



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
1997

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 26 June 1997

Legislative Assembly

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THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland) took the Chair at 10.00 am, and read prayers.

BILLS (3) - RETURNED

1. Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill.
2. Revenue Laws Amendment (Taxation) Bill.
3. Revenue Laws Amendment (Assessment) Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

PETITION - TRANSPORT

Concessional Fares

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [10.05 am]: I present the following petition -

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

We, the undersigned petitioners, call upon the State Government to reverse their increases in public transport fares, in particular the changes to concession fares and time constraints on transfers in that they will impact most severely on pensioners, the unemployed and other low income earners.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 87 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 63.]

Similar petitions were presented by Ms McHale (106 signatures) and Mr Marlborough (135 signatures).

[See petitions Nos 66 and 69.]

PETITION - MUIR HIGHWAY

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [10.06 am]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned request that funds allocated in previous budgets for ongoing improvement to the Muir Highway, 20-40 kilometre section between Nyamup and Strachan be re-instated for the coming financial year 1997-98.

Due to the mosaic pattern of good and bad, wide and narrow sections of highway, it engenders a false sense of security and safety and drivers are often caught unawares in the narrow sections.

This road is of major economic importance between Manjimup, Mt Barker, other centres and the Eastern seaboard. This leads to a lot of conflict between heavy haulage vehicles, (which have increased in size and number over the last 12 months), school buses and private motorists.

The funding previously allocated to this project identified and recognised the urgency of the situation.

At the moment Muir Highway is a disaster waiting to happen.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 335 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 64.]

PETITION - PORT KENNEDY DEVELOPMENT

MR MARLBOROUGH (Peel) [10.07 am]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned call on the State Government of Western Australia to amend the Port Kennedy Development Agreement Act of 1992 so that four wheel drives can continue to use the beach for recreational purposes as they have done for over 40 years.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 94 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 65.]

PETITION - GUILDERTON REGIONAL PARK

MR McNEE (Moore - Parliamentary Secretary) [10.09 am]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned respectfully request that the Government establish a Regional Park immediately to the south of Guilderton in order to protect the mouth and lower reaches of the Moore River and the significant dunes and coastal heathland south of the mouth of the Moore River.

We request that the Government take urgent action to acquire this land before it is further rezoned or developed,

and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 190 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 67.]

PETITION - TRANSPORT

Concessional Fares

MR McGOWAN (Rockingham) [10.10 am]: I present the following petition -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned, wish to register a complaint that the all day tickets can not be purchased prior to 9.00 for travel on the buses. This will mean that people who have appointments in Perth, whether they be medical appointments or otherwise will have to pay a lot more money than they would have to pay by using the all day fare. The same will apply for any commuters, including school children.

Public Transport should be there to assist people not as a revenue raising exercise.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

The petition bears 29 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 68.]

PETITION - FORESTS

Government Policy

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [10.12 am]: I present the following petition, which I will paraphrase because it runs over two full pages -

To the Honourable the Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned having evidence that existing WA Government forest policy is seriously diminishing our native forests and inhibits the development of a much larger timber industry, urge the Government to adopt two basic forest policy objectives, namely -

- (a) The development of a large and efficient timber industry sustained almost entirely by plantations and farm forestry on already cleared farmland; and
- (b) The use and maintenance of publicly-owned native forests as natural forests primarily for the enhancement of biodiversity and the conservation and enjoyment of nature and wilderness.

Your petitioners therefore humbly pray that you will give this matter earnest consideration and your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray.

The petition bears 7 signatures and I certify that it conforms to the standing orders of the Legislative Assembly.

The SPEAKER: I direct that the petition be brought to the Table of the House.

[See petition No 70.]

BILLS (2) - ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Bank Mergers Bill.
2. Bank Mergers (Taxing) Bill.

STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR COMMERCE AND TRADE

Incentives Assistance - Oceanfast Ltd

MR COWAN (Merredin - Minister for Commerce and Trade) [10.14 am]: I advise Parliament of a financial assistance package offered to Oceanfast Ltd, a Western Australian shipbuilder, by way of a \$1.25m interest free loan towards the purchase from LandCorp of the freehold of lots 18 and 30 on the Jervoise Bay waterfront. Oceanfast Ltd is a new company formed following the management buyout of the shipbuilding assets of Oceanfast Marine Group Pty Ltd.

The company proposes to develop the sites by constructing shipbuilding facilities which will enable it to expand its capability to include the production of high speed, lightweight car passenger ferries of up to 100 metres in length. The company intends to invest around \$12.52m in that development over the next four years.

When in full production, the new facility will create an additional 133 full time positions, mostly trade skilled. Additional export income is projected to be approximately \$50m a year in 1997-98, increasing to \$100m a year by 2000. The interest free loan to be provided to Oceanfast Ltd will progressively convert to a grant, subject to the company satisfying specific performance milestones. These are set out in the detailed terms and conditions which I will table today.

This is not the first incentive provided to the State's shipbuilding industry. In 1994, a convertible loan of \$1.21m was given to Austal Ships Pty Ltd for it to undertake a similar expansion. The company met its investment commitment and, when the new facility opened, it was made clear that similar incentives may be given to other existing companies which propose to undertake similar levels of expansion. This incentive is in accordance with that principle.

This undertaking could not be continued indefinitely, and on 17 March 1997 I sought and obtained Cabinet approval to advise the Western Australian shipbuilding industry of a 30 September 1997 closing date for consideration of applications for assistance from other shipbuilders which propose to develop facilities for the production of large lightweight ferries at Jervoise Bay. The industry has since been advised of Cabinet's decision.

In 1995-96, six Western Australian shipbuilders exported vessels worth approximately \$180m, which represents about 18 per cent of the world's high speed lightweight ferry production. The value of production of Western Australian shipbuilders for 1996-97 is expected to be \$390m, of which 85 per cent will be exported lightweight

ferries. The investment proposed by Oceanfast Ltd will strengthen the industry's ability to increase its share of the growing international market for vessels of this type.

I table the details of the incentive provided by the Government to Oceanfast Ltd.

[See paper No 488.]

STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR EDUCATION

Paedophilia and Other Forms of Child Abuse

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Minister for Education) [10.18 am]: On March 25 this year in this House, I made a brief ministerial statement on the development of policies and procedures by the State Government against paedophilia in our schools. I wish to provide a report on progress made in this important area.

Since the July 1996 meeting of the Ministerial Council on Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs where all state and territory Ministers agreed to develop a coordinated national approach to this issue, the Government has begun the tasks of -

reviewing the Education Department's personnel files where there have been allegations of unprofessional behaviour over the past 10 years to ensure investigations have reached a satisfactory conclusion; and

implementing measures to ensure that all potential teachers, teacher trainees and non-teaching staff are screened prior to employment.

As a first step in this review process, from a total of some 58 000 personnel files, 330 files were identified as a priority because they pertained to -

- (a) people who had applied for a position in the Education Department who had a criminal record of a sexual offence or an offence against a child;
- (b) people who have been investigated for unprofessional behaviour of any nature, for example, inappropriate language, assault or sexual impropriety; and
- (c) people who are being investigated for unprofessional behaviour where the outcome is still pending.

As at the beginning of this week, 240 of these files had been examined. Forty-five related to sexual impropriety, and in each case investigations were carried out according to due process and natural justice. To date the review has identified that -

Three people were never employed due to a previous criminal record of a sexual or other offence against a student or child;

19 employees have been the subject of a departmental investigation following allegations of improper conduct of a sexual nature but the allegations were not substantiated and no formal warning or penalty was applied by the department; of these, 13 are currently permanent teachers in schools, five are cleared to teach and one is a non-teacher not currently employed by the department;

22 employees have been the subject of a departmental investigation following allegations of child sexual assault or improper conduct of a sexual nature and as a result of these investigations are no longer employed by the department; and

one teacher remains employed, but has had a warning or penalty applied by the department following an investigation. This employee no longer works with students.

This review process will be ongoing and will extend to the examination of in excess of 58 000 Education Department employee files. This will be an exhaustive and long term task by a discrete unit within the department.

The second aspect of the Government's strategy is to require all new applicants for both teaching and non-teaching positions and teacher trainees to produce an Australian Federal Police clearance. In addition, applicants who have trained or worked in another State or Territory or in the non-government school system, or who have unexplained gaps in their employment history, will be the subject of further screening. All state and territory Governments and the non-government school system in Western Australia will exchange information on these applicants to ensure their suitability.

Mr Speaker, these procedures and policies implemented by the Government are a commitment to ensuring the safety and security of children in government schools.

STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR LABOUR RELATIONS*WorkSafe - Smart Move Program*

MR KIERATH (Riverton - Minister for Labour Relations) [10.21 am]: I am pleased to announce that a milestone has been reached by the Government in its moves to improve safety in the workplace.

Recently the ten thousandth student from a Western Australian school graduated from a work safety program designed by WorkSafe and available through the Internet. The WorkSafe Smart Move program was introduced last year at Woodvale Senior High School. It aims to help young people learn about occupational safety and health before they undertake work experience. It is important these students are prepared before they go into work experience because some 30 000 years 10, 11 and 12 students venture out into workplaces each year to help choose their career.

Young people aged between 15 and 24 are injured more than any other age group in the workplace. Many of these accidents are caused by a lack of training and basic knowledge. It is important we arm these young people with the information that will help prevent injuries in their formative years in the work force so that they carry on safe practices for the remainder of their working lives.

The Smart Move program aims to have school students safety conscious before they enter a workplace, not only preventing injuries, but starting a generation of new workers who are safety minded even before they enter the work force.

Workplace injuries cost the State's economy more than \$300m a year in workers' compensation payments alone and we cannot afford the damage injuries cause to the economy and to lives. The State Government's resolve is to halve the number of workplace injuries by the year 2000 and to have the safest workplaces in the world. This program asks students to complete a multiple choice test and if they get 75 per cent correct, they are given a graduation certificate electronically signed by me. The intention is that students show their certificate to work experience employers to show they at least have a basic grounding in occupational safety and health. Eventually, I believe employers will ask students if they have completed the certificate before they are employed or taken on work experience. This program has been so successful that it is being expanded to provide further specific information for 10 industry sectors, including building and construction, manufacturing, farming, mining and hairdressing.

WorkSafe is developing university level lectures on safety and health to be available on the Internet. This is just another way this Government is working to make the workplace a safer place for everyone.

STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR HEALTH*Financial Institutions - Legislation*

MR PRINCE (Albany - Minister for Health) [10.23 am]: The Standing Committee on Uniform Legislation and Intergovernmental Agreements, chaired by the member for Greenough, was created following the report of the Select Committee on Parliamentary Procedures for Uniform Legislation Agreements after enactment of legislation about supervision of non-bank financial institutions; that is, permanent building societies and credit unions.

On 3 June 1992 concern was raised about the process for dealing with legislation and the approach to achieve uniformity. The legislation arose from a need for more coordination of prudential standards of building societies, credit unions and friendly societies. The legislative scheme created a national body - the Australian Financial Institutions Commission, based in Queensland, and state supervisory authorities in each State. In Western Australia this is the Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority.

Legislation for uniform regulation of friendly societies was not enacted because of the characteristics of that industry. The Australian Financial Institutions Commission and state supervisory authorities are funded by industries they regulate and are independent of Governments.

The Australian Financial Institutions Commission and others set standards for permanent building societies and credit unions. The Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority supervises permanent building societies and credit unions in Western Australia on a daily basis.

This legislation involved host legislation in Queensland. The Australian Financial Institutions Commission is created by the Queensland Australian Financial Institutions Commission Act 1992 and uniform legislation regulating permanent building societies and credit unions is created by the Financial Institutions (Queensland) Act 1992, to which is scheduled the Australian Financial Institutions Commission Code and the Financial Institutions Code. These are adopted and applied in Western Australia by the Financial Institutions (Western Australia) Act 1992, which created and regulates the Western Australian Financial Institutions Authority. The scheme's operation is overseen

by the Ministerial Council for Financial Institutions, which meets annually. That council has agreed that friendly societies now be incorporated into the financial institutions scheme.

Australia's friendly societies industry has total assets of just under \$10b. Over 80 per cent of the industry is in Victoria and some larger societies compete with insurance companies. Therefore, Victoria has enacted host legislation. Western Australia has under 1 per cent of Australia's friendly society industry. The Victorian host legislation makes the Australian Financial Institutions Commission the friendly societies standards setting body. I will table the Queensland Financial Institutions Legislation Amendment Bill 1997, which incorporates friendly societies into the financial institutions scheme.

Application legislation is before, or has passed, most State Parliaments and will be introduced into this Parliament, having the host code appended. Members will have time to consider it. I table the following documents -

Friendly Societies (Victoria) Act 1996;

Friendly Societies (Victoria) (Amendment) Bill 1997; and

Financial Institutions Legislation Amendment Bill 1997 (Qld).

Other legislation, reports and documents will subsequently be tabled.

[See papers Nos 489a-c.]

STATEMENT - MINISTER FOR FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Miss Beryl Grant, OBE, RSCNA - Retirement

MRS PARKER (Ballajura - Minister for Family and Children's Services) [10.26 am] - by leave: I wish to make a brief ministerial statement on the outstanding contribution made by Miss Beryl Grant to families and children in this State. Miss Grant recently announced her retirement as chairperson of the Child Care Services Board.

Miss Grant trained as a nurse at the children's hospital, now Princess Margaret Hospital for Children. She joined the staff at the completion of her training and was later appointed nurse tutor in the preliminary training school. This was followed by midwifery training at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, where she worked as a nursing sister. No child welfare training was then available in the State and Miss Grant went to Melbourne to train in this field at the Presbyterian babies home.

In 1956 Miss Grant was awarded the Florence Nightingale scholarship to study at the College of Nursing Australia for the nursing administration diploma, serving on the administration staff of King Edward Memorial Hospital. In 1959 Miss Grant was appointed as the first matron of Ngala Family Resource Centre. She remained with Ngala until 1980, making a distinguished and unique contribution to the community.

In 1961 Miss Grant was awarded a Winston Churchill Fellowship to study child care and work associated with unmarried mothers. In 1976 Miss Grant was appointed by the Premier to chair an inquiry into residential child care. In 1979 Miss Grant was appointed as a special magistrate with the metropolitan Children's Court, a position she held for 10 years.

Miss Grant was chairperson of the Child Care Services Board from 1989 to 1996. As the first chairperson, she played a significant role in the development of the board and the protection and promotion of the wellbeing of children and families.

In 1990 Miss Grant chaired a community panel on prostitution, studying community attitudes and reporting to the Minister for Police. Miss Grant has been involved in a number of projects within Family and Children's Services, including being a member of the task force on families in Western Australia in 1994-95, which was set up to look at the situation of families and to recommend a plan for government action aimed at strengthening families.

Miss Grant has been a moderator of the Uniting Church in Western Australia and was a past national president of the Royal College of Nursing. She is currently chairperson of the Uniting Church Homes Board.

Miss Grant's achievements and contribution to the community have been acknowledged in a number of ways. In 1976 Miss Grant was made an Officer of the British Empire for her services to nursing and the welfare of children and young people. In 1977 she was awarded the Queen's Jubilee Medal and in 1993 the Advance Australia Award for her ongoing contribution and commitment to the general welfare of the community.

On behalf of the Government, I express my sincere gratitude to Miss Grant for her dedication and commitment to the families and young people of Western Australia over 40 years and wish her a long and happy future.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [10.30 am]: I support the Minister's comments. The extent of the contribution made by Beryl Grant to the people of Western Australia is impossible to measure. In many different capacities she played a significant role in the provision of services for families; for example, as the first matron of Ngala, as committee member and Chairman of the Lady Gowrie Child Centre, as the first woman moderator of the Uniting Church in Western Australia and as the first woman member of the Scotch College board. Miss Grant chairs the Board of the Uniting Church Homes for the Aged and continues to do voluntary work in the community.

Miss Grant has recently retired as Chairman of the Child Care Services Board, the licensing body for child care services in Western Australia. She was appointed as the inaugural chairperson to the board in 1989 by Hon Kay Hallahan and has presided over a licensing system which has worked effectively for families throughout Western Australia and for the child care industry.

Her work in that position and many other complex and often sensitive tasks she has undertaken for government in this State has been characterised by independent decision making and advice given honestly and objectively without fear or favour. To her credit Miss Grant has worked with people from both sides of politics. She has extensive contacts with all levels of the community. She is indeed a woman for all seasons.

Meeting the best interests of children and families has been Miss Grant's guide in decision making. She has been mentor, role model and friend to many individuals of all ages. Her capacity to adopt a contemporary perspective in addressing current issues is in my view without peer.

The Minister has identified a range of positions that Miss Grant has held. While Labor was in office her roles included: Magistrate in the Children's Court, Chair of the Residential Child Care Committee, Chair of the Inquiry into Prostitution and Chair of Senior's Week Committee.

Her work has been recognised in a variety of ways: In 1956 she was awarded a Florence Nightingale Scholarship; in 1961 she was made a Fellow of the College of Nursing; and in 1968 she was the first Western Australian nurse to receive a Churchill Fellowship. She is a past National President of the College of Nursing and State President of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation. In 1976 she was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Miss Beryl Grant has been a true servant of the people of Western Australia. She is widely respected for her fearless, independent advice to government and her work to achieve positive change. Today we recognise her for a contribution to the Government and the people of Western Australia and thank her for her continuing work for families in the community.

