand and assist students and staff where she could. Faye rose to the challenge and took on extra responsibilities when others were unable to do so. Thank you for your time and effort; it is truly appreciated. These people were awarded excellence awards at Southern River College, and we say thank you to you all for your service. We really appreciate all the things you do. I know that in the Gosnells and Southern River communities there are hundreds of students you have fed and looked after. Thank you so much.

I would also like to acknowledge some other people. I am told that there are some algorithms by which I can identify and say thank you to my top 20 Facebook followers. I have just over 2 500 Facebook followers and these are my top-20 fans. I want to say thank you through you, Acting Speaker, of course. These are the people who have shared and liked my posts. I hope I am not harassing them. I hope we are not making things too boring. We will always try to make it exciting. I would like to say thank you to these 20 people. I am not saying that everyone else is not appreciated, but I look forward to having an opportunity to be elected next year when I can work out and announce the next top 20. I would like to say thank you to these top 20 fans of my Facebook page: Boki Chakulunta, Charmaine Patcher, Liz Oudin, Caris Morris, Pharaoh Murale, Marilyn Husk, Tristelle Thompson, Judith Nunn, Sue Dimitrijevic, Amanda Daintith, Kim Prescott Brown, Marithe Scholtz, Paula Ward, Neil Menezes and Dara Thakkar. Thank you for your support, and, again, I will try to make things as interesting as I can.

As I start drawing to the end of my speech, I say that I have always got on very well with members from the Liberal Party and the Nationals WA. I am not a very political person. I am a Labor person of course, but I think we can all find good ways to make the community better. There are different political philosophies, but they are usually about trying to make the world better on a different path. However, I know that people face a choice. The election next year is still a while off. My community has expressed this. They are concerned about where the Liberal Party is going. This group of Liberal Party members is not a normal group—not true Liberals, I suppose. Before the change in policy, which I appreciate, the Liberal Party worked with Clive Palmer to try to open our hard border. It still wants to make Roe Highway a tollway. It still wants to reduce the hours of our Canning Vale Police Station. It still wants to stop our train line from being built. Members of my community have a chance in March next year to say where they feel the community should go in those matters, and I am always happy to have that conversation.

Again, I thank my electorate for the honour of representing it. Mark McGowan and I will work hard for it every day. We are not perfect, but of course we will work hard and keep our promises. We always have and we always will. We promise to build opportunities for young people, be that through primary schools, high schools, universities, TAFE or trades. We will always work hard to ensure that people keep their jobs. If people have lost their jobs, we will work hard to support this economy and local jobs to get them the best chance of getting that job back or the skills they need for the next one. That is what Labor governments do and that is what we will do. We will always stand up and look after Western Australians first. That is why I stand with Mark McGowan. My neighbours in Canning Vale, Gosnells, Huntingdale and Southern River support what we are doing. As I said, Mark McGowan will always stand with us.

**MR S.A. MILLMAN (Mount Lawley)** [3.20 pm]: Although it gives me great pleasure to speak today in response to the Premier's Statement, I cannot do so without thinking about the anxiety so many people in our community feel about the future. The world is transformed by pandemic and economic contagion. We here in Western Australia are safer than most, but we are not immune to the effects of a second wave. We are fortunate indeed to have Premier Mark McGowan's WA recovery plan being rolled out by arguably the most capable and experienced cabinet in modern Western Australian history.

Walking or riding with my boys to school in the morning, I am reminded daily of the importance of getting more cars off our roads. It seems that every day congestion on our neighbourhood roads causes problems for our community. People from Ellenbrook across to Yanchep make hundreds of thousands of journeys every week to, from or through the CBD travelling through our neighbourhoods in Yokine, Dianella and Mt Lawley. Maybe that is why my community places such a high value on public transport.

Community engagement surveys and forums I held in Yokine and Dianella saw members across the electorate of Mt Lawley nominate public transport as one of the top five reasons they love living in our community. That is why I am glad to be a member of a government that takes public transport seriously: our community simply cannot afford a government that is not committed to public transport. Whether it is investment in new buses, planning for the introduction of light rail, or our investment in Metronet, Western Australians know Labor can be trusted to invest in public transport. By building Metronet and reducing car use in the northern and eastern suburbs, we will reduce pressure on our local streets. Congestion-busting road investment, improving traffic flow at intersections such as Wanneroo Road, Green Street and Walcott Street will lower the attractiveness of rat-running and make our local streets safer.

Metronet is a massive project, and we have only just begun. It is a major project that is about generating local jobs and manufacturing, as much as it is about reducing congestion and pollution. We are seeing more transport jobs, more manufacturing jobs, and as many WA jobs in infrastructure construction as possible. Meanwhile, just to the north of the electorate of Mt Lawley in Malaga, a partnership between Volvo Australia and WA company Volgren will see Volgren fit-out the next generation of 900 new Transperth buses. These will be the buses that work the immensely popular 950 route along Beaufort Street through Mt Lawley, the 960 route through Dianella, the 970 route along Wanneroo Road in Yokine and the plethora of other routes that serve our community. Public transport is about more than just reducing congestion. It is about more than reducing our impact on our unique environment. A well-funded, interconnected public transport network helps deliver a fairer society because participation in communities spread across such a wide metropolitan area depends on accessible transportation. It is in all of our interests to encourage Western Australians to participate in and engage with the wonderful community organisations, services and events that we have on offer across Perth. People in the electorate of Mt Lawley know—indeed, all Western Australians know—that when it comes to fairness, when it comes to accessibility and the importance of public transport, they can depend on the McGowan Labor government.

As a kid, my dad used to take my brother and me surfing. We would drive down dirt tracks, windows up to avoid getting whacked by the scrub, over the dunes and into the ocean air. Those trips were more than just dad time. Like the bush camps I was lucky to enjoy through school, or the drives through the forest to the coast for our summer holidays, these were the experiences that sparked my love for the environment. I remember thinking when Geoff Gallop announced the end of logging in old-growth forests 20 years ago, that was one of the reasons we need Labor governments. And here we are again, with a Labor government making vital decisions protecting Western Australia's environment—increasing the size of the conservation estate by 20 per cent; investing in Aboriginal ranger programs to create green jobs and empower those Western Australians who best know how to manage our national parks and nature reserves; banning single-use plastic bags and bringing recycling jobs to WA through the Containers for Change container deposit scheme.

I know that people in the electorate of Mt Lawley are vitally interested in both the Western Australian environment generally and our local environment in particular. Fifty-eight per cent of respondents to a survey I conducted in late 2019 and early 2020 identified our open green spaces as a reason they love living in our community. One-third of respondents identified tree and vegetation management as an issue of concern. Those responses put these issues in the top five of their respective categories. When we add to this that 21 per cent identified pollution and waste management as an issue of concern, we can see that the people of the electorate of Mt Lawley are both environmentally conscious and environmentally active.

The McGowan government is driving a WA recovery plan and creating green jobs through a huge investment in renewable power generation. Labor's green jobs plan includes a significant native vegetation rehabilitation scheme. The McGowan government is, for the first time for any WA government, launching a feasibility study into producing wind turbine components locally. The Premier, together with the Minister for Regional Development, has just announced that the McGowan government will bring forward the Western Australian renewable hydrogen strategy targets by a decade, investing in projects and studies to develop hydrogen supply, meeting growing demand for this clean fuel, and creating jobs. New infrastructure, investment in supporting Western Australian innovators developing new technologies, and solar panels across state government assets will continue our journey towards carbon neutrality. I am particularly excited by the prospect of transforming schools into virtual power

plants with solar panels and commercial batteries. In the electorate of Mt Lawley, a community battery has already been installed in Knight Avenue in Yokine. The City of Stirling is the fifth largest solar energy-producing local government in WA with solar panels fitted to the rooftops of over 18 000 homes. Across WA, around one in three rooftops has solar panels. By securing the Western Power community battery, the door is opened for residents to trial battery storage technology as part of Synergy and Western Power's Australian-first PowerBank trial. Keeping utilities like Western Power in state hands means that the changes made by the McGowan government can be activated quickly at a local level to deliver real benefits and opportunities for Western Australians. This is a government that knows that it is both economically responsible and inherently valuable to protect our unique environment, to reduce our footprint in our local communities, and to tread as lightly as possible as we strive to ensure a healthy and meaningful life for every Western Australian.