In conclusion, and in pointing to Miss Grant's interests and achievements, I am led to reflect on another great Western Australia woman, Edith Cowan. There is of course one difference: Beryl Grant did not become a member of the State Parliament. I emphasise how much our proceedings would have benefited from a woman of such grace, wisdom and commitment. Thank you Miss Grant for your contribution to our State.

STATE TRADING CONCERNS AMENDMENT BILL

Council's Amendment

Amendment made by the Council now considered.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Sweetman) in the Chair; Mr Court (Premier) in charge of the Bill.

The amendment made by the Council was as follows -

Clause 5, page 4, after line 8 - To insert the following subclause -

(5) A reference in this section to the carrying on of a trading concern by a financial entity includes a reference to the carrying on of a trading concern by the State for that financial entity.

Mr COURT: I move -

That the amendment made by the Council be agreed to.

The Crown Solicitor advised that although most areas of government contracting would be covered by the amendments in the State Trading Concerns Amendment Bill, some argument could be made about the application of the amendments to contracts entered into by Ministers on behalf of the State. The Crown Solicitor recommended that this amendment be made to section 4A of the Act to eliminate that uncertainty.

The Minister in his second reading speech indicated that the amendment to section 4A will allow the Treasurer to authorise certain activities which are conducted by a department or subdepartment. Statutory authorities' powers are to be amended through their own enabling legislation. As departments do not have corporate powers, contracts are sometimes executed by the Minister on behalf of the State, except in those circumstances where a Minister or chief executive officer is constituted as a body corporate in legislation, in which case it would enter into the contracts in its corporate name.

The Crown Solicitor has indicated that as the authorisation of trading concerns provided for under the amendments related to activities of departments and subdepartments, contracts entered into by Ministers might not be covered. We are removing that uncertainty to ensure they are covered.

Dr GALLOP: The Opposition thanks the Premier for his explanation of the amendment moved in the Legislative Council and supports the amended Bill.

Question put and passed; the Council's amendment agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

CURRICULUM COUNCIL BILL

Council's Amendments

Amendments made by the Council now considered.

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Mr Sweetman) in the Chair; Mr Barnett (Minister for Education) in charge of the Bill.

The amendments made by the Council were as follows -

No 1

Clause 6, page 6, line 17 - To delete the words "in the opinion of the Minister,".

No 2

Clause 6, page 6, line 19 - To delete the words "after consultation with" and substitute "on the recommendation of".

No 3

Clause 6, page 6, line 23 - To delete the words "in the opinion of the Minister,".

No 4

Clause 6, page 6, lines 25 and 26 - To delete the words "after consultation with" and substitute "on the recommendation of".

No 5

Clause 6, page 7, line 2 - To insert after "(f)" the passage "(g) or (h)".

Mr BARNETT: I move -

That the amendments made by the Council be agreed to.

The Legislative Council passed the Curriculum Council Bill on 17 June with these amendments, which relate to the membership of the council. The Curriculum Council has been operating on an interim basis since the beginning of this year and is established and ready to go on a full operational basis from 1 July. It is imperative that the legislation be concluded and that the council's operations be properly funded. The debate in the upper House centred on the membership of the Curriculum Council. Hon Barbara Scott, with my knowledge, moved an addition to the council to ensure that someone with expertise in childhood education be a member. As the Speaker will be aware, there has been an ongoing debate about whether the addition of further members to the council might have made the Bill a money Bill. Therefore, that amendment was not moved. However, I have given an undertaking to Hon Barbara Scott, which I now repeat, that I will use the appointments that I will make at my discretion as Minister to ensure that one of the three ministerial appointments is someone who has appropriate experience and expertise in early childhood education.

The other amendments relate to the appointment of representatives of teachers and teacher organisations and parent bodies. The Government is prepared to accept these amendments. However, the Curriculum Council is all about what is taught in our schools. It must be educationally based. I hope that in no sense does the council ever become a forum for debate between the employer and employees in the education system on industrial issues or issues that relate to parent organisations. The original wording of the Bill was designed to ensure that only people who serve on the council have expertise in curriculum matters. In accepting these recommendations, which give the teachers' union, the parents and friends' organisation and the WA Council of State School Organisations a greater say in the two appointments, it is essential that they appoint people who have the ability, capacity and willingness to contribute to curriculum matters. I am sure they will do that. This is not a forum for debating policy of public issues relating to education. It is about determining what is taught in our schools. I accept the amendments. However, I make it clear that in lessening the role of the Minister in those appointments and enhancing the power of the State School Teachers Union, the representative body from non-government schools, the state school parents' organisations and the parents and friends' organisation, there is a clear expectation from government that appointments appropriately reflect expertise in this area, as I am sure they will.

Mr RIPPER: The Opposition supports the motion moved by the Minister for Education. The Opposition would have preferred to see in this Bill the amendment which it moved in this Chamber. That amendment would have expanded the membership of the council by two to give representation to the State School Teachers Union, the Independent Schools Salaried Officers Association, the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations and the Parents and Friends Federation. That would have been a more acceptable way to provide for important stakeholders to be represented on the council than the amendments before us. The Government rejected our arguments that those organisations should be represented on the council. When the Opposition moved a similar amendment in the upper House, it was ruled out of order on the basis that it represented a financial initiative by the other House. Apparently there are precedents for the ruling that expanding a council or a government body constitutes a financial initiative which is beyond the capacity of the upper House.

It is a matter of regret to us that this provision will now go into the law. It is not as good as the amendment we moved in this place and which we sought to move in the other place. Nevertheless, the provision we are supporting today is an advance on what was in the legislation originally. An organisation as important as the State School Teachers Union, which has both professional and industrial roles, should have a chance, together with the Independent School Salaried Officers Association, to nominate members to the council. The original legislation would have allowed those organisations to put their views to the Minister on who should be appointed to the council, but the Minister could have ignored them and appointed someone else. The Minister should recognise that the unions and the parents' organisations take these professional issues seriously. They will not pursue industrial campaigns through the Curriculum Council. They have plenty of other ways in which to pursue their industrial objectives. However, they have a longstanding history of interest in professional issues also. The State School Teachers Union, no matter what other teachers' organisations say, is the pre-eminent professional body for teachers in the state school system as well as being the only body that can claim legitimately to represent the industrial interests of teachers.

We think the legislation has been improved. It will require the two unions to cooperate in making a nomination, otherwise the scheme will fail and the Minister will have the power that he originally had under the previous legislation. It will also require the two parents' organisations to cooperate, otherwise the default option of the Minister making a nomination will apply.

Mr KOBELKE: I support the amendments. We think that the State School Teachers Union and the parent organisations should formally participate in curriculum development. We cannot compartmentalise education by saying that, because it involves curriculum, it has nothing to do with parents or teachers. Such an approach is ludicrous. We must ensure that council members have a broader perspective on specific curriculum matters.

I regret that the Minister gave begrudging support to the amendments. He is boxing at shadows. For many years, the system in this State involved the State School Teachers Union formally nominating people to go onto a range of curriculum committees. In 1985, I served on the mathematics curriculum committee as a nominee of the State School Teachers Union of WA, which committee undertook major changes to the mathematics curriculum.

Mr Barnett: You have me worried now.

Mr KOBELKE: The Minister has seen the assessments that indicate that the standard of mathematics taught in this State is among the highest in the world. The approach at that time was revolutionary. I did not take a leading role. At that stage Dr Norm Hoffman and Bob McCreddon, the then superintendent, were on the committee and they handled the whole reform process in a very effective way, but I will not go into that now. There was a longstanding practice that curriculum committees - there was a range of separate curriculum committees then, rather than the current approach of the Curriculum Council - included a formal delegate from the State School Teachers Union. I am sure that if we checked on all the delegates to those committees over the years, we could probably find some who

were nominees of the State School Teachers Union, who did not do the best possible job. Equally, we could probably find many who were appointed by the Minister who could be criticised for not doing the best job.

The Minister's concern has no foundation in fact. He is bringing his own bias into play, because he did not wish to have a nominee from the parent body and the union body involved in this Curriculum Council. A democratic appointment is far better than the authoritarian approach the Minister espoused. Although the Minister will be in a position to nominate the overwhelming majority of members on the council, he will make those decisions based on advice normally coming from one source. It may be the Minister's office or the department. The Minister will receive advice from a much more limited source that will nominate people to take up a position on the Curriculum Council.

Taking a member from the union or the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations is a democratic process, but these processes are not foolproof and mistakes will occur. Perhaps the best people will not be nominated and elected. On the whole the democratic process will work far better than an authoritarian approach of simply nominating people about whom the Minister has been advised by a friend or the department, and who is supposed to be a good person to have in the job. Given that this is such a small percentage of the total council membership, we cannot say that the work of the council will be skewed by providing this nomination. The importance of these nominations goes well beyond that. It is a recognition of the very important role played by unions and by parent bodies in the education system. Therefore, it is imperative that they be seen to be part of the team, and that they are not excluded because the Minister might have a difference of opinion in some areas.

We on this side of the Chamber fully support the amendments. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has indicated that we wish they had gone further. I only hope the Minister will come to realise that there is strength in this amendment and instead of begrudgingly giving his support to it, it will receive his full support because it is a big improvement in the legislation.

Mr RIPPER: These amendments reduce the power of the Minister to determine the representatives of the parents and teachers on the Curriculum Council. They increase the power of the four organisations to which I have referred. I put on record my confidence that those four organisations will exercise this increased influence, which the amendments give them, in a responsible way. They all have a long history of interest in professional matters, which will be to the benefit of the Curriculum Council. I also believe their representative structures will provide a very good resource for the two people who eventually are appointed to the council to represent the interests of parents and teachers.

I will raise one other issue about this legislation; that is, the consistency of rulings in the other place about its powers to make amendments in certain circumstances. The Opposition in the other place sought to amend the Bill by expanding the membership of the Curriculum Council. That amendment was ruled out of order. Last night in the other place I understand the Australian Democrats moved to expand the Pastoral Board under the Land Administration Bill, but that was not ruled out of order.

These are not trivial matters. Rulings like this can change the law of this State. Had the President made a ruling on the Curriculum Council Bill in the same way as he did on the Land Administration Bill, we might well have seen a different provision applying to the Curriculum Council. The Minister in this place might well have accepted the original amendment we wanted to move, and consequently the composition of the Curriculum Council would have been different.

I do not know what will be the ultimate fate of the Land Administration Bill because this Chamber has its own interests in determining the extent of the prerogatives of the Legislative Council on financial matters, and the Speaker may well examine this matter when it comes to this place. I am concerned that we have had two inconsistent rulings in the other place: First that an amendment can be moved to expand a body constituted under a piece of legislation and, second, that it cannot. It is not a trivial matter because in the end it will affect the shape of the law.

Mr BARNETT: I thank members for their comments. I will not respond to the most recent comments about rulings in the upper House. The issue of consistency in those rulings is a legitimate one. I restate that one of the ministerial appointments to this Curriculum Council will reflect expertise in early childhood education in response to the amendment moved, albeit not successfully, by Hon Barbara Scott. I take at face value the comments made by those opposite. I believe both the parent organisations and the teacher organisations will take heed of the comments made in this Chamber and ensure that people with appropriate expertise will be appointed from those bodies. I am willing to take that on face value and in good faith.

It is important that the Curriculum Council continue to enjoy the bipartisan support it has achieved in this Parliament and in the wider community. It is an important development in education. I know that people who have worked on

the development of the interim council and who are currently working on this council very much appreciate the fact that this has received bipartisan support. I hope it will be successful.

Question put and passed, the Council's amendments agreed to.

Report

Resolution reported, the report adopted, and a message accordingly returned to the Council.

WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 10 April.

DR EDWARDS (Maylands) [10.58 am]: This Bill is quite short and my response to it will be brief also. Water is a very precious resource in the State. Generally the State is very dry. We support this Bill and the protection given to that water resource; however, we also want to raise concerns about some parts of the Bill. The first aspect dealt with by the Bill is water theft. The member for Burrup will make more comments about that because he has raised that issue in this Parliament previously. We have been told that at the moment water theft is costing the Water Corporation about \$2m a year. I wonder whether that figure is conservative. It is possible that the Water Corporation might not even know when water is being stolen.

I gather that this theft occurs primarily in the metropolitan area. That surprised me, because I thought it was prevalent in the country; perhaps that is where I have seen it. Theft also occurs in the irrigation areas and other areas of the State. It is a serious problem and the Opposition is pleased to see this legislation, which first appeared last year before Parliament was prorogued for the election.

Obviously, the associated costs of water theft will appear in other parts of the system. Because it involves only \$2m a year, I assume that the Minister will not reduce water rates. However, it is an important measure. Farmers who steal or get their water at no cost obviously have an unfair advantage over those who pay. Water is a scarce resource in the irrigation areas, particularly in a dry spell, and this Bill is important in restoring equity.

During a briefing on this Bill I was amazed to see the lengths to which people have gone to avoid paying for their water. The Water Corporation produced a series of photographs of the worst cases that had been uncovered. We saw examples of interesting engineering, where people slowed meters, diverted water past meters and installed all sorts of devices to avoid paying for water. I am amazed that people resort to those measures, but corporation officers say that they detect those activities frequently and that they are always learning something new about human nature.

The Bill includes changes to the prosecution process that concern the Opposition. Obviously the theft of water is not observed because people do not want to be seen doing it; so there is an element of deception. The corporation is relying on confessions, and if someone has not been caught, they are unlikely to confess. In the past, the circumstantial evidence of theft has not been enough to allow prosecution to proceed. Therefore, the legislation contains a deeming clause, which effectively provides that, unless the contrary is proved, any unlawful use or taking of water is deemed to have been caused by the owner or occupier of the land. In association with that clause, the penalties will rise. The current maximum penalty for water theft is \$2 000. That is much lower than the penalty in other States. To bring our penalties in line with those in the rest of Australia, the penalty for individuals is increased to \$10 000 or six months imprisonment - or, for more serious offences, both - and the penalty for corporations is increased to \$20 000. In addition, the Water Corporation will now have the ability to recover costs. The Opposition supports those measures.

However, members on this side have two concerns. I am sure that in the course of their duties most members have had someone come to them with an exorbitant water bill. Sometimes there have been leaks in pipes or other obvious causes. However, even after thorough investigation it is sometimes unclear what has happened. The Opposition hopes every such case will be treated reasonably; that there is no thought that the neighbour has stolen the water but the landowner or occupier must pay. The Water Corporation services 750 000 properties, so there is a risk of problems in the billing process. We hope that this law will not be used to prosecute innocent people.

The second problem in the Bill relates to the new evidentiary provision. This aspect has two elements: First, water has gone - it has been taken or wasted. I hope the Minister will reassure us that thorough investigations will be undertaken and that there will not be any frivolous prosecutions.

A case was mentioned to me last week by Hon Ken Travers, a member of the upper House, where a man had a child with a behavioural disorder who was turning on all the household taps and wasting water. Other members of the family were not immediately aware of the problem, but once they became aware they took measures to try to stop

it. However, slowing the flow from every tap harmed the family. There will always be individual cases requiring sensitive treatment.

The Opposition's second concern is that, unless the contrary is proven, the owner is presumed to be responsible. If, for example, someone stole water from my property then, because it is my property, unless there were evidence to the contrary, I would be responsible. The photographs I was shown by the Water Corporation suggest that that happens; sometimes people do make unlawful connections to someone else's supply to divert water. It is not clear in the second reading speech or the Bill whether the victims will be protected in these cases.

The Opposition looks forward to the Minister's response and some assurances about those two major concerns.

The Bill also deals with water restrictions. The Opposition supports such restrictions. In fact, in the past the media has come to opposition members asking for negative comments about water restrictions. I know that the member for Midland and I have never taken that bait. Water is very scarce; we should use it responsibly; and the current restrictions do not impose undue hardship. In fact, they are a positive aspect of responsible use of water.

The Opposition does have some concerns, but it supports the Bill.

MR RIEBELING (Burrup) [11.07 am]: I, too, fully support the changes to water restrictions. The part of the world I come from is much drier than the metropolitan area and the south west, and it is vital that we minimise the use of water. As far as this legislation improves that situation, I applaud the changes.

However, I am not happy with the amendments in relation to the stealing of water. This legislation has targeted the easy to locate and prosecute offences, where the owner of property is the person stealing the water. In the second reading speech, the Minister indicated that the problem is prevalent in the metropolitan area. The major abusers of the system in the metropolitan area would be those in the building industry. As the Minister will know, a large amount of water is collected at extraction points at which the Water Corporation provides metered equipment. I know that for some years a number of operators in the industry have had similar extraction units built that do not have meters and truck loads of water are stolen for use in the compaction of soil, driveways and building pads. One of the real problems is that those extraction points are on state or shire land. This legislation does not cover that type of theft.

If theft occurs on private property, the private owner may be required to defend a charge of stealing where it may well be that the water is extracted by an illegal instrument. The second reading speech on a number of occasions refers to the use of prima facie evidence in court; the expression sounds good, but it is used in the wrong context in that speech. Prima facie relates to the way evidence is viewed in being taken in its best light when used to proceed a prosecution into court. However, it does not relate to the mind and view of the court when hearing that evidence. The legalistic term makes no sense in the context of the second reading speech.

The onus of proof will change to that of the French system, by which an averment is placed in the Act whereby someone is guilty until proved otherwise. This is a major change in the legislation. However, where water is stolen from anywhere other than private property, these amendments go nowhere near far enough. A better amendment would be an averment in the Act by which the benefactor of the stolen water should be deemed to have stolen the water, rather than considering whence it came.