Like so many of my neighbours, my family has been affected by the pandemic. We are, thank God, all still here. My heart goes out to everyone who has lost a loved one to COVID-19, particularly those who were unable to share time with a loved one before they passed away due to the restrictions we have all lived with over the past months. Family and friends live in Victoria. Not a day goes by that I am not anxious for their wellbeing, that I do not fret that we have not been able to visit them, or wonder when we may see them again. Even here, like so many Western Australians, we have had to limit our contact with my wife's parents. Our boys struggle to understand why. It is a deeply troubling time. We are fortunate to have Premier Mark McGowan and his deputy and health minister Roger Cook—indeed, the entire cabinet—to lead us through this period. I am honoured to be part of Mark McGowan's team and humbled by the support of the community that elected me to this place.

The cabinet has brought to this crisis the same considered and compassionate approach that has defined this government's management of our health system. I saw firsthand, as part of the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into the Perth Children's Hospital, just how important it is that we have a government, like this one, that values public health. We can all be confident that whether it is the refurbishment and expansion of Osborne Park Hospital or the significant investment the McGowan government has made into Royal Perth Hospital, this is a government that is ensuring our health system puts patients first. Our community has benefited from the urgent care clinics established at GP on Beaufort and Third Avenue Surgery, reducing pressure on our emergency departments.

The Minister for Health recently announced that planning will commence on developing a WA electronic medical record system to improve safety, efficiency and patient experience. I chaired the Expert Panel on Advance Health Directives in 2019 at the request of the Attorney General. We found that clinicians were sometimes unable to locate an advance health directive at critical times because they were held in another hospital, or with the patient's GP. A secure, safe and efficient electronic medical record system will help change the way clinical care is provided in WA. Beyond the nuts and bolts of making sure our health system is working for patients even before the pandemic hit, this government demonstrated that it could be trusted on the big issues. I was honoured to serve on the committee that recommended the introduction of voluntary assisted dying for Western Australians. I know the laws we made for voluntary assisted dying are overwhelmingly supported by our community.

The minister recently announced additional funding for projects that will strengthen end-of-life care and implement the recommendations of both the committee that recommended the introduction of the legislation and the Expert Panel on Advance Health Directives. This government leads when it comes to the most sensitive of issues and it delivers the resources that are needed to appropriately respond to the needs of Western Australians. It is hard to believe that we had that debate and passed those laws just a year ago. What we have seen from the Premier, the Minister for Health and the cabinet in 2020 reinforces what the previous three years of that debate have shown; that is, that the McGowan Labor government has fostered a strong, resilient and well-funded public health system that puts patients first.

With two boys at the local school, I know that we must build a future that our children can look to with hope. Neither of my parents finished year 12 and I was the first in my family to graduate from university. My family's experience demonstrates the transformative benefit of our education system. It is the bedrock for building a hopeful future for today's children. Our community has been fortunate to have a Premier and, in Hon Sue Ellery, a Minister for Education and Training who so comprehensively understand the value and potential of our public education system. We have seen investment in early education across the electorate of Mount Lawley since the last election. Schools across our community shared in the maintenance, upgrades and improvements as part of the McGowan government's major maintenance blitz last summer. Yokine Primary School has a refurbished administration building. Sutherland Dianella Primary School has a science lab and Yokine Primary School will get one, too. Our teachers have more time for mentoring and coordination to improve the experience our children enjoy at school.

It was a fantastic feeling to join the Premier and education minister to turn the first sod for the new science labs, classrooms, mechatronic studio and engineering workshop at Mount Lawley Senior High School, knowing as I did that I have kept every single promise that I have made to my community when they chose to send me here in 2017. The designs for the redevelopment of John Forrest Secondary College were released in June and I cannot wait to join my good friends the members for Morley and Maylands in welcoming the first students to enjoy the new facilities in the months to come.

The WA recovery plan is building our schools. Current and future students in the electorate of Mount Lawley who attend Dianella Secondary College will be delighted with the announcement of a new performing arts centre. A large theatre space, stage, green room, foyer and additional storage space will provide a first-class training ground for budding performers. Meanwhile, students who cross Walcott Street to head to Kyilla Primary School will soon see construction start on a new classroom block, providing for growth in student numbers and replacing existing transportable classrooms. These important projects are the local expression of the McGowan Labor government's dedication to ensuring the strongest possible economic recovery from the pandemic across all WA schools. Public education always has been, and will always be, fundamentally about ensuring that every child has the opportunity to learn about the world and their place in it. It is about sharing our resources to obtain a fairer and more just and equitable society. The McGowan Labor government's investment in our schools is about so much more than bricks and mortar; it is about fairness, and that is why I am grateful for the chance I have to support a government that is dedicated to public education in a way that Western Australians know is the hallmark of Labor governments throughout history.

I know firsthand the anxiety that families feel when their breadwinners are out of work; when I was young, that was my dad. My dad was a plasterer. My brother is a plasterer. It is a trade that has served our family well since my grandfather's days. But when dad lost his job in the 1990s, we lost our house. He had built us a home and it was gone. That is why I know how important it is that we implement Mark McGowan's WA recovery plan. We have made a good start, but it takes time for plans to take effect. I know the Premier's plan will not take too long to hit its straps. Even before the announcement of the WA recovery plan, the McGowan government demonstrated its commitment to job creation. I was delighted to join the Premier, the Treasurer, Ben Wyatt and the Minister for Small Business, Paul Papalia, at Lot Six Zero in Yokine to announce increasing the payroll tax exemption. Once fully implemented, 1 000 WA businesses will no longer pay this tax, freeing up money they can use to employ more Western Australians. Our local community has seen the successful trial of the Small Business Friendly Approvals Project in 2019, which is now being rolled out to another 20 local government areas.

[Member's time extended.]

**Mr S.A. MILLMAN:** By rebuilding our TAFEs with \$167.3 million worth of capital works, Labor is delivering the largest investment in TAFE infrastructure in Western Australian history. Meanwhile, Labor is spending \$21 million to provide free TAFE short courses to upskill thousands of Western Australians. The government is advancing every single recommendation of the review of skills, training and workforce development. This is critical to ensuring our vocational training sector prepares Western Australians for the jobs of the future. More than 115 displaced apprentices and trainees have already returned to work through the apprenticeship and traineeship reengagement incentive, which commenced just a month and a half ago. The incentive is available until 30 June 2021 and helps apprentices and trainees who have been stood down to find a new employer using the out-of-contract register. The Minister for Education and Training has just launched a new work placement register that gives high school students the chance to get a placement in a government agency and gain real world experience in jobs relevant to their vocational training.

Under the WA recovery plan, we will see upgrades to state government assets such as train stations, police stations and fire stations, which is already boosting work for electricians, painters, plumbers, builders and carpenters across the state. This is in addition to the investment in jobs associated with the residential construction industry and support for homebuyers building new houses. It complements the social housing package and maintenance program supporting social housing, including those in remote Aboriginal communities.

Labor is also providing direct support and relief to small businesses and non-government organisations. This includes the COVID-19 grant from Lotterywest to local community radio station RTRFM in the electorate of Mount Lawley, which gave that invaluable organisation certainty in troubled times. The WA recovery plan has seen the McGowan Labor government commit to the construction of a Holocaust museum in Yokine.

The McGowan Labor government wants everyone to have the best possible education and training to gain employment. Labor wants all those who wish to work to be in work, but it also wants to ensure that all those who go to work come home safely at the end of every working day. I know from my days as a lawyer fighting for workers just how important it is to keep workers safe and look after them when they get injured on the job. That is why Labor introduced laws to improve Western Australia's health and safety regime and it is why it improved the state's workers' compensation scheme to better reflect the value we place on the pain and suffering that results from workplace injuries. It is also why Labor has criminalised industrial manslaughter to ensure that no-one is in any doubt about how serious workplace safety is to all Western Australians.

The Minister for Health and the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Health, Hon Alanna Clohesy, have just announced grant funding for Mates in Construction to help support mental health and suicide prevention for construction workers and their families. Mates operates a 24-hour support line for construction workers and their families in the building and construction industry, including at fly in, fly out sites across Western Australia.

Participation in our society requires each of us to enjoy a basic level of economic security and because participation by all Western Australians is good for all of us, it is incumbent on governments to help provide the fairest opportunity possible for each Western Australian to chart a course to that economic security. The McGowan Labor

government has always had job creation at its core. People in my community know that when the going gets tough, Mark McGowan and his team get going. I am grateful to be part of that team, and I thank my community for their support, which gives me my get-up-and-go each day.