In many cases, the landowners and the benefactors are the same people. In the instance where the road verges belong to the shire, and where most of the water outlets or connection areas, such as areas into which the fire brigade and operators of construction sites connect quite legally, those sites are not on private land in the vast majority of cases. In fact, I know of none which is on private property. The only way to catch offenders tapping into such outlets is for the Water Corporation officer to catch those people in the act. If one is serious about catching people in the business of stealing water in the metropolitan area, one must expand the inspection service to allow sites about which the corporation has suspicions to be observed to catch the water collection process in action. In that way, proper evidence could be taken which was admissible in court to prove the case of stolen water.

For example, the building of a new car dealership uses a huge amount of water to compact the ground to support vehicles. Stealing in such circumstance probably accounts for a large proportion of water stolen, especially in the metropolitan area.

It is easy to see that the legislation will have an effect in agricultural areas. It is extremely difficult for a farmer to suggest that someone else is stealing water and giving it to him or her on the basis of a free grant, and such situations should be easily followed up and prosecuted. This legislation will make that action easier. It is difficult to understand why benefactors of stolen water are not prosecuted under the current system, particularly in easy to apprehend situations such as stealing from irrigated channels and the like. It is easy to determine who steals the water

and who benefits in that circumstance. This legislation attacks those areas which are the easiest to tackle, but does not attempt to tackle the hardest to prove cases of theft.

Unless the Minister can point out where I have misread the Bill, it will not target anybody stealing from public property. Most major water outlets are located on public, not private property. It is interesting that the word *prima facie* is used in a number of places in the second reading speech - although used incorrectly - and that the deeming provisions are relatively onerous, especially if stealing occurs on private property by other than the owner of the property and a third party benefits. Can the Minister explain why no attempt was made in this legislation to put the onus of proof on the benefactor of stealing rather than the property owner?

I support the stronger penalties throughout this legislation - this is a sensible move. However, I have major concerns. The last time I raised a water stealing matter in this place was when the BGC (Australia) Pty Ltd placed an illegal water extraction unit on the Harding Dam. That extraction system was used during the hours of darkness to avoid detection, and a quantity of water was taken from that site before any departmental approval was given for its removal. The reason given by the corporation for not proceeding on that matter was that BGC applied for the connection of a proper meter. However, BGC decided that the Water Corporation was taking too long to approve the meter and it decided to keep its own record of the water taken illegally, and at some later stage it determined it would tell the Water Corporation, "By the way, we have been taking water for some time."

Under this legislation, that body would be liable for a penalty of up to \$20 000 for that offence. The interesting part of the matter I highlighted in this place 18 months ago was that the Water Corporation discovered the offence only because a truck ran into another vehicle in the hours of dusk. The Water Corporation went to BGC and asked how much water it had stolen. It answered about 10 000 litres. The corporation said, "Fair enough, we accept that", but within a couple of weeks, the estimate increased to 35 000 litres taken. BGC was still happy to pay for the amount of water taken illegally. The more cynical among us thought that the company might have taken hundreds of thousands of litres, as the Water Corporation had no way of knowing how long that connection had been in place. It relied upon the evidence of the person caught stealing the water. BGC should have been prosecuted on the evidence. In that case, the truck driver admitted that the offence occurred because the truck driver accessed the water. However, no action was taken. At that stage, the Water Corporation wanted to educate people to do the right thing. The company was educated enough to know to apply for access, to know the penalties and to know that this Government would not proceed against BGC because the person who runs that company is a strong supporter of this Government.

The amendments before us will not enable that sort of offence to be tackled any differently from the current situation. It will not cover land not held in private hands. The incident to which I referred did not occur on private land, but on a road verge. It was legal access to Water Corporation land within which the pipe was laid. I will be interested to hear if the matter I raised 18 months ago is covered by this amending legislation. If it is, I congratulate the Minister.

DR HAMES (Yokine - Minister for Water Resources) [11.28 am]: I thank members for their comments on and support for the Bill. The legislation was to be introduced last year but the Parliament was prorogued. It is encouraging that the legislation is now before us, because stealing water is an extremely worrying problem, as is water restrictions. As the member for Maylands said, the estimated loss in revenue of \$2m a year is conservative. I am sure that the Water Corporation is not aware of much of the water stealing that goes on. As the member for Burrup indicated, it is difficult to be sure how much water is being stolen. Therefore, any estimate of the loss would be conservative.

I was surprised to hear the suggestion that most water stealing incidents occur in the metropolitan area, because I have heard stories about what happens in country areas. However, I have been assured by the Water Corporation that the suggestion is correct. Perhaps the comments by the member for Burrup explain the situation. I am aware also of the inventive methods used by people in the metropolitan area to ensure they receive good supplies of cheap water. The comments about the different devices used to steal water were fascinating. Recently I was in Carnarvon and heard about lollies being placed in water meters. Apparently, the insertion of a lolly interferes with the recording of the water flow, and when an inspection is carried out the lolly has dissolved. Therefore, no evidence of interference remains. Obviously, some fairly ingenious people can work out how best to get water -

Mrs Roberts: Is it true that the Government bought Len Buckridge lollies?

Dr HAMES: Perhaps he received them free of charge!

Comments were made about unexplained high water bills. The legislation does not relate to that problem, but only to the stealing of water. We must have evidence that the stealing occurs. I have seen the letter about an autistic child who keeps turning on taps, which results in a high bill for the parents. The department is looking into the matter -

Dr Edwards: Does that not represent waste?

Dr HAMES: The penalties in the Bill do not relate to waste but to stealing.

Dr Edwards: The Bill also talks about water being wasted.

Dr HAMES: That is true. However, the penalties do not relate to a situation outside the control of parents or anyone else. Those people should not be considered for prosecution.

When a person receives a high water bill, and has searched for water leaks - perhaps someone has stolen water from that property - ultimately it will be a matter for the courts. Proof must be provided, because the onus of confession has disappeared. Therefore, we must be able to prove in court that someone has stolen water.

Mr Riebeling: It would not be an offence against the corporation if the stealing took place beyond the meter. That is the concern of the owner.

Dr HAMES: Yes, and the bill must be paid regardless of the situation.

The member's second concern relates to someone stealing water from a neighbouring property. The same provision applies. For instance, if someone puts down a pipe in order to steal water from the property next door, in a court of law one must still prove that the offending resident used the water. That goes back to the comment by the member for Burrup regarding proof and querying who is responsible -

Mrs Roberts: And who benefits.

Dr HAMES: That situation is covered by the legislation. We must be able to prove in court who is stealing water. We cannot assume that because a device is placed on a property the owner is stealing water. The onus of proof still applies. In the past a pipeline could be placed on a person's property, and the water could be used, but unless a person confessed we had no chance of prosecuting. One example would be the insertion of lollies in meters, or devices being attached to meters, and the beneficiary is the person on the property; but unless the person confessed, we could not prosecute. That is an important change to the onus of proof. Generally it is obvious if someone is offending -

Mr Riebeling: If it is obvious, it is covered well by the legislation, but the situation with private property is not clear.

Dr HAMES: I will address that issue and the one relating to developers in the metropolitan area taking unauthorised water. The Water Corporation representative told me that he is not aware of illegal devices being used to take a large volume of water. A system of standpipes provide legitimate water extraction at a cost. The member suggested that this is a common occurrence. I will ask the corporation to examine its inspection system and consider how to police the issue.

Mr Riebeling: Some builders will obtain a legal connection from the Water Corporation, but will have another connection so that only every second truckload is metered.

Dr HAMES: That would be a major problem if it were occurring to that extent and large amounts of water were being stolen. The Water Corporation must police that situation. The provisions of the Bill should cover that situation, but I will request the corporation to look at that problem before the Bill goes to the other place. We will consider whether any further amendments are required, based on the member's information, to ensure that the provisions of the legislation enable the corporation to prosecute people stealing water in that manner. I thank the member for that information. I will ensure that it is followed up.

Mr Riebeling: When I raised the matter 18 months ago, I was told that the provisions of the Act did not allow prosecution. These amendments do not appear to correct that situation.

Dr HAMES: I would like to give a suitable answer, so that the member can congratulate me. Unfortunately I am not aware of the comments he made 18 months ago. However, I will ensure that the other issue is addressed and that, if necessary, further amendments are introduced.

Mr Omodei: The member for Burrup could still congratulate the Minister!

Mr Riebeling: I will congratulate the Minister in advance and rest assured that he will be back here shortly with the amendments.

Dr HAMES: That is right, if they are required. Obviously I will need advice from the Water Cooperation to see whether that is covered, or whether the member's summation is correct and that is not covered and will need to be covered. We will look into that matter.

The member asked why people on farms who are obviously stealing water are not prosecuted under the Act. I return to the requirement for proof and a confession. A property owner might say that he was not aware of what was happening on his property and it was done by someone else who had his welfare at heart.

Mr Riebeling: Surely it will be up to the court to determine the validity of that evidence. There is an offence of stealing. If the Water Cooperation went to court with photos of a pipe that led to a person's field and enabled him to water that field for nothing, one would be hard pressed to work out why a court would not determine that that person had been stealing.

Dr HAMES: I agree, and I do not understand why a court would not do that, but I understand also that if the person denied that he was doing that and said it was done by another person who had his welfare at heart, without his knowledge and support, and that he was totally against it, there would be no way of obtaining a prosecution. Obviously it is a pretty far fetched response, but it occurs in a number of other areas. A recent example is graffiti, where people who have been caught with a spray can in their hand and their well known tag on the fence in front of them have said that someone else copied their tag and the graffiti was not done by them. The same applies in this case. The onus of proof is on the corporation to convince the court that the landowner took that action.

I thank the Opposition for its support and commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate and transmitted to the Council.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS - ORDER OF BUSINESS

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [11.35 am]: I move, without notice -

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as is necessary to enable Order of the Day No 14 to be dealt with and for the notice of motion given by Dr Gallop this morning, the Local Government (Foreshore Parking) Amendment Bill, to be dealt with up to and including the motion for the second reading.

[Quorum formed.]

Question put and passed with an absolute majority.

MOTION - SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT

Establishment

Resumed from 18 June on the following motion -

- (1) That a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the adequacy of the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1989, and associated state or federal legislation (and their inter-relationships), in achieving the objective of the detection and prosecution of illicit drug dealers or traffickers in Western Australia and in particular, without derogating from the above, the committee is to inquire into and report upon the efficacy of enacting or amending legislation so as to assist in attaining the objective.
- (2) That the committee have the power to send for persons and papers, to sit on days over which the House stands adjourned, to move from place to place and to report from time to time.
- (3) That the committee finally report on 20 November 1997.

MR BAKER (Joondalup) [11.36 am]: In continuing this debate from last week, I emphasise again that the State Government does not purport to have all the answers to the drug abuse problem and no Government or political party can ever purport to have all the answers to this problem. It must also be accepted that the responsibility for tackling the drug abuse problem rests not just with the State Government but also with the community in general, be it parents, teachers, individuals or community groups. A response is required from the broader community rather than simply the Government. In order to address this issue properly, we must inquire also into the provision of health, education and community support services; and I will deal later with a proposed amendment on these issues.

I emphasise also that while it is highly desirable that there be bipartisan support for dealing with this issue, at the end of the day that will not be possible if members opposite continue to maintain a policy of decriminalising the simple possession of cannabis. That policy sends to young people the wrong message; namely, that cannabis is a trivial and relatively harmless drug and that a person who is caught in possession of that drug will attract only a small fine. The message factor in this debate falls under the heading of the requirement for educational support that I mentioned earlier. It is important that the same consistent and strong message is sent to younger members of the community.

That will never be the case while the Government states that it is opposed to the decriminalisation of the simple possession of cannabis and the Opposition maintains that the simple possession of cannabis should be decriminalised. I cannot overemphasise that.

Ms Anwyl: What does that have to do with heroin?

Mr BAKER: Nothing at the moment, but in my view and in the view of many highly qualified researchers in this area, there is a clear gateway link between the consumption of cannabis and the consumption of heroin. The existence of that gateway link has never been disputed. A young person who experiments with an illicit drug usually begins with cannabis. The very first drug they may experiment with is alcohol, but that is not an illegal drug. Therefore, their first experience in the use of an illegal drug is with cannabis. Thereafter, on the basis of empirical evidence, they experiment further with either ecstasy, amphetamines or heroin. The gateway or causal link factor cannot be ignored. I come back to the message factor in this debate; that is, it is an issue on which there will never be bipartisan support, even though it is what we all desire.

Mr Riebeling: The terms of reference of the committee should be expanded to see whether there is any validity in that.

Mr BAKER: It is a matter of referring to the 1995 report of a select committee of the Legislative Council of South Australia. That report dealt with issues similar to those that we are debating and that committee acknowledged there is a real concern regarding the gateway factor. It is all very well to say that we should look into it, but there is already sufficient evidence to indicate a causal link between the consumption of cannabis and the subsequent consumption of heroin.

Mr Riebeling: The current system is not working. Kids are dropping dead on the streets. You simply say that we should not look at all the options, but look at the ones that we prefer. We are saying that you should look at all the options and then the Government might suggest that we look at a potential trial for the heroin campaign.

Mr BAKER: I foreshadowed earlier that I will move an amendment to my motion.

Mr Riebeling: Is it similar to the one that your side rejected last week?

Mr BAKER: Not at all. The motion moved by the member for Fremantle last week was far too specific. It dealt primarily with the issue of heroin. I suggest the member for Burrup read the motion.

Mr Riebeling: What is the major problem facing the community at the moment? Are kids dropping dead from the use of cannabis or heroin?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms McHale): Order! I ask the member for Joondalup to direct his comments to the Chair.

Mr BAKER: I will do that.

The member's comment does not raise that basic issue. It may be a problem at the moment, but tomorrow the problem may be amphetamines.

The ACTING SPEAKER: Order! The member for Joondalup is inviting interjections.

Mr BAKER: I am inviting interjections.

I accept what the member for Burrup is saying, but just because heroin is a problem today, we should not confine ourselves to inquiring into the use of heroin. Tomorrow the problem may very well be the use of amphetamines.

Mr McGinty: My motion was not totally about heroin. It certainly had a prime focus on heroin and it included a term of reference to other drugs. Your proposed amendment uses the words, "particularly heroin". It is really the same thing.

Mr BAKER: One limb does not, but the second limb deals with the provision of health, education and community support services to deal with the consumption of illicit drugs, particularly heroin. It is acknowledged that heroin is a here and now problem. The point is that if tomorrow a drug dealer dumped 30 kilograms of speed or amphetamines on the streets, after the winter recess we would be in this place calling on the Government to take action against the use of amphetamines. It is important that the terms of reference of the proposed committee be broad enough to include all illicit drug use, not only heroin. There should not be a particular emphasis on heroin, bearing in mind that a problem exists with all illicit drugs.

Ms Anwyl: Where are the deaths occurring?

Mr BAKER: I accept that. We should consider the reality of it. If the proposed committee is established, it will not be able to resolve that problem. No-one can do that. The Government accepts that. Narcan is being introduced into ambulances and it will help to a certain extent to resolve the current concerns about the deaths.

Members will note that my motion states that the committee shall report on 20 November this year. It is accepted that it is a relatively short time frame, but it is certainly much earlier than 26 November next year. The reporting date acknowledges that it is a here and now problem. We must act very quickly to try to come up with a solution to the problem.

We will never have bipartisan support while members opposite continue to maintain that cannabis is a relatively trivial, harmless drug and that if one is caught with it in his possession, it should attract a nominal fine similar to a fine for littering, for owning a barking dog or parking illegally. Members on this side of the House will never advocate decriminalising the simple possession of cannabis. To do so would be to surrender on the whole issue. Such a policy indicates that the advocates have no real insight into the nature of the illicit drug problem. Cannabis is the gateway drug to other illicit drugs. There is ample evidence to prove that. One does not have to be a social worker or an Oxford scholar or have thoroughly researched this subject to know that. Ample reports, articles and results of studies have been published by many academics over the years and they all indicate that the gateway link cannot be ignored. It exists and it will continue to exist. While it is desirable to have bipartisan support, we will never achieve that until members opposite reject any policy of decriminalising the simple possession of cannabis.

Mr Riebeling: What is the current maximum penalty for the possession of cannabis?

Mr BAKER: The tariff for simple possession for a first offence is \$150 and for possession with intent it is \$1 000.

Mr Riebeling: You have represented people who have been charged with possession of cannabis. Have you argued that the penalty of \$50 is adequate?

Mr BAKER: The member for Burrup will acknowledge that if one is defending a person charged with committing an offence, one is wearing a defence hat and is presenting a plea in mitigation.

Mr Riebeling: You come into this place with a different argument from the one you used to use.

Mr BAKER: I was wearing a different hat.

Mr Riebeling: It is not only a different colour, it is also a different size.

Mr BAKER: The client is the main interest of a person practising law. I am sure the member would acknowledge that.

Mr Riebeling: I am positive that when you put forward an argument that gets them the smallest penalty you run the line that this drug is not serious and does not lead to other things, and the minimum penalty should apply. The legal fraternity use that argument and you are part of the legal fraternity. However, you come into this place and say that we are off beam because of the penalties you are asking the courts to impose.

Mr BAKER: I understand where the member is coming from. I make the point that when a lawyer is representing a person charged with an offence, irrespective of whether that person is pleading guilty or not guilty, the lawyer's job is to put the client's interests first. The lawyer's personal interest has nothing whatsoever to do with the matter. If a lawyer allows his personal interest to interfere with his conduct of the case on behalf of the client, he should cease to represent that person.