When I studied law at the University of Western Australia, I already knew that I wanted to fight for workers. I had seen the battles won by Slater and Gordon on the nightly news and as soon as I got an opportunity I went to work for that company. My first cases were in workers' compensation, whether it was the plant operator who broke his wrist moving grid mesh and who fought for recognition of the mental health consequences of his injury or the truck driver who was unfairly sacked for having an accident that was not his fault, I took on multinational companies for my clients and won. Being a good local member of Parliament requires a different kind of tenacity. As a new member of Parliament, I knew I had to actively seek out my community's stories if I wanted to be an effective representative. Even though I had lived in the community for so long, I knew that I had barely scratched the surface of understanding my neighbours' hopes and interests. That is why I spent so much time meeting them and listening to what is important to them. We have a dynamic community, and understanding its needs requires continuous engagement. I have spent the past few years getting more familiar with how to influence the machinery of government on the community's behalf. If there is one thing that I have learnt about the motivations and values of my community, it is our abiding interest in fairness and justice.

Our community has an intimate relationship with the local and global history of Judaism. We know that religious and racial tolerance is central to a fair and just society. We know where bigotry leads. I am grateful to be part of a McGowan Labor government that has invested in the redevelopment of the Maccabi centre in Yokine. The redevelopment will include the construction of a brand-new, world-class Holocaust museum and education centre. The Holocaust has become a byword for the horrendous inhumanity that can result from racial hatred and religious bigotry. We remember the Shoah as a specific, but by no means the only, example of anti-Semitism that too often characterised the Jewish experience in Europe. Learning about the Shoah reminds us all of the threat of authoritarianism, the risk of dehumanisation and the terrible consequences that can flow when we give bigotry a free pass.

Australia has its own record of inhumanity, bigotry and dispossession. That is why the McGowan Labor government has made such important strides in recognising that history and in steering our state towards a shared future in which Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Western Australians can walk together with confidence. The government has established Aboriginal ranger programs in national parks from the Kimberley to the great southern, because the First Peoples' land management techniques have been honed over millennia. The McGowan government has renamed landmarks, such as the Wunaamin Miliwundi Ranges, recognising that Aboriginal heritage is as unique as our landscape. This is a government that believes that nothing can be done for Aboriginal Western Australians without Aboriginal Western Australians leading solutions, and applies this principle to the development of regional suicide prevention programs and child protection. Fairness and justice are intertwined.

I have, at every turn, stepped up to support Mark McGowan's justice agenda, implemented by Labor's Attorney General, John Quigley. Labor has ensured that victims of family and domestic violence are protected under the Residential Tenancies Act and provided that victims have better choices about their housing options. We have made it law that convicted serial killers and mass murderers cannot get parole. New family violence laws include the introduction of new criminal offences for suffocation and strangulation, as well as for persistent family violence, and we have empowered courts to issue serial family violence offender declarations, making it easier for courts to identify them and mitigate against the risk of reoffending. Labor has abolished laws imprisoning Western Australians for unpaid fines, which will lead to fewer Aboriginal Western Australians being imprisoned in our state. We expunged the criminal records of men convicted under archaic laws that criminalised homosexuality, and we have criminalised industrial manslaughter.

Governing fairly in the best interests of Western Australia requires making tough decisions about how to distribute limited resources. Delivering just outcomes demands a fine touch, whether it be literal justice in criminal proceedings, or more figuratively through utilising the levers that steer our economy. People in my community tell me at every opportunity that they want a government that makes these judgements fairly. The McGowan Labor government has demonstrated its commitment to fairness, and I know that I am not alone in my admiration for the Premier and the team that supports him. I also know that I am not the only one who has learnt a great deal about leadership since 2017. I am grateful that my community has invested its trust, time and patience in me. With my community's support, I look forward to returning on that investment in the years to come.

Debate adjourned, on motion by **Mrs M.H. Roberts (Minister for Police)**.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

*Special*

On motion without notice by **Mrs M.H. Roberts (Minister for Police)**, resolved —

That the house at its rising adjourn until Tuesday, 8 September, at 2.00 pm.

*House adjourned at 3.44 pm*