Mr Riebeling: That is right.

Mr Kobelke: Are you saying that lawyers are required not to tell the truth?

Mr BAKER: Lawyers are required to put the interests of their clients first.

Mr Riebeling: If a lawyer objects to what a person has done, he does not have to represent people who have been charged with possession of cannabis.

Mr BAKER: Everyone is entitled to legal representation. The lawyer is obliged to act on the instructions of his client.

I have already made the point that we will not have bipartisan support across the board on issues which relate to this subject.

Earlier today the Minister for Family and Children's Services made a policy announcement named, "Together Against Drugs". I understand the Minister will make a contribution to this debate later today and outline the Government's

new strategy against drug abuse. It is a very good action plan and canvasses all the matters that were raised last week when the member for Fremantle's motion was debated. I will not foreshadow the content of that package and will leave that to the Minister.

Beyond that, one paragraph in the motion is exactly the same as the term of reference included in the member for Fremantle's motion. For that reason, and in terms of the law and order response, I am sure members opposite are happy with the phraseology and terminology used. I propose to include another term of reference which I hope will allay many of the concerns raised by members opposite in the past week. My amendment will make provision for the proposed committee to inquire into the provision of health, education and community support services to deal with the consumption of illicit drugs, particularly heroin. I now propose to move the amendment.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Ms McHale): Order! The member may not amend his own motion. He will need the support of one of his colleagues to do that.

Mr BAKER: When the motion is amended it should receive bipartisan support, because it will authorise the committee to deal with all the matters that have been canvassed in the debate to date.

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [11.51 am]: I support the motion and foreshadow amendments to it. It is essential that a select committee be set up to consider this very serious problem. As happens to every other member of Parliament, mothers and fathers come to my office because their children are being tempted into using drugs, particularly cannabis. The amount of cannabis that is used in the community is horrendous. Some members opposite said that they did not think cannabis was a serious drug. However, some young people in my area are so hooked on cannabis it is ruining their lives. They cannot work, go to school or do many other things. The amendment will allow the proposed select committee to consider the effects of drugs on families, and particularly on young people between the ages of 14 and 25 years. The effects of drugs on families are horrendous. It is not a question of only one person in a family having problems; if a young member of a family is using drugs, the whole family suffers.

I will inform the House of a case involving a young man in my community who, like most young people, was normal and healthy, and had a great love of sport. He was a good cricketer and got on well at school. However, from 1993 he seemed to have problems and is now a heroin user. It is a classic example of a young person beginning with cannabis, but then trying other drugs including amphetamines and speed, and eventually moving on to the more serious drug, heroin, which will kill him if he is not careful. The mother of the young man spent a lot of time with me recently. She gave me a diary of events going back to 1993. I would like to share with the House some of the comments in that diary so that members will know how serious the problem is. This young man is now 17 years old. He was a great cricketer and enjoyed sport just like many other young people. In 1994 when he was attending high school - I will not say which one, but it is a very good high school - he began getting into trouble. He started wagging school and lighting fires and there was general misbehaviour. He was also in trouble at home for stealing. He was staying away from home at night and had major behavioural problems. At the end of the year he was expelled from school because of those problems. He began counselling soon after, and it continued into 1995. In 1995 he commenced attending another high school and was made captain of the cricket team. Unfortunately, in a short time he was also expelled from that school because of the possession of cannabis.

Unfortunately, from that time cannabis took over his life. He got a job for a short period. He carried on with his cricket, which was good for him; he did very well in cricket. However, in 1996, he was forced to give up all his sporting activities because he had missed training sessions and games. He was caught stealing money and alcohol and was sniffing substances when nothing else was available.

In June of that year, he was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct, possession of a smoking implement, possession of a weapon, possession of a prohibited drug and resisting arrest. He then attended counselling at CY Mediation Services, after being referred there by the Joondalup Children's Court. Something that concerned the parents was that often when the young man was committing crimes to feed his habit, which was using cannabis and buying the various implements needed to smoke it unless it is rolled in a joint - I do not have a great deal of experience with cannabis; I have never seen it, let alone smoked it -

Ms Anwyl interjected.

Mr JOHNSON: I must be honest - I have never seen a cannabis joint and so do not know what one looks like, except what I have seen on television. This young man started his working life with a disadvantage, because he was already hooked on cannabis.

I return to the diary of events because they are important. He was sacked from his job due to his lack of motivation and continued absences. He continued counselling with his counsellor, but it did not do a lot of good. The juvenile justice team drew up a plan of action with the young man - I will call him David - who agreed to stop using marijuana for one month, to attend CY Mediation for three months within seven weeks, to ring his cricket coach in the hope

that by getting back into cricket he would be helped, and to give a verbal apology to his parents. None of these objectives was achieved, although David attended some sessions with his counsellor at CY Mediation Services. He spent some time at home but had nothing to do but steal from his parents. He stole many items from the parents' home and went on with his drinking and drug binges. In August of that year, he attended more counselling sessions which went on until October.

The next item in the diary is a very disturbing one because in December of that year, David came home drunk. He must have been more than drunk. The family felt that cannabis had taken a real hold on him, because that evening he killed the family dog. This young man really loved that dog and so there had to be something really wrong for him to kill the dog, which he did in quite a malicious way.

On the night that happened, the parents rang the police as he was violent and very emotional and the parents felt concerned for his safety. At the same time they feared for their own safety and that of their three other children. With his past performances in mind, they decided that he could no longer live with them. This was an extremely difficult time for the parents and it was a very hard decision for them to make. However, they felt they were unable to cope with the young man's behaviour any longer.

One of the officers who came to the home that night said that he would certainly lay charges against David. He suggested that the courts might decide to enforce a psychiatric evaluation. The parents felt at that time that it would be of great benefit and a good course of action for their son because it would certainly help him cope with his obvious problems. Unfortunately, they did not hear from the police for some time. David was placed in a youth accommodation home. He continued with some counselling and eventually was booked into the Perth City Mission. He went home for Christmas and to accompany his parents on a holiday to Donnelly River. In January 1997 he returned to the Perth City Mission. The parents feel that Perth City Mission has done a terrific job with young people who are consumed by drugs, in particular marijuana.

What disturbed the parents was that at that time he was paid over \$500 by the Department of Social Security, which was supposed to be used for board and lodging. Of course he used it for heroin. This was the first time that his parents established that he used heroin. He was introduced to heroin by a 15 year old girl - I repeat, a 15 year old girl - who was staying at the Perth City Mission. Unfortunately, since then the young man has used heroin a few times and continues to do so. It is obviously the slow road to destruction. While at the Perth City Mission he was arrested in Perth for buying alcohol and was issued a fine and warning by the Perth City Mission. Apparently it gives warnings if its young people misbehave themselves. Unfortunately, he was booked out of the Perth City Mission and moved to Bedford. He was placed on a rehabilitation program after bringing alcohol back to the house. It meant that he could ring the crisis care unit at 10.30 pm and someone would place him somewhere for the night, after first ringing his parents. In the morning he would be fed and given a Transperth pass and told to leave.

The woman from the crisis care unit rang the parents. When they refused to have David home for the night, she demanded to know why and informed them that they were responsible for their son. I accept that parents are responsible for their sons. However, when parents go to the police, to juvenile justice people and to counsellors in order to help young people with their drug problems, something must be done to treat those young people. Part of the amendment which my colleague has asked me to move will enable the committee to look into the treatment of some of the drug addicts, particularly the young people. Somebody told me recently that it is easier to get drugs in prison than on the streets of Perth. That probably is the case. Young people should not go to prison for some of their problems but to an establishment such as Graylands, which is a secure environment where they can be treated for their drug problems and gradually weaned off drugs. The only real way to get people off drugs is to have them go cold turkey. It has been proved in other countries that cold turkey is the only system that works. I am told that addicts can be on the methadone treatment for years and years and become addicted to methadone, which is probably just as bad. I suggest that the committee, when it is set up, look into some of these areas where young people can be treated for their addiction.

If young addicts get hooked on any of those drugs and have to steal, break into homes and rob people of their money so that they can feed their habit, and all they get is a suspended sentence or community work or perhaps go to prison in the normal sense, they should go to very secure units where they will not be able to get drugs. Certainly in some of the prisons they can get drugs. They should be in secure units where they can be treated for their addiction and be kept for a very long time.

As far as the main part of the motion is concerned, I support the move to stiffen the sentences for people pushing drugs. I gave a speech to this Chamber about two years ago in which I said that the Government should be spending more money on direct advertising to the people who commit crimes and who take drugs. We should be doing that. I do not believe sentences are tough enough. I would very much like to see sentences like those in Singapore for the Mr and Mrs Bigs who introduce illicit drugs into this country. I have long been an advocate of capital punishment for those sorts of people. Very often the big drug pushers are worse than somebody who commits a murder out of

rage for one reason or another; they are mass murderers - let us make no mistake about that. Very often the big drug pushers do not take drugs themselves. Many of the smaller drug pushers are merely users who have to push the drugs to feed their own habits. They should be taken out of circulation. The police should certainly be doing more than they are now. I hope that a no-tolerance policy against anybody pushing and using drugs would alleviate the problems we face at the moment. I hope that the select committee will look into those possibilities.

The diary of events of the family to whom I have been talking goes on for a long time. I will not take the time of the House by going into too much detail. I assure the House that they are quite horrendous to look at. I have four children, and as a parent I feel very strongly for this family and for any other family with a young child who is hooked on drugs.

Amendment to Motion

Mr JOHNSON: I move -

That paragraph (1) be deleted and the following paragraph substituted -

- (1)(a) That a select committee be appointed to inquire into and report upon the adequacy of the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act, 1989 and associated state or federal legislation (and their inter-relationships), in achieving the objective of the detection, investigation, prosecution and sentencing of illicit drug dealers or traffickers in Western Australia and in particular, without derogating from the above, the committee is to inquire into and report upon the efficacy of enacting or amending legislation so as to assist in attaining this objective; and
- (b) The provision of health, educational and community support services to deal with the consumption of illicit drugs, particularly heroin.

MR MCGINTY (Fremantle) [12.10 pm]: It is propitious that we are considering this matter on the same day that the Government has launched its drug strategy for the next two years entitled "Together Against Drugs". I attended the breakfast this morning where the Minister launched the Government's strategy. I came away with mixed thoughts about that launch. This motion is part of the move by this Parliament to deal with the crisis that is besetting our community. I came away with the feeling that what the Minister announced was in some respects a reasonable start to dealing with the problems. However, the more I thought about it, the more I thought that we should not be starting to deal with this problem at all; we should be coming to grips with the complexities and the detail of what is involved rather than thinking, "Right, we now have a drugs problem, where do we start?" That was the impression I gained from the Minister's briefing this morning.

I disagree with a couple of the matters that the Minister raised. It is a pity that in debating this motion today the Minister for Family and Children's Services, who is responsible for the Government's drug strategy, is not present in the House. I would like to ask the Minister a number of questions about that announcement this morning in order to extract exactly what it is that the Government is doing. One of those issues is funding.

This morning the Minister announced a multimillion dollar assault on the drugs issue, most of which is currently being spent within existing government departments. Apparently at the press conference following the breakfast this morning the Minister was forced to concede that only \$1m for each of the next two years was additional funding. Suddenly what started out as a \$24m strategy boiled down to an extra \$1m. To a large degree the measure of one's commitment and the sense of urgency and importance that one attaches to an issue is the extent to which one is prepared to put one's money where one's mouth is. If we are seeing a repackaging of existing government programs to make this appear more substantial than it is, the community will be very disappointed.

It is incumbent upon the Minister to explain where that \$1m will come from. If it is from a source such as the Lotteries Commission, we might find that the commitment from the Government is minimal. We might find that the Government has not put one extra cent into this proposal.

I am pleased that the Minister has now returned and we might be able to get answers to some of these questions. Is it true that the extra funding that was announced this morning and described initially as new funding of \$2m a year for the next two years, has now been modified to \$1m a year? If that is true, what is the source of that funding?

Mrs Parker: The drug strategy office will have a budget of about \$24m, of which \$4m is new funding over a two year period.

Mr MCGINTY: Where will that extra \$4m come from? Is it an additional allocation that has been approved by Cabinet? Is there any Lotteries Commission funding in that?

Mrs Parker: The funding of \$24m for the drug strategy office has been redirected from other agencies that were delivering those services to provide a coordinated focus. That is similar to the way that we fund the domestic violence prevention unit.

Mr McGINTY: Where did the new money come from? Was it allocated by Cabinet or did it appear in this year's Budget? Was it funding that was already allocated for other purposes that has now been redirected back into drugs from within existing departmental resources?

Mrs Parker: The moneys largely have been redirected and some new money was approved by Cabinet.

Mr Riebeling: How much?

Mrs Parker: There is \$4m new money in the package over two years.

Mr McGINTY: Did that come from the consolidated fund or from other funding agencies such as the Lotteries Commission?

Mrs Parker: There is \$24m for the drug strategy office. The Government spends a significant amount of money. The cost of drug abuse is about \$240m. The Health Department spends a lot. For example, the lion's share of the \$24m relates to the Alcohol and Drug Authority budget and that will go to the Health Department to support the new alcohol and drug unit.

Mr McGINTY: I understand that moneys spent within government generally on drug related matters will be channelled into this \$24m strategy. Where will the additional \$4m come from? Was it a part of this year's state Budget?

Mrs Parker: Additional allocations were approved by Cabinet.

Mr McGINTY: Is that in addition to the Budget that we passed last month? I am told that immediately following the Minister's press conference this morning she conceded that it was only \$1m a year, not \$2m a year. It would certainly be useful if the Minister would explain in some detail the funding arrangements, and from where the money is being taken.

The second impression that I had from the announcement this morning was that the proposal was very much a top down exercise by the Government rather than what is essential for a successful drug strategy; that is, to get onto the streets with people who are using these substances or are likely to be exposed to them or come under their influence. I make no criticism of the Governor in saying this; however, we should work on peer group pressure and strategies aimed at the bottom level of hierarchy rather than the Governor being the first person to take the pledge at this morning's breakfast, where he committed himself not to knowingly use any illicit drugs, not to smoke, and to consume alcohol only in moderation. I do not believe the Governor's involvement will impact on people who are currently heroin addicts on the streets. Although it is laudable that a number of prominent media and sporting personalities have also committed themselves to that pledge, the Government's approach relies more on public relations and gloss than on substance. A bottom up approach that puts the resources on the streets to influence conduct and to save lives, specifically in relation to heroin, would be a better expenditure of money than what was outlined this morning.

I welcome the expansion of the terms of reference for the drugs select committee, although I ask the mover of the motion to clarify his view of what the terms of reference will now be. Last week in this Parliament the Government voted down a motion moved by the Opposition to establish a select committee into heroin use. In essence, we were seeking the broadest possible inquiry into all matters relating to heroin use. It is incumbent on the mover of the motion to explain to the House whether the motion that was moved by me and rejected by the House last week contains anything the proposed select committee will not be able to inquire into. Does the member for Joondalup envisage that the select committee, which he will no doubt chair, will be able to inquire into all the matters that were the subject of the motion that was defeated in this House last week?

Mr Baker: It is a matter of looking at the phraseology used in the two terms of reference. You would argue that term of reference 1.2 is broad enough to incorporate any of the matters raised in your motion last week.

Mr McGINTY: I think that is right, but my question is more specific than that: Will it enable the select committee proposed by the member to inquire into all the matters that were the subject of a motion last week? For example, this amendment consists essentially of two parts: The first is the original proposition to have a select committee inquire into the enforcement of the Misuse of Drugs Act. That is clear and that was common ground between us.

Mr Baker: That has now been extended to include sentencing as well.

Mr McGINTY: I always presumed that was included, by implication at least. The member has moved to insert an additional term of reference; namely, the provision of health, education and community support services to deal with

the consumption of illicit drugs, particularly heroin. Will the select committee as it is proposed examine the relationship between dependence on heroin and the incidence of crime? I am not sure it will. I hope the Opposition is in a position to support the establishment of this committee. However, we must be reassured that its terms of reference will enable it to inquire into all the matters relating to illicit drugs, particularly heroin. I would not like to see certain issues excluded from the committee's terms of reference by oversight. The Opposition proposed in paragraph (1)(f) of its motion that the select committee examine the relationship between dependence on heroin and the incidence of crime. Is that something the member envisages could be examined by his select committee?

Mr Baker: I thought that would be relevant under sentencing in term of reference 1.1. It may be suggested that a convicted drug trafficker is a user himself or herself, and that is often raised in mitigation. That would indicate there is a nexus between dependence on heroin and the incidence of crime.

Mr McGINTY: I take it from what the member says that he adopts a broad view on the terms of reference he now proposes, although there are only two. If that broad view will enable all the matters that are listed in the motion that I moved in the House last week to be examined, I welcome the motion that has been moved. However, I again put the question to the member for Joondalup: Is there anything in the terms of reference of the motion I moved last week that he would see as not being able to be investigated by his select committee? From the response he has given so far, I presume the answer is that his select committee will be able to look into all those matters.

Mr Baker: The intention of the terms of reference is that the committee will inquire into all facets of the problem, ranging from law and order, health and education to community support services responses. I thought that because all those key words appeared in the terms of reference, they were broad enough to cover all the matters you would expect to be discussed on this issue.

Mr McGINTY: The Opposition supports the amendment before the House. It was important to get onto the public record that all the matters the Opposition urged last week be investigated can be investigated with the expanded terms of reference as moved by the member for Joondalup. On that basis we are happy to indicate our support.

The final question I put to the member for Joondalup relates to paragraph (3) of his motion that requires that the committee finally report on 20 November 1997. Does he regard that as a realistic target?

Mr Baker: It can be; it is a matter of all committee members acknowledging that we must come up with a quick response to this problem and acknowledging that if we must sit every day of the week during the winter recess, we will. It is important to have an early response to this problem and it is important that the recommendations be ready by 20 November this year. If that is not possible, we can extend the reporting date. We may decide to deal with term of reference 1.1, the law and order response, prior to 20 November so we can publish an interim report before the proposed deadline. I think it is possible to meet the deadline. I know it will involve a lot of work, but it is something the committee should aim for and not dismiss as being unrealistic at this stage.

Mr McGINTY: I sound a note of caution on that matter. The original terms of reference with their narrow focus on the enforcement of the Misuse of Drugs Act provided a sufficiently discrete issue that could have been investigated properly and disposed of in the relatively short time frame that is proposed. If the committee is to do justice to the range of issues that are to be the subject of the deliberations by that committee, I predict that at best an interim report will be produced by the completion date of 20 November 1997. The more substantive considerations will be ongoing beyond that date.

Mr Baker: That decision can be left to members of the committee. We will see how things develop. We should aim to have the recommendations available by 20 November this year. From my point of view, I do not think there is a need to travel overseas or interstate to address the matters raised in term of reference 1.1; however, 1.2 may be a different question. The committee should be able to publish a report on term of reference 1.1 in three months. I do not think that is being unrealistic. However, term of reference 1.2 could create some problems. We will leave the decision on any possible extension for the tabling of the recommendations to members of the committee. We should work towards an early completion date.

Mr McGINTY: This morning's announcement by the Government of its drugs strategy for the next two years and the establishment of this committee are two dimensions to the one issue that is before the Parliament. It was interesting that in launching the Together Against Drugs action plan on drug abuse this morning the Minister for Family and Children's Services focused on a range of initiatives, some of which were education to prevent drug abuse; health services and the health response to illicit drug use - I interpose particularly the heroin issue; community support services, which are specifically the subject of the amendment to the motion to establish the select committee; law enforcement; and community action. If the committee is rushed, it will not do justice to this complex issue. Most people associated with this area will be the first to say there is no quick fix and no obvious solution to the problem, particularly for the heroin use problem that is besetting us. For the committee to turn its mind properly to these

things, appreciating the drugs strategy that was announced this morning that will run for the next two years, it must achieve a bipartisan approach on a range of issues affecting drugs and illicit drug use in Western Australia. I hope members of the committee will take off their ideological blinkers.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Mr McGINTY: It is necessary to take off the ideological blinkers, and discard the prejudices and biases people may bring to this question. It is a difficult one, and I hope members of the committee will avoid using it as a purely political exercise. Many of the member for Joondalup's comments when moving the motion were reasonably constructive but, unfortunately, he could not resist taking the cheap political shot. I hoped he might have learnt from the Minister's attempt last week to cheapen the debate, when the Opposition moved for the establishment of a select committee to inquire into heroin use, that cheap political shots should not be made in a matter such as this, where two young people died last week, one in a state government institution. The blinkers should be off and we should deal with these issues with the seriousness and open-mindedness they deserve. Over the years the point has been made repeatedly in this Parliament that select committees have great capacity to put aside the adversarial aspect of politics and to work cooperatively with one mind. If people want to use it as a political point scoring exercise, the select committee system will be blown completely apart. I make the plea for people to put their minds to the question, bring different perspectives to bear and not rule out any options or possibility of achieving a bipartisan approach. Let us not put conditions on it, as the member for Joondalup sought to do. Instead, let us come up with something creative that will work for the people of Western Australia and, most importantly, stop the epidemic of deaths caused by heroin use in Western Australia.

MS ANWYL (Kalgoorlie) [12.33 pm]: Along with the member for Fremantle, I support the widening of the terms of reference for the select committee as it now stands although I also seek some clarification. I am concerned about the short time available in which to report, and about how far the various treatment options and provisions for community support can be investigated within that short time frame.

I am especially pleased the Government is finally able to discuss this issue. Opposition members have been waiting quite some time for constructive discussion. I refer to the debate last Wednesday when it was particularly galling that the Government was unable to provide a firm response to the motion put forward by the Opposition. I note a launch was held this morning of the policy against drugs, with the usual set of glossy brochures, and that a notebook and other items were available as part of that launch. Some constructive discussion could have taken place during the past few weeks prior to the launch of that policy, had the Government been prepared to engage in such discussion. It is yet to be seen how the reshuffle of the existing Alcohol and Drug Authority will increase the services available to support drug users and their families.

Two issues arise from the statement by the member for Joondalup this morning. First, the Government seems to have changed its position and to have done a backflip about broadening the terms of the inquiry. Second, it is clear the Government will continue to try to politicise this important issue. The position of either party on decriminalisation of marijuana is not the key issue, but a substantial part of the member for Joondalup's speech revolved around that. This Parliament should be motivated by the need to introduce measures to curb the current rash of heroin deaths and the obvious ready availability of that drug on the streets. The motivating factor should be the number of deaths occurring. From digesting the variety of statements by experts reported in the Press over the last month or so, it seems that criminal sanctions and penalties alone are not the solution. It is very clear that the criminal justice system forms an important part of the fight against the use of illicit drugs generally, but at no time can it be seen as a solution.

I refer briefly to an article in *The West Australian* of 28 May, and the statement by Brian Wooler, Western Australian President of the Australian Association of Social Workers, that punishment does not work. He said, "What works is when society decides to make an investment in people." He estimated that 40 per cent of social welfare cases in the corrective services field involve the use of heroin. It is an alarming statistic, and we have been advised by senior police that they estimate up to 80 per cent of property related crimes dealt with through the courts have some relationship to drug use, and that includes alcohol abuse. The wording of the motion for the establishment of the select committee makes no reference to the relationship between drug use and crime. That relationship certainly impacts heavily on the community because so many people are victims of violent and property related crime, but in the motion no endeavour is made to deal with that issue as it stands.

The Government seems to have changed its position on this whole issue, and on the need to examine support facilities and various treatment options available to drug users and their families. Last week the Government was not prepared to say why it would not support the motion put forward by the member for Fremantle to examine a wide ranging proposal for tackling the use of heroin. No cogent answer was forthcoming from the Minister with responsibility for this area, and at that time members on this side of the House were frustrated by the inability of the Government to articulate the reason for its opposition to a wide ranging inquiry. I am not sure why the Government has changed its

position this week. Cynically, one might wonder whether it was in part as a result of the front page article in *The West Australian* on the Thursday following that debate, reporting on the tragic death of a young person who had just been released from the care of the Ministry of Justice.

Another very important point which finally seems to have been driven home to the Government, is that we are not talking about drug use by a stereotypical teenage street kid. With the rash of deaths that have occurred, it is coming home to the community that it involves a wide range of people. Certainly, the very brave stance by a number of parents whose children have been killed by this drug, in coming forward and speaking publicly about their children and the difficulties faced by them, has led to greater appreciation in the community of the nature of drug use generally. It does not mean that something is wrong with the family. Many caring parents are totally at their wits end in trying to deal with this problem.

I welcome the Government's having articulated its position more clearly. I made the point in the debate last week that we are at an unprecedented stage in this country's history in the need to review our approach to drug control and drug use. Five state Directors of Public Prosecution are calling on the Prime Minister to hold a summit on this issue. I note that the Premier has now added his voice to those calls for a national drug summit.

It seems to me the Premier's call was asking the Prime Minister to hold a summit which would in part examine some of the issues this Parliament is failing to address. Notwithstanding the broadening of the terms of reference of the proposed select committee, the Premier's position seems to be slightly contradictory. He is calling for a national inquiry but is refusing to set up the state inquiry sought by the Opposition.

During the debate last week the Minister asked what was the Labor Party's position on whether drugs were harmful. The Opposition made it clear that it supports that position. The Minister asked about our position on harm reduction. The Labor Party also supports the notion of harm reduction. It is all a question of degree and, as we hear, everything is relative. On the one hand the Government's non-endorsement of the proposed ACT trials is clear. On the other hand, steps are being taken to minimise harm from intravenous drug use by, for example, the provision of Fitpacks, which involves the promotion of the safe use of syringes and their ready availability.

Recent statistics from the hospital in my electorate of Kalgoorlie indicated that 600 Fitpacks - free needles - are distributed each month, between 8.00 pm and 8.00 am. I make that point because although the Government's prohibition stance has been made very clear, it is a fact that certain steps are taken from a health perspective to ensure that those who choose to use drugs, can do so safely. The Government's preparedness to intervene to ensure that happens is a question of degree. I hope the committee is able to make some recommendations on those issues.

On that point and the Government's endorsement of the prohibition model, I was extremely pleased to see that the Governor has a proactive and forward thinking view on this. I understand he has now publicly endorsed the concept of provision of heroin to selected addicts. I see the Minister shaking her head. I am relying on the media report in today's *The West Australian*; that is how he was reported.

Mrs Parker: He qualified that position this morning at the launch of the Government's strategy.

Ms ANWYL: Unfortunately I was not at the launch because I was not invited.

Ms MacTiernan: You are the shadow Minister for Youth and you were not invited?

Ms ANWYL: No. I raised the issue of interrelationship between crime and drug use. I do not know whether that can be clarified later during this debate.

The current issue is the ready availability of heroin on our streets. The widening of the motion to include the word detection is a valuable move.

Mr Baker: To spell it out we included the word "investigation".

Ms ANWYL: By "investigation" I assume the member for Joondalup means in the lead-up to apprehending people?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr Sweetman): Order! Apart from the fact there is too much noise in the House and the member for Kalgoorlie cannot be heard properly, a general dialogue is taking place and Hansard is having difficulty recording the debate. It would help Hansard if members formalised their remarks through the Chair.

Ms ANWYL: The Opposition welcomes anything that broadens what was previously a very narrow focus by that aspect of the motion.

The real issue in law enforcement is not whether our penalties are adequate. I do not know how many members have examined the Misuse of Drugs Act; it provides for penalties of about 25 years' imprisonment. I would have no problem with penalties of 30 or 50 years' imprisonment. However, the reality is we are not catching the people who

are pushing drugs in Western Australia. We must review our detection and investigation processes and work out why we are not catching those criminals. Although the Government continually accuses the Opposition of being soft on drugs, it can be said that the Government is soft on the black market and on organised crime on this issue.

Certainly the revelations raised recently in the context of our Police Service lead to some concerns about the exact nature of organised crime and corruption in this State. The Government has yet to present a cogent response to those real concerns that are continually raised and which, as a lawyer who has practised for many years, I know are common knowledge among those who work in the criminal justice system. I am talking about protection of people dealing in drugs.

The urgent problem is the rash of deaths from the use of heroin, and the key issue in the short term is to take steps to lessen its use and the risk associated with that use. It is essential a real effort be made to look to the people working in the field who have the hands-on experience with drug users and to peak organisations such as the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia.

That organisation released a statement yesterday in which it asked why Narcan could not be made more readily available. Although the Government will ensure from next month that it will be available to ambulance officers, YACWA asked why it could not be made available in other places, given it is such an immediate and effective antidote to heroin overdose. The Youth Affairs Council referred to the need for education and support and the need to make education culturally appropriate; that is, to make it available and accessible to those most likely to be in need of it; and the need to provide further appropriate support mechanisms for parents, family and significant others.

Debate adjourned until a later stage of the sitting, on motion by Ms MacTiernan.

[Continued on page 4692.]

STATEMENT - MEMBER FOR MITCHELL

Royal Agricultural Society of WA (Inc) - Show Bags Retailers

MR BARRON-SULLIVAN (Mitchell) [12.50 pm]: I was approached some weeks ago by a Western Australian business owner, Mr Colin Brooks of Australind, who for several years has run show bag stalls at the Perth Royal Show. The Royal Agricultural Society of WA (Inc) has refused permission for Mr Brooks to run his business at this year's show. Mr Brooks is the last truly Western Australian show bag retailer, and I was absolutely amazed that the Royal Agricultural Society could kick him off his sites and reallocate them to an Eastern States company instead. I regret to inform the House that the society has refused a number of requests to reconsider its decision. To add insult to injury, I found out last week that Mr Brooks' old showground sites are currently being advertised for rental in the Eastern States.

The Perth Royal Show should be a proudly Western Australian event, showcasing Western Australian agriculture, Western Australian products and Western Australian businesses. Surely the Royal Agricultural Society has an obligation to support local business operators, such as Mr Brooks who also provides services to the various country shows across our State, unlike his Eastern States counterparts.

Mr Brooks has asked why a dedicated Western Australian businessman is being treated like a second-class citizen in his own State. Unfortunately to this day the Royal Agricultural Society has been unable to provide anything like a satisfactory answer.

STATEMENT - MEMBER FOR WILLAGEE

Incontinence Pads - Subsidy

MR CARPENTER (Willagee) [12.52 pm]: The Fremantle Hospital has ended its subsidies for people purchasing incontinence pads from that institution. This is causing a great deal of distress and financial difficulty, especially for elderly people in my electorate who have been benefiting from that subsidy. This subsidy was removed some time ago, but people who have purchased incontinence pads in advance for several months are still being affected by this decision. I understand that at least another 30 people have yet to be notified by the hospital of the changes which will affect them.

The financial impact is quite profound. From the subsidised cost of about \$15 per month, some people now find that they must pay up to \$130 a month. We must remember that invariably these people are senior citizens on pensions or small fixed incomes. The Commonwealth provides a subsidy for incontinence pads for people between the ages of 16 and 65. Inexplicably it cuts out at an age when people are getting towards a stage of life when they are most likely to need help in this area. This matter has been raised in this House by way of a question, in response to which we were told that the Government was looking at the matter and the Minister for Seniors would take it up with the

Minister for Health. In view of the problems that are being visited upon people who are in this category, I urge the Minister for Health and the Minister for Seniors to get on with it.

STATEMENT - MEMBER FOR VASSE

Natural Heritage Trust

MR MASTERS (Vasse) [12.54 pm]: On two previous occasions in this place I have advised members that I have some serious doubts about the efficiency with which money from the Natural Heritage Trust is directed towards the community. On 20 June I received a series of publications from Environment Australia, the Commonwealth Government body that is partly involved in the Natural Heritage Trust process. Shortly members will understand why I have even somewhat less trust in the process.

I was sent a calendar of environmentally significant dates throughout this year. Unfortunately the calendar arrived on 20 June, so half of it was absolutely useless before it had even arrived. The second item I received - I will hold it up so members can see it for themselves - is a poster promoting World Environment Day 1997. It is a nice poster, but there is only one problem - it does not give the date. People must look at the calendar to find out that World Environment Day was 5 June. This poster arrived 15 days after World Environment Day.

Finally, members will note a lovely little green plant floating on the water. I regret to advise Environment Australia that it is salvinia, which is a declared noxious weed in most countries. Again, members will understand why I have my doubts that Environment Australia will get the Natural Heritage Trust right, because even with 25 years' notice it could not get this right.

STATEMENT - MEMBER FOR BASSENDEAN

Community Centre, Lockridge

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [12.56 pm]: On a number of occasions I have requested the Government to give consideration to providing funding for a community centre at Lockridge. I have done that over a number of years and to date all the requests and submissions I have made have fallen on deaf ears. What particularly annoys me is that enormous amounts of money have been spent in Liberal Party marginal electorates in that time rather than in my electorate, particularly Lockridge. We are seeing a continuation of that, not only in community funding but also in school improvements and other areas.

A good example of that involves Noranda Primary School and East Beechboro Primary School. Both were built at the same time, both have the same asbestos roofs, and both have been exposed to the air and the elements for the same period. Noranda Primary School's asbestos roof has been replaced. However, the parents' and citizens' group at East Beechboro Primary School have been told that the department does not know when their school's roof will be replaced - it could be in the next five years. There is no difference between the schools except that Noranda Primary School is now in the marginal electorate of Ballajura and East Beechboro Primary School, which was in my electorate, is now in the safe Liberal Party electorate of Swan Hills. It is time the Government started putting its money where the need is rather than where it is politically opportune.

STATEMENT - MEMBER FOR DAWESVILLE

Mandurah Hospital

MR MARSHALL (Dawesville - Parliamentary Secretary) [12.57 pm]: I congratulate the Minister for Health, Hon Kevin Prince, for ensuring the new Mandurah hospital will at last become a reality. Last week's signing of the 20 year service agreement with Health Solutions (WA) Pty Ltd to operate the new Peel health campus stopped all the concern about whether a new hospital would be operating in 1998. The finalisation of this contract follows lengthy and complex negotiations. However, the end result is that the provision of public and private health services by a private operator will give more choice to the people of Mandurah.

The State Government will own the health campus site and building, and Peel region residents can look forward to a state of the art facility that will provide the very best of health services. The new hospital will be three times larger than the existing complex and will provide many more medical services; for example, a creche, a 20 place day hospital, inpatient rehabilitation services, two alternative birthing suites and additional community health services.

Over the past four years, our Mandurah hospital has been used as a political football. I hope the game is now over. This hospital is the culmination of work by former Health Ministers Hon Peter Foss and Hon Graham Kierath, as well as the current Minister, Hon Kevin Prince. I congratulate them all for their vision and commitment to ensuring this project is now a reality, not just a dream.

STATEMENT - MEMBER FOR NOLLAMARA

Western Power Meter Readers

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [12.58 pm]: I wish to express my concern that the Government's industrial relations policies and legislation are allowing bullyboy tactics to become more popular and common in Western Australia. When those bullyboy tactics are used by a government department, that concern is heightened.

Western Power is moving to increase the productivity of its meter readers without entering into a proper process whereby the workers might gain some benefit. Mr Allen Patton called the readers together a couple of weeks ago and explained to them that they must reduce their costs from 64¢ per meter to 45¢ per meter or better or their jobs would be taken over by contractors. They were given a statement of intent to sign and then were called in individually and heaved about how they would achieve productivity improvements.

The meter reading section has 30 permanent employees and 55 short term contract employees who have been working on a temporary basis for two to three years. When the union has tried to get access to those employees it has been denied or allowed in when they have been sent elsewhere. There is a clear threat hanging over those workers that they will not maintain their jobs if they seek the support of the union. They have been pressured to move to a new work arrangement that will be implemented almost immediately. That is totally improper and does not give those workers the chance to uphold their rights in the workplace.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

[Questions without notice taken.]

BILLS (3) - ASSENT

Message from the Governor received and read notifying assent to the following Bills -

1. Treasurer's Advance Authorization Bill.
2. Revenue Laws Amendment (Taxation) Bill.
3. Revenue Laws Amendment (Assessment) Bill.

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 1)

Returned

Bill returned from the Council without amendment.

MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST - KINGSTREAM PROJECT

Epic Energy - Collusion with AlintaGas

THE SPEAKER (Mr Strickland): Today I received within the prescribed time a letter from the Leader of the Opposition in the following terms -

Pursuant to Standing Order 82A I propose that the following matter of public interest be submitted to the House for discussion today.

That this House condemns the Minister for Energy for permitting AlintaGas to act, in collusion with Epic Energy, in an anti-competitive manner to secure the contract to supply the Kingstream project with gas, precluding the possibility of a second pipeline from the Pilbara to the south west under separate ownership to the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline in the near future and thereby evading the introduction of a competitive gas transmission industry in Western Australia.

The matter appears to be in order. If sufficient members agree to this motion, I will allow it.

[At least five members rose in their places.]

The SPEAKER: The matter shall proceed on the usual basis, with half an hour allocated to members on my left, half an hour to members on my right, and five minutes in total to the Independent members, should they seek the call.

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [2.39 pm]: I move the motion.

Major issues in the gas transmission business face the Government of Western Australia today. The specific response that the Government and its agencies make to the Kingstream Resources NL process will have a very significant influence on the overall outcome. Two things must occur when we consider the future of our gas transmission

business in Western Australia today: Firstly, adequate capacity must be available to allow gas to come to the south west of the State; in other words, the technical and physical aspects of the issue. The pipeline capacity must be available to bring the gas from the north west to the south west of the State where it can be put to effective use. Development along the way must also be encouraged. The second and most important issue that we should debate on the gas transmission policy is that that pipeline capacity, however created, is operated in an open and competitive way. We believe that we have yet to get maximum potential out of the pipeline asset as gas suppliers compete for the market. We have seen in other jurisdictions the extent to which competition within pipelines has produced significant results in economic development. We also want to have non-discriminatory tariff policies operating so that if a tariff is offered to somebody, it is offered to somebody else on the same terms and conditions. The asset should not be used for the benefit of some, without that benefit transferring to others.

The way we handle the Kingstream project will be vital in maximising the potential benefit by increasing the capacity of our system and making sure that there is competition. There is a lot of consternation in the community currently about the way this issue is emerging in the Western Australian economy. The Opposition will argue that the AlintaGas-Epic Energy deal is subject to criticism, and it will also have a major impact on the future ability of our State to maximise return from its natural assets, because of what it precludes. The argument we will put to the Parliament today is twofold: This deal itself should be criticised and it should be criticised for what it precludes. We are dealing not only with the costs of the deal, but also with the opportunity costs of the deal.

The deal goes something like this - the Minister can correct me if I get it wrong: The deal is between Epic, previously Tenaco, and AlintaGas. There is an associated deal between Epic and Kingstream to enable gas to be supplied to the proposed iron and steel project. The deal we are focusing on today is that which involves a State Government agency, AlintaGas, and a private pipeline operator, Epic. Epic will pay for an expansion of the existing pipeline and is given some capacity to transmit gas in exchange for that commitment. I understand the pipeline will remain in the ownership of AlintaGas.

What do we know about this deal? We know three things. Firstly, the Epic-Kingstream contract is very favourable to Kingstream; in other words, the gas price it has been able to secure is extremely favourable for its project. Perhaps the Minister could indicate to the House whether such a price would be available to any other potential users of gas in the Geraldton region. For example, should another organisation make a request to build another power station in that area, would the same price be available to it? Secondly, Epic is making profits out of this deal; it is a commercial operation and would make profits out of any ventures into which it enters. Thirdly - this is the part of the deal about which we are concerned - little evidence is available to us that AlintaGas will make any profits out of this deal. The Chief Executive of AlintaGas has been very cagey on what are the commercial implications of this deal for the Government agency he runs, AlintaGas.

Why were other players in the gas business not given the right to compete for this capacity expansion and through that capacity expansion to submit bids to Kingstream? AlintaGas entered into an arrangement with Epic and that arrangement has become the basis of the Epic-Kingstream contract. Why were other pipeline operators not entitled to put a bid into AlintaGas to do the same thing Epic is doing? How can we know that this arrangement is the most efficient that could have been devised? There has been no competition for that capacity. How will we ever know that we have the best result for the Western Australian taxpayers through their agency, AlintaGas?

Does that deal contravene the principles that have been developed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission? That is a very important question, because the Minister was quoted in the newspaper some time ago as saying that he felt there were concerns about the Epic-AlintaGas deal on the grounds that it would contravene competitive principles. An article in *The West Australian* of 13 June states -

Mr Barnett said several months ago that the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission may insist that the right to be AlintaGas' partner be opened to tender.

Why did the Government not insist on a proper tender process to access that capacity? We have real concerns about that issue. It has been revealed in the public arena that the Treasury Department is concerned about other aspects of this deal. It is about time the Minister informed the Parliament whether AlintaGas is subject to any further obligations for its commitments to Epic and/or Kingstream. Treasury is obviously concerned that AlintaGas has made an arrangement with Kingstream that should it need another 170 terrajoules for the second part of the expansion of the project, AlintaGas is required to deliver that gas under certain terms and conditions which would place obligations on the State in the future. It is about time the Minister came clean about not only the contract between AlintaGas and Epic, but also the future obligations of AlintaGas on behalf of the taxpayers of Western Australia should Kingstream require more gas for the project. What terms and conditions apply to that second tranche of gas, and what does that mean to Western Australians down the track?

I have commenced the Opposition's argument by referring to the issues relating to the Epic-AlintaGas deal. As I said, it is our view that an opportunity cost is also involved in this development, but I will allow the member for Cockburn to expand on that argument.

MR THOMAS (Cockburn) [2.50 pm]: The opportunity cost of the decisions made at this stage is to defer for the foreseeable or medium term future the possibility of establishing a competitive gas transmission industry in Western Australia. The Minister should understand that and the implications must be understood, because they are profound for the economic development of this State. How is this the case? Four years ago, a number of us trudged down to the Parmelia Hilton and heard the Minister make a speech heralding the transformation of the energy industry in Western Australia. He spoke of the break up of the utilities, which would now compete with each other and other energy suppliers. Both utilities would be obliged to become common carriers.

Mr Barnett: You said at the time that AlintaGas would not be able to trade profitably.

Mr THOMAS: I did not; I suggest the Minister check *Hansard*.

Mr Barnett interjected.

Mr THOMAS: Because there is an obligation on them to trade profitably, but this arrangement will not contribute to that.

On the same occasion, the Minister announced the disaggregation of the North West Shelf gas sales agreement and the establishment of a competitive gas industry in Western Australia. In the past couple of weeks, we have seen the reversal of a very promising turn of events in the development of the energy industry of this State. We have seen what could be described as "WA Inc-like" policies being propounded by this Minister. We have also seen a government agency acting anti-competitively in collusion with a private company and in a manner which might well be contrary to the law but which is certainly contrary to proper practice and the notion of a competitive gas transmission industry.

That industry is critically important to this State. Because of the distances involved, the transmission cost of gas is a larger component of the delivered cost in this State than it is in most other States, which are, in large part, our competitors. The establishment of a competitive gas transmission industry in this State is most desirable to bring down the cost of gas.

This week the Press has carried leaked information from AlintaGas. It is a reflection of the way in which this Minister conducts his portfolio that most of the information coming into the public arena comes by way of leaks rather than ministerial statements.

Mr Barnett: I take objection to that.

Mr THOMAS: The Minister might well take objection to that, but it is the truth. The Opposition did not know until it was published in *The West Australian* as a result of a leak that active strategic decisions were being made by AlintaGas to preclude the possibility of a second pipeline and a competitive gas transmission industry in this State. That is a very significant point. Not only did we not know that was the case, but also it confirmed -

Mr Barnett: You accused me of in some way leaking material to the media.

Dr Gallop: He did not.

Mr Barnett: I do not do that; I do not need to.

Mr THOMAS: My time is limited and I do not wish to put up with this. I suggest that the Minister wash out his ears or refer to *Hansard*. I said that the information comes by way of leaks.

Mr Barnett: Then you attacked me.

Mr THOMAS: I attacked the Minister because we must find out this information by way of leak rather than by his being open and accountable.

The Minister has certain statutory obligations under the Gas Corporation Act to be accountable. The principal obligation is to table a statement of corporate intent in this House before the beginning of the financial year to which that statement of corporate intent relates. This is the last day this Parliament will sit this financial year and a statement of corporate intent relating to AlintaGas for the next 12 months should have been tabled. That is stated in the legislation and the Minister's second reading speech as the principal accountability measure for that corporation to this Parliament and, through this place, to the public of Western Australia. This is the third year in a row that the Minister has not complied.

Mr Barnett: It is 26 June today.

Mr THOMAS: I do not think the Parliament will sit again before the end of the financial year. Perhaps the Minister, as Leader of the House, can advise me about that.

Mr Barnett: It is not 30 June; the requirement is that it be tabled by 30 June.

Mr THOMAS: It is required to be tabled and the Minister has not complied.

This has been a rigged race and this Minister has been a party to that rigging. The Iron and Steel (Mid West) Agreement Bill contains a guarantee that certain information will be made available to AlintaGas and its position in a competitive process will be protected. On the face of it, that is fair enough. Nonetheless, it should have no particular advantage over anyone else. That is the point. Because AlintaGas already has a pipeline going past Geraldton it is able to offer the facility to add incrementally to that capacity and to provide gas transmission facilities cheaper than a company setting up on a greenfields basis.

Mr Barnett: That is the nature of competition. This is unbelievable.

Mr THOMAS: That is the nature of competition, but it should also compete with companies building a pipeline to Perth that can gain the economies of scale in the same way. The other company seeking this business wanted to build a pipeline to the south west. It would then have been able to service the Kingstream Resources contract as part of an overall pipeline service in the south west and would have enjoyed the same economies of scale as the AlintaGas-Epic group is able to enjoy and undercut those propositions.

This Minister deliberately rigged the race, or AlintaGas prevailed upon him to rig the race, so that others are not able to compete fairly.

Withdrawal of Remark

Mr BARNETT: I know I have the opportunity to respond, and I intend to do so. The member for Cockburn has, in his words, accused me of deliberately rigging the race. He is talking about a complex matter, but he is also implying corrupt behaviour on my part. That is untrue and it should be withdrawn.

Mr KOBELKE: The point of order indicates that some corruption is involved. If it is, it has been brought into the debate by the Minister; the member for Cockburn made no such mention of corruption. He was talking about a race being rigged, and there is ample evidence of that. He was not using language that in any sense could be said to be unparliamentary. The idea of corruption is in the Minister's mind and was not referred to by the member for Cockburn.

Mr THOMAS: The Minister seems to be unduly sensitive. As my colleague has just said, the word "corruption" was introduced by the Minister. Corruption implies a payoff or return to the person involved. I certainly believe, and I will demonstrate, that the Minister did rig this race. That is highly improper. I alleged that that is the case, but I did not suggest, nor do I think -

Mr Barnett: I hope you say it outside this Parliament.

Mr THOMAS: I will walk outside now and say it. I did not suggest, nor do I believe, that the Minister is receiving any payoff; therefore, corruption does not arise.

Mr GRILL: In the context of this debate, the words "rig the race" are fair. It would unnecessarily truncate this debate if those words were ruled out of order. A substantive issue is being debated. The words "the race was rigged" are part of that, and they should not be withdrawn. Imputations of corruption are another matter altogether, and they have not been made.

The SPEAKER: When the words were being used, there was no implication of corruption. However, the Minister believes that he has been impugned and he is entitled to request that the words be withdrawn. Having looked at the notice of motion, which does not refer to people rigging races and so on, I see that many words could be debated. There is no point of order. However, I ask the member for Cockburn to withdraw those words and continue with the debate. If his contribution ventures into those areas we will all listen.

Mr THOMAS: I withdraw those words.

Debate Resumed

Mr THOMAS: I assert that the Minister contrived the situation so that a particular outcome could be achieved or that he acquiesced to it. How did it occur? I refer to *Hansard* of Tuesday, 27 May when the Minister sat back, much as he is sitting back now. When the suggestion was made that people had put in an application for a licence for the

second pipeline between the Pilbara and the south west of the State to carry gas, he said, "An application has been put in and I have done nothing about it."

Mr Barnett: Meaning that I had done nothing to prevent the normal process.

Mr THOMAS: "I have done nothing about it."

Mr Barnett: The application was not to me.

Mr THOMAS: The Minister must approve a licence for a pipeline under the Petroleum Pipelines Act. The Minister said publicly that he and the Government would not entertain an application for a licence until some years down the track. It means that anybody who was seeking to supply the Kingstream contract could not enjoy the economies of scale which would go with servicing that as part of a larger pipeline service in the south west of the State, unless they did so in collusion with AlintaGas. It means that the lowest price would be able to be offered by those associates of AlintaGas and they would continue to protect their monopoly of the transmission of gas to the south west of the State. We need to understand what that means. It means that the largest contract in the offing in the foreseeable future of 170 terrajoules a day has been sewn up. Anybody who is contemplating building a pipeline to service the south west of the State from the Pilbara will not be able to secure that contract. That is a very significant impediment to the possibility of a second pipeline to service the south west of the State.

The Minister announced some three or four weeks ago, although he has subsequently fudged the issue of the dates, that the Government will accept applications for pipeline licences on or about the year 2000. As I have said, he was equivocal about the dates. My predictions on this matter during the past two or three years have turned out to be correct in most respects. I predict that if the Kingstream project goes ahead and the contract is sewn up, it will make it very difficult, if not impossible, to have a second pipeline to service the south of the State within the time scale which the Minister's announcement foreshadowed.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Minister for Energy) [3.04 pm]: These are important issues. This is probably the fourth or fifth time that we have debated them along similar lines. I will take a few minutes to provide again a brief history for the benefit of members who are not familiar with pipelines and their history in this State. The Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline was commissioned and built and started operations in 1984. It was part of a state government commitment to the development of the North West Shelf project and the provision of natural gas for Perth and for industry in the south west. People need to understand that when the North West Shelf project was developed, the \$12m investment was huge for its time. It was a risk investment operating in very deep sea by the standards of the day. It was a remote gas source and remote from the market.

Mr Grill: Who took the risk?

Mr BARNETT: A number of people took the risk.

Mr Grill: The people of Western Australia took the risk.

Mr BARNETT: Will the member speak later?

Mr Grill: Yes.

Mr BARNETT: Good, I will wait. The North West Shelf joint venturers took the risk with capital investment for the development of the offshore facilities. The State Government through its then agency, the State Energy Commission of Western Australia, also took risks. It took risks in two principal forms: First, it built a pipeline for some \$1.1b, which was initially designed to carry 370 terrajoules of gas. It was built way beyond its capacity for the time and operated at significant losses for many years. It underpinned capacity growth for the future. Second, the State entered into a long term, 20 year take-or-pay contract for 393 terrajoules of gas, which represented about \$300m worth of gas a year. The State entered into those risks and obligations. They were good decisions that the other side of politics has continually criticised.

Several members interjected.

Mr BARNETT: The member really cannot be taken seriously.

Mr Kobelke: You can't take the truth; that's the trouble.

Mr BARNETT: I will address my remarks to you, Mr Speaker, because I find you far more receptive to intelligent comment.

Mr Kobelke: You get scared easily, don't you?

Mr BARNETT: Come on! The North West Shelf joint venturers undertook the risk investment of the development of the \$12b project. Because of the nature of the supply and the commitments that the State undertook, they also undertook unique extra expenditure. For example, they must duplicate the domestic gas plant on the Burrup peninsula. They built twice the facilities they needed simply to provide for security of supply and a back up facility. Everyone shared risks at that time.

Mr Thomas interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order!

Mr BARNETT: I am two minutes into my speech.

Mr Thomas interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! The member for Cockburn will come to order.

Mr BARNETT: That was the history of the project, which has operated very successfully. In 1994, as the member for Cockburn noted, the contracts for the North West Shelf were disaggregated. We had a very monopolised position in Western Australia. We had one big gas producer selling to one government agency, then SECWA on-selling principally to Alcoa and other smaller customers. The breaking up of that contract depended on mutual agreement. Why would the North West Shelf joint venturers tear up a contract with a lifetime value of some \$9b into discrete contracts and expose themselves to risk and give up their protected position?

Mr Thomas: Do you say that you gave undertakings to them?

Mr BARNETT: The member has made his speech.

Mr Thomas: I am asking you a question.

Mr BARNETT: I will make my speech.

The SPEAKER: Order! Member for Cockburn, the member on his feet is seeking some protection from the Chair to put a fairly complex argument. I have allowed interjections three times. I will not allow any more. If the Minister does not want to accept the interjection, that is his right.

Mr BARNETT: The process of deregulation and breaking up those contracts could take place only with goodwill in a very complex and large commercial arrangement involving a number of Australian, Japanese, American and British companies. It took a year to renegotiate. Through that process of breaking up and deregulating the same thing was repeated in reverse; it was a matter of sharing and allocating risks amongst the various partners. I want to make this point: The North West Shelf joint venturers in agreeing to tear up their contract agreed to disaggregation and to expose to risk themselves and their investment, which to that point had not performed that well. To their great credit, they could see the opportunity and that the market would grow and that they and others would share in it. The State took on risks. We honoured and maintained the supply of 393 terrajoules under the take-or-pay contract. We did not walk away from that. When the Opposition was in government it wanted to walk away from that. We keep to a deal. We honoured that contract to the letter.

Mr Thomas interjected.

Mr BARNETT: When David Parker was Minister he tried to walk away from that commitment.

Mr Thomas: That is a lie.

The SPEAKER: Member for Cockburn, you are getting very close to it. I will not ask you to withdraw because you have not impugned another member in this place. I just caution you.

Mr BARNETT: The State honoured and maintained the take-or-pay contract. We distributed it between AlintaGas and Western Power, as they were created as new entities. The State also took on board \$300m worth of gas which had been paid for but not delivered. If that gas is not consumed and sold to the public and industry, the State in the form of you and I, the taxpayers, will forfeit that in 2002. We must be very conscious of that. As part of everyone agreeing to the disaggregation process it was agreed that we have immediate deregulation in the Pilbara. Prices fell 50 per cent overnight, which has spawned all the investment taking place there. We had an agreement that there would be a phased deregulation through to January 2000; otherwise there would be no new contracts or deregulation. It would not matter what the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission says or does, there would have been no deregulation in Western Australia until the year 2005. That is the reality.

Mr Thomas: Do you know that every one of the joint venture partners denies that any undertaking or understanding was reached with you or that there was any understanding which would preclude a new pipeline coming in immediately?

Mr BARNETT: If that is the member's view, I suggest he invite them to state it publicly.

Mr Thomas: Those are the views of the chief executive officers of the joint venturers. In some cases they were involved in the negotiations. They deny that any undertakings were sought or expected from you. They would welcome a second pipeline.

Mr BARNETT: I suggest, if that is the view of the member for Cockburn, that he invite them to say that publicly.

Mr Thomas: That is the view of the CEOs of the joint venture partners, and in some cases the people who were involved in the negotiations. They deny that any undertakings were sought or expected from the Minister and they would welcome a second pipeline.

Mr BARNETT: I will take the member for Cockburn seriously when one of those joint venture partners makes that comment to me. None has said that to me. I was at the meeting in Melbourne with the joint venture partners.

Mr Thomas: I was at a meeting with them last week and they said it was not so. It was a fancy.

Mr BARNETT: That was the nature of the agreement for disaggregation. At the same time that the State made the decision to sell the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline - an asset belonging to all the taxpayers and energy consumers in this State - two complications arose. A good complication was the Kingstream project near Geraldton, which required a large discrete load of gas. We also had interest from overseas parties such as CMS Pacific Ltd, PGT Australia Pty Ltd, and AGL Pipelines (WA) Pty Ltd about wanting to supply Kingstream and to build wider pipelines.

The State has a number of interests at heart, not only its interest as the owner of pipeline, but also the public interest of the various participants. The first issue is that the State would like to get a good price for the pipeline. Why have a fire sale? Why not maximise the return and at least recover sufficient funds to repay \$955m of outstanding debt on that pipeline? We are not about selling off the thing cheaply. I am horrified when people advocate that we have a fire sale for a publicly owned asset. I am not about to compromise the deregulation process. I am not that sort of person and this is not that sort of Government. Those commitments were fairly and squarely given. With the agreement of all parties, we have accelerated the process. However, I will not walk away from a deal. I will not welch on a deal; that will not happen.

The broader public interest includes that of small business and household consumers of gas. They have a legitimate interest. They need security of supply at a fair price, and to give them that we require a fair transport cost price. That requires that AlintaGas and Western Power have some capacity rights and guaranteed advantage. A range of other complications relate to Alcoa of Australia Ltd's contracts, liquefied petroleum gas contracts and the like.

Mr Thomas: Alcoa would welcome a second pipeline tomorrow. Roger Vine said that.

Dr Gallop: Are these written undertakings on behalf of the Government of WA?

Mr BARNETT: No.

Dr Gallop: What are they then? Is the Minister saying that he entered into undertakings by word of mouth and there is no written evidence of it?

Mr BARNETT: The evidence is the take or pay contract reallocated and continued; the allocation of the inventory between Western Power and Alinta; and the announcement, which I made promptly, of the phased deregulation. That was the undertaking. That commitment was delivered.

Dr Gallop: What has that got to do with the second pipeline?

Mr BARNETT: The only way in which gas deregulation can be managed, and the way it is managed through the regulations, is through the controls that the State Government has over the Dampier to Bunbury pipeline.

Dr Gallop: The Minister has a commitment to the joint venture partners on that. Has the Minister committed the State of Western Australia without writing it down? What right has the Minister to do that? Has the Minister been to the Cabinet with that deal?

Mr BARNETT: Absolutely.

Dr Gallop: Is it written up? Is there a Cabinet minute on it? It is a simple question.

Mr Thomas: It is a figment of his imagination.

Mr BARNETT: I will answer the Leader of the Opposition's question. The whole deregulation process went through the formal Cabinet process.

Dr Gallop: That is not the question.

Mr BARNETT: It was a formal submission from me to the Cabinet of the day. It was publicly announced at the seminar that the member referred to and put in place through regulations operating for the Dampier to Bunbury natural gas pipeline. That is the history, and that is where we are at. One can judge deregulation in all sorts of ways. There are all sorts of esoteric academic ways of doing it. I judge it simply: Do we get new investment? Yes, we do. Do we get lower prices? Yes, we do. Are we getting changes in industry structure?

Members opposite say that we need more capacity. The original pipeline had a notional capacity of 370 TJ. It carries 495 to 500 TJ on a daily basis. During the recent industrial unrest it carried close to 600 TJ. It has capacity. It has also been suggested by members opposite that somehow the arrangements for the Kingstream agreement Act were some sort of contrivance to protect the pipeline or Alinta's assets. I made it clear to the Parliament at the time the Kingstream agreement Bill went through that it was to facilitate the development of a steel making project, part of which - 30 per cent of its cost - relates to the supply of gas. The Kingstream agreement is not about a guaranteed right for someone to build a pipeline wherever they want in the State; it is a steel project. If I were to confer on Kingstream the right to allocate a pipeline licence, effectively for people to build pipelines anywhere in the State, the Opposition would claim, quite rightly, that was outrageous. The Opposition has missed the point. That is why the Act is proper. It says to Kingstream that it can build a steel mill. It is not a pipeline agreement; it is a steel agreement. We will not give Kingstream control of energy policy in this State.

The Kingstream agreement Act, like similar agreement Acts, says that in the first instance Kingstream must negotiate with Alinta to see whether under its current arrangements it can supply gas. Alinta could not supply gas at a competitive price. The agreement then says to Kingstream that if its negotiations at that first instance - like any other gas consumer on standard published tariffs - do not meet its needs, it has the right to invite other parties to supply gas. There would be no limitations and Kingstream could do whatever it chose to do. It could build a pipeline to its project and it could sell gas along the way. However, we are not handing to Kingstream the right to build pipelines into the south west or Perth. Why should it have that right? It is a steel project, not a gas project. There is a fundamental difference.

Mr Marlborough: What about the other option?

Mr BARNETT: The member for Peel can speak later. It is a complex issue. That was a proper deal with Kingstream. Kingstream went to the marketplace for proposals. It received a proposal from PGT. Apparently that was based on building a pipeline to the south west. Other companies put in proposals that complied with the agreement Act; that is, to build a pipeline to Oakajee or Narngulu, if that is the final site. PGT put in a nonconforming proposal. I am not responsible for that. If PGT is grizzling to the Opposition - I do not know whether it is - that is its concern, not mine. It would not have been difficult for PGT to read the agreement Act and see what it provided for. The other companies - AGL, CMS and others in the process - read the agreement Act, understood it and put in bids on that basis. That is the reality. Epic Energy put in a bid. The bid to Kingstream is not by Alinta; it is by Epic. There is no commercial relationship between Alinta and Kingstream on the bid.

Mr Thomas: There is \$350m worth of pipeline enhancement; that is a commercial arrangement.

Mr BARNETT: I am trying to explain the deal to the member for Cockburn, who does not seem to want to listen.

Mr Thomas: I understand that you are misleading the House. There is \$350m of commercial arrangements.

Mr BARNETT: I will quietly and carefully explain the deal. The bid to Kingstream was by Epic alone.

Mr Thomas: That much we understand. It is based on the capacity for \$350m.

Ms BARNETT: Mr Speaker, I am trying to the best of my ability to explain a complicated deal. I listened to the member for Cockburn in silence.

Mr Thomas: You are misleading the House.

The SPEAKER: Order! I am trying to help the debate. Most members are cooperating well and listening carefully to the debate. I appreciate the importance of the matter. I hope the member for Cockburn will desist a little from his interjections and allow the Minister to finish what he is saying. If that does not cover what he wants, the Minister has indicated that he is prepared to go back over things or to go into other areas to try to explain it. I am determined the Minister will have the opportunity to convey his message to all of us who are finding this is reasonably complex.

Mr BARNETT: I will explain to members the Epic Energy deal. Epic made a competitive bid to supply 175 terajoules of gas a day to Kingstream. It did it in an open, competitive process with other parties. The difference with Epic's bid is that it is based on the fact that it is a gas transporter and that it would fund a \$300m enhancement

of the AlintaGas pipeline. That pipeline and the enhancement is at all times the property of AlintaGas. What Epic has proposed and negotiated with AlintaGas is what any gas transporter can do. It is not dissimilar to some of the arrangements Alcoa already has in place. That is totally open. A gas transporter can negotiate anything it wants. The bid is by Epic. There is a subsidiary arrangement where an option exists that if Kingstream is to expand at some stage in the future, it has an operational right to negotiate with AlintaGas, but that is the only link between AlintaGas and the Kingstream project. That must be understood. The relationship between Epic and Kingstream is an arrangement that would allow Epic to fund an expansion of the pipeline. That will always be the property of AlintaGas and whoever subsequently buys that pipeline.

Mr Grill: Are you saying there is no contract?

Mr BARNETT: No, I will come back to that.

Mr Grill: Answer the question.

Mr BARNETT: I will answer it.

Mr Marlborough: It is obvious who's going to buy the pipeline.

Mr BARNETT: I do not think it is. The member should tell me. All I know is that five or six intense bids will come in, all of which will be good for the State, and one of them will win.

Mr Kobelke: That is about the level of your analysis, Minister - one of them will win.

Mr BARNETT: That is right. Let me explain the nature of the arrangement further. At the moment Kingstream has nominated Epic as its preferred gas transporter. That is the nature of the arrangement. No contract is in place, and no contract between Epic and AlintaGas is in place. For any arrangement to be finally agreed and in a contractual form, it must first be approved by the board of AlintaGas - that is yet to happen - and by the Government; that is, the Minister and/or Cabinet. That is yet to happen. Epic has a preferred bidder status. Members opposite talk about competition. It seems from the nature of the argument that is put repeatedly by members opposite in this place that members would say that Epic cannot bid, even in association with an arrangement for supply in that capacity.

Mr Thomas: We just want a level playing field.

Mr BARNETT: I have made it clear in this House that I will not deny Epic the chance of bidding for the Kingstream business, because it should be able to bid. It put in a proposal that was open to anyone else to do.

Dr Gallop: What do you mean it was open to anyone else? When did AlintaGas go out into the market?

Mr Thomas: You said that yourself before Phil Harvey pulled you up. You went quiet after that.

Mr BARNETT: The reality is that Epic realised it did not have to build a pipeline to bid; it could put in a transporter bid based on enhancement as written in the regulations of the Dampier-Bunbury natural gas pipeline. To its credit, it realised there was a different commercial way of doing it and it submitted a bid on that basis. Good luck to it. It was innovative and it spotted what others did not.

Mr Thomas: First you said it would have to go to tender, and you withdrew that.

Mr BARNETT: I said it may. At that stage I had not been involved in the process.

Mr Thomas: Then Phil Harvey gave you your orders. You shut up after that.

Mr BARNETT: Come on! The member for Cockburn really is a dill.

All we have at the moment is that Epic is a preferred tenderer to carry the gas. That is it; it has preferred carrier status. It will start to negotiate. If the project goes ahead, presumably it will get it, and there will be an enhancement of a certain unknown size to the pipeline.

Mr Grill: Then will there be some contracts?

Mr BARNETT: I presume that if agreement can be reached, contracts will emerge. All I am saying is that there are no contracts now. It has not gone to the board of AlintaGas and it has not come to the Government. All that has happened is that Epic has secured for itself preferred transporter status - as can happen under the terms of the agreement Act - and that is a commercial arrangement with Kingstream. That is where the arrangements are at. There are some elements that I feel a little uneasy about. I do not deny that.

Dr Gallop: Like what?

Mr Thomas interjected.

Mr BARNETT: Members opposite are very ordinary about this issue. This issue is complex commercially, but the reason it is difficult is that it is a major project occurring in the midst of a staged deregulation process. There is no theory that tells people how to get through that. I am happy to be judged in January 2000 on where it is at. We will keep to the integrity of the deregulation process.

Mr Thomas: Let us see if you have a bid for a second pipeline. I would not think so, because what you have done will preclude that.

Mr BARNETT: That is the final point I want to make.

Mr Thomas: Put it in your diary.

Mr BARNETT: The member for Cockburn should be quiet for a while. The member suggested that I contrived through the agreement Act to preclude the development of a second pipeline. I find that suggestion utterly offensive. I repeat: I have done nothing to prevent a second pipeline. I have said clearly that government policy - that is what it is - is that on 1 January 2000 the deregulation process will be finished and another pipeline could be operating. When I announced the full privatisation a month or so ago, I said the Government would call for full expressions of interest before that. I am happy to do that during 1998. However, the Government is not in a position to do that yet because it does not own a wide enough easement to accommodate another pipeline. AlintaGas is out in the market now, securing a wider easement. I signed documentation to that effect only a few days ago. When that easement is in place, the Government will be in a position to do that. In the meantime, we will have sold the pipeline, it is hoped to one of the bidders for a top price - I hope we get a top price. We will then be in a position mid-next year to invite expressions of interest for a second pipeline. That will be the test: Will someone put up their hand? I do not know.

Mr Thomas: It is much less likely, given you have taken away one of their best customers.

Mr BARNETT: I am accused of anticompetitive contrivances and now the member for Cockburn says I have taken away its best customer. Presumably if the member were in government, he would have contrived to guarantee the Kingstream business went to one person.

Mr Thomas: I would call for an application for a pipeline licence, as you are required to do under the Act.

Mr BARNETT: I have done nothing other than allow everyone to compete.

Mr Thomas: You have deliberately done nothing. You have distorted the market.

Mr BARNETT: I have done nothing to accelerate, decelerate or interfere with the application of PGT Australia for a pipeline licence. I have said it is government policy that a new licence can operate from January 2000. Whether the company wants to comply with government policy is its choice, not mine. I have stated what the government policy is. Members opposite should think about the interests of consumers, taxpayers and Australian participation in the energy industry. The traditional Labor Party of the past at least used to think about things like consumers, householders, small business and Australian equity in participation. However, members opposite are mitigating against Australian involvement in a rapidly growing industry in this State.

MR GRILL (Eyre) [3.28 pm]: Throughout this debate there is one point that everyone agrees on; that is, this is one of the most important economic matters to come before this Parliament in a long time. In that sense I suppose we should thank the Minister for Resources Development for his history lesson on the North West Shelf gas contracts. He got parts of his history lesson right and he got other parts very wrong. I resent his ungenerous remarks about David Parker. As industry concedes, David Parker did a wonderful job to renegotiate that contract - it was called sharing the pain. It was engaged in by all the North West Shelf partners and it was put down in writing. This Minister comes to this House and indicates there is an agreement between him and the North West Shelf partners that in some way constrains the rate of deregulation of the gas industry in this State, and nowhere is it written down.

Mr Barnett: I have never said it was written down. It was an understanding and it was acted on.

Mr GRILL: When the Minister was asked by the Leader of the Opposition whether it was put in a Cabinet minute, the Minister failed to answer the question. We can only conclude that the Minister has not taken his so-called proposal to Cabinet in any concrete form.

Mr Barnett: Do not be ridiculous. You may have forgotten you are not in government. The whole deal of disaggregation went formally through the government process.

Mr GRILL: We have agreed on two points: First, this is an important subject and, second, on a very important part of this subject, the Minister has no written agreement. Even worse, the partners with whom the Minister says he has an agreement, categorically deny the existence of that agreement. The Opposition has discussed it with those partners. Worse, the utilities on behalf of which the Minister says he is acting when raising the spectre of the \$300m

overhang of gas still in the inventory, deny there is any such spectre. At best, the situation outlined is an exaggeration and, at worst, it is an untruth.

Mr Barnett: They deny there is a gas inventory?

Mr GRILL: They deny there is any problem whatsoever with the gas inventory. The Minister has created the impression, by several remarks in debates in this House, that there is a considerable problem with the gas inventory. Those utilities, on behalf of which the Minister is presumed to be speaking, categorically deny such a problem exists. The people with whom the Minister says he has an agreement deny the existence of such an agreement and the Minister cannot point to any scrap of writing in which that agreement is set out. Also, the utilities are prepared to say there is no problem in relation to the overhang the Minister has created in his own mind, and apparently in this House, as a considerable spectre in the deregulation process.

Mr Barnett: I suppose you will substantiate all that.

Mr GRILL: I am making that allegation, and if the Minister wants to prove it incorrect he should come up with something in writing or a letter from one of those utilities, on behalf of which he purports to speak, which says there is a problem with the overhang. The Opposition is not denying there is an overhang - there always has been - but the question is whether that represents the problem the Minister has indicated on more than one occasion in this House. It does not represent that problem at all. This is not just a figment of the Minister's imagination; he is a very intelligent person and I think he has created that spectre for his own purposes.

Mr Barnett: During 1994 one of the key elements of the negotiations raised by the North West Shelf joint venture is what would be done with the inventory. We had to have a staged process so the inventory could be used. The biggest threat to any gas producer is that the utilities would dump the inventory on the market. That is the reality.

Mr GRILL: The Minister will have his opportunity to produce that documentation and proof. I doubt whether he can, and it will be interesting to see whether he can.

Mr Barnett: I have no intention of doing so.

Mr GRILL: Of course not, because the Minister cannot. A short while ago the Minister would not accept one question from me, but he now takes the liberty of continually interjecting on my speech. By two acts the Minister has continued a monopoly situation in Western Australia for the supply of gas: First, by his press release of 22 May 1997, at which time he said there was no prospect of calling tenders for a second pipeline before 1999, and no prospect of a tender being granted until 2000. That means a considerable period will elapse before a pipeline can be under construction. The second act was to allow Kingstream Resources, which will be 80 per cent overseas owned once the merger goes through, to make a critical decision on the supply of gas to the south west corner of this State. By the press release and by allowing Kingstream to exercise its right under the contract with the Government, the Minister has precluded another pipeline until some time next century, and possibly longer than that. There was a window of opportunity with the second pipeline, and the Kingstream contract was a base load. The window of opportunity commenced immediately and it has now been missed, and the base load has gone to a monopoly supplier. This Government has continued a monopoly of supply of gas to the south west of this State, and prevented the blossoming of downstream processing and value added industries in the way it could and should happen.

The Minister talks about deregulation and his role in that. He was very brash before he came to government, and I clearly remember the statements he made that he would completely deregulate the gas market within a year of being in government. It took a lot longer for even the most modest steps he has taken today. The Minister said he will not in any way speed up that process. The great majority of the industry are not happy with that situation. They believe the process of deregulation, which the Minister started well, has slowed down or bogged down. They believe this State does not have the competitive pressures it should have. I go further and say that in allowing AlintaGas to enter into negotiations for a contract - the Minister does not want to call it a contract at this stage - to supply capacity in relation to the North West Shelf as the Bunbury-Dampier pipeline, this Government may well have broken the law. Section 4 of schedule 5 of the Gas Corporation Act states under the heading "Obligation to meet capacity needs" -

The corporation must incur costs and make capital investment to -

- (a) maintain gas transmission capacity; and
- (b) provide developable capacity within a reasonable time if requested by any existing or prospective shipper,

if there is a reasonable commercial prospect that it will recover within a reasonable time from existing or prospective shippers those costs, that capital investment, and a reasonable rate of return on that capital investment.

The Minister is correct in saying the contract to supply gas is between Kingstream and Epic Energy, but there is a second contract to which I refer. That contract will be signed between Epic Energy and AlintaGas. To that contract AlintaGas brings capital in the form of the Dampier-Bunbury gas pipeline, worth \$1.1b on the books. Mr Phil Harvey of AlintaGas was reported in a newspaper article on Monday, 16 June, as saying there would be no profits from that contract; in other words, no reasonable return.

MR BOARD (Murdoch - Minister for Works) [3.40 pm]: I find it very interesting that on the last day before the winter recess the Opposition has moved a matter of public importance to attack the Minister for Energy.

Ms MacTiernan: Should we attack you?

Mr BOARD: Members opposite had a reasonable go at me during question time.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! We will have a little bit of order to allow the Minister to finish his speech.

Mr BOARD: If we are talking about achievements in the Energy portfolio in Western Australia, the Opposition should be supportive and proud of the achievements of the Government over the past four years. That is not to take away from work done by the Opposition when it was in government and for which I give credit. We are proud that the Collie power station is under construction. As members opposite know, that proved to be a problem and was a difficult area for the Labor Government.

Today corporatised bodies such as AlintaGas and Western Power are working with the community in an effort to deliver a much better and cheaper service. If members knocked on the door of any consumer of Western Australia I doubt they would not agree they have benefited from the need for those corporatised bodies to acknowledge the bottom line.

The Kingstream project has reached the stage of needing to attract finance and investment so that, as the member for Eyre indicated, a major development for Western Australia will occur. Members all agree with and support that.

Mr Grill: We agree with the Minister and have no criticism with Kingstream; it is doing what is commercially correct.

Mr BOARD: Surely therefore it is in the interests of the Opposition to ensure everything possible is done to progress that project.

Mr Grill: Our concern is not whether Kingstream got a good deal; it got a magnificent deal. It is a matter of whether other people get a similar deal.

Mr BOARD: Surely members opposite will agree that their action today will create some doubt about the project.

Several members interjected.

Mr BOARD: As the Minister indicated in his speech, today will give rise to some sort of delay.

Ms MacTiernan: Are you not looking for an excuse when this thing falls over?

Mr BOARD: Does the member for Armadale really think the project will fall over?

Ms MacTiernan interjected.

Mr BOARD: It is incumbent on all of us to ensure this project goes ahead. The member for Eyre referred to downstream projects. If the Kingstream project takes off it will create a huge amount of work and support for small business, of which the member for Eyre is a great supporter.

Mr Kobelke: Would you like to elaborate on that - even though it will be serviced and owned offshore?

Mr BOARD: Does the member for Nollamara not realise the impact of the development of a port on Oakajee and the consequential industrial area? Does he not believe that this is only one of a range of projects that will develop as a result of that port and that the benefits will flow to small and medium business in Western Australia? Of course they will.

Mr Kobelke: I hope they will, but there is no evidence that that will come to fruition.

Mr BOARD: Everything has a starting point. Do members want evidence before anything will happen?

Mr Kobelke interjected.

Mr BOARD: As the member knows, in this instance the project will be sourced at the best possible location. That is being addressed now.

Mr Grill: If you can see that AlintaGas is not picking up any profit or reasonable return on this project, does that not amount to a further very substantial subsidy to a project that already has a large subsidy?

Mr BOARD: As the Minister said, the arrangement is between Kingstream and Epic, not between AlintaGas and Kingstream. The reality is that at some stage negotiations will take place on further pipelines. I was in this place when we discussed the pipeline to Kalgoorlie and I can recall that during the debate members opposite claimed it would not happen.

Mr Grill: You did not hear me say that.

Mr BOARD: This Minister can stand here with great pride and appreciate the benefit that that is already bringing. It is incumbent on all of us to make sure we look after the interests of the taxpayers.

Mr Grill: You should catch up with some of the tariffs involved.

Mr BOARD: A pipeline is already delivering. I support what the Minister has done. In response to the Opposition's accusations about what has been before Cabinet, I can assure them that Cabinet has been informed of every part of these arrangements.

Mr Grill: There is nothing in writing.

Mr BOARD: The submissions for Kingstream have been before Cabinet and discussed thoroughly. Cabinet is totally supportive of what the Minister has done and is achieving.

Mr Grill: Do you know what he has done?

Mr BOARD: Of course.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

Ms Anwyl
Mr Brown
Mr Carpenter
Dr Edwards
Dr Gallop
Mr Grill

Mr Kobelke
Ms MacTiernan
Mr Marlborough
Mr McGinty
Mr McGowan
Ms McHale

Mr Riebeling
Mrs Roberts
Mr Thomas
Ms Warnock
Mr Cunningham (*Teller*)

Noes (32)

Mr Ainsworth
Mr Baker
Mr Barnett
Mr Barron-Sullivan
Mr Board
Mr Bradshaw
Mr Court
Mr Day
Mrs Edwardes
Dr Hames
Mrs Hodson-Thomas

Mrs Holmes
Mr House
Mr Johnson
Mr Kierath
Mr MacLean
Mr Marshall
Mr Masters
Mr McNee
Mr Minson
Mr Nicholls
Mr Omodei

Mrs Parker
Mr Pandal
Mr Shave
Mr Sweetman
Mr Trenorden
Mr Tubby
Dr Turnbull
Mrs van de Klashorst
Mr Wiese
Mr Osborne (*Teller*)

Pairs

Mr Graham
Mr Ripper

Mr Prince
Mr Cowan

Question thus negatived.

FAMILY COURT (ORDERS OF REGISTRARS) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House), read a first time.

BILLS (2) - RETURNED

1. Regional Development Commissions Amendment Bill.
2. Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 2).

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

MOTION - SELECT COMMITTEE INTO THE MISUSE OF DRUGS ACT*Establishment - Amendment to Motion*

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MS MacTIERNAN (Armadale) [3.51 pm]: I was unaware that we were to be "on drugs" so immediately. I understood that we would be dealing with another matter. However, we are happy to continue this debate. I do not think anyone could have failed to notice that over the past five or six months 38 young Western Australians have died from heroin overdose. During that period not a single death has been recorded that has been attributed to cannabis. Yet the member for Joondalup - the man who says he wants to be the chairman of this committee - focused his remarks on the evils of cannabis. It seems to me that this is an extraordinary proposition and it reflects the position taken by the Minister for Health the other day. During the debate on a motion for another broader select committee that had been proposed by the Opposition, the Minister for Health, by way of interjection, notwithstanding those very stark figures - 38 deaths from heroin; no deaths from cannabis - said that in his view the number one drug abuse problem was cannabis. This is an extraordinary proposition.

The member for Joondalup expanded this argument by saying that he does not believe we can in any bipartisan way address these serious issues of drug policy, of how we keep our young people alive, because the Opposition has a policy in relation to cannabis that would see us go down the path of those other great radicals - that is, South Australia, under a Liberal Government; the Australian Capital Territory, under a Liberal Government; and the Northern Territory, under a Liberal Government - which have embraced a minor form of decriminalisation.

Mr Baker: I said we would never have true 100 per cent bipartisan support on all issues while you maintained a decriminalisation policy.

Ms MacTIERNAN: That may well be the case; however, that is no justification for the attitude the Government has shown in this matter. Last week we put before this Parliament a very broad based motion to establish a select committee to look at all facets of the heroin problem that is facing our community. That was rejected by the Government.

Mr Baker: It was far too narrow.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am very silly, Mr Deputy Speaker: I cannot help thinking about those 38 young people who have died when I should be thinking about all those people who have not died from cannabis, and that is why we have this narrowness of vision! We keep focusing on where the problem is and not on where it is not. A whole range of drug and alcohol problems affect Western Australians. Let us get our priorities right. Let us focus on the issue that we must deal with now, not those we can deal with over a longer term.

Mr Baker: None of the motions will address it now - yours, mine or the one from the member for Fremantle.

Ms MacTIERNAN: By focusing on the broad range of issues that surround the problem of heroin use, we have much more likelihood of coming up with some positive solutions within a reasonable time frame, than we have under this motion.

Mr Wiese: What was the closing date for your suggestion? It was 1998!

Ms MacTIERNAN: Obviously we could have amended that if that was a concern of those opposite.

Mr Wiese: You are playing with words.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am not. If those opposite were concerned that we must report quickly - I think there is an argument to do that - that argument very much dictates that we should confine the inquiry to those areas where there is a very real and demonstrated problem and where, without gilding the lily in any way, there is a crisis within our community. We have all seen the statistics from the hospitals which show the hundreds of people coming in every week suffering from overdoses; the fact that we have two deaths every week from overdose in Western Australia. These are very serious problems. There is an argument for a committee that can report with relevant promptitude. That makes it even more important that this committee must not spread its focus broadly, by trying to deal with every pharmacological problem that might face this community.

My other very real concern about the entire approach by the member for Joondalup and the select committee for which he is driving is that, as we can see from the remaining terms of reference and also his initial terms of reference, the real focus is on law enforcement. The primary focus of the Government's solution to the problem of drug abuse has been to go into the law enforcement issues. Obviously that is a very real issue; however, as we demonstrated quite strongly last week, when we produced figures from the Rand Drug Policy Research Centre for every additional dollar spent on increasing mandatory sentences, the return is far less than the same amount of money spent on providing for additional treatment of users.

Mr Baker: Can you just point to that part of the motion that says "mandatory sentences"?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am saying that the focus on issues of law enforcement has been raised. The member for Joondalup cannot deny that the original motion was confined exclusively to questions of drug law enforcement. That was the Government's approach - the great government response to the problem we are faced with. As a result of a lot of media attention on the ludicrousness of this approach - virtually every health professional and every person who has any contact with drug law and drug policy and the families of victims of drug abuse has spoken with a single voice and said that this is outrageous - we now see tacked on to the end of the motion, a little paragraph that says, "Anyhow, in respect of heroin we will also look at a bunch of other things."

We are prepared to support this because it is the best we can get. Unless we see from the member for Joondalup, and whoever else the Government appoints to the committee, a preparedness to open minds to a broader range of responses than we have seen to date, I doubt very much that the committee will achieve much. We will see the same tired old stuff which appeared in the Government's drug strategy launched today.

I am particularly concerned about the approach of the member for Joondalup. I watched the way he conducted himself on the issues during the last election campaign, and his absolutely grotesque attempt to promote himself by whipping up a fear campaign against the Labor Party on the issue of cannabis. The attitude of the member for Joondalup is largely poll-driven, and has nothing to do with any principled stand.

Mr Baker: Is it your view that there is no substantial connection between the consumption of cannabis and the consumption of harder drugs such as amphetamines and heroin - yes or no?

Ms MacTIERNAN: I will put it to the member this way.

Mr Baker: You will not answer the question.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Many professionals involved in this field totally dismiss that gateway argument; they say that although it is certainly true -

Mr Omodei: What do you think?

Ms MacTIERNAN: The gateway argument is implausible. When 99 per cent of people who have used cannabis do not go on to use other drugs, the causation argument becomes very marginal. The argument post hoc, therefore proctor hoc is of little merit.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms MacTIERNAN: One could also argue that because most of these people have used cigarettes, perhaps cigarettes are the precursor.

Mr Wiese: You can apply the argument with cigarettes to cancer.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I do not want to argue the specifics. The member for Joondalup was shown the polling which the Premier conducted at taxpayers' expense last year, which was designed to elicit a certain response. That polling indicated a great deal of concern in the community about drug use and the member went out to beat the drum to try to demonise the Labor Party.

Mr Baker: You were pushing the decriminalisation barrow to attract the youth vote.

Ms MacTIERNAN: A statement was made, but we were certainly not out in the community beating the Government over the head on this matter. I like to think that the member for Joondalup is prepared to look at a broad range of arguments. I do not know who else he proposes to put on his committee, but I hope they are prepared to look more broadly than members opposite have indicated so far. Some months ago I met with a Victorian committee established to look at broad issues relating to drug use and abuse, and I was very pleasantly surprised by the breadth of vision that even the most conservative members on that committee had come to embrace.

A matter not often discussed in relation to this matter is the role of education in dealing with drug use and abuse. I note that the strategy launched today has drug education as its centrepiece. It refers to education to prevent drug abuse as number one of the various strategies to be embraced. No-one can be opposed to education; it is accepted in our community as a very good thing. Nobody in his or her right mind would oppose it. The Labor Party is in favour of education. However, we must be realistic about the educational goals we set and what we can expect from a drug education program.

Directing my comment to the Minister, I was pleased to see that she specifically mentioned the WA Substance Users Association in peer education for drug users. Can the Minister enlighten us whether that group will receive some financial assistance under this new package? As it has been listed as an agency to be encouraged to involve itself in peer education, is the Minister now considering funding it?

Mrs Parker: Its funding application is before the Minister for Health. That is the not only way the association can be used as it is assisting with the Heroin Overdose Strategy Group. It could be used in other ways.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Is there no commitment for funding?

Mrs Parker: The application is before the Minister.

Ms MacTIERNAN: So its funding was not tied up as part of this package?

Mrs Parker: No.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is interesting that the Minister invokes the name of that association as part of the strategy, yet the vital question of whether that organisation would be funded -

Mr Shave: If we had not invoked it, you would also have criticised us.

Ms MacTIERNAN: Exactly. However, the Minister for Fair Trading was probably thinking that the group should not be mentioned unless one is prepared to ensure the organisation's continued existence. Unfortunately, I see a sham.

Mrs Parker: That is not correct.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The Minister has used the name of the organisation without giving a commitment to funding it. That organisation simply cannot continue unless it has funding.

Mrs Parker: I have had discussions with the association's representatives. They were present at the launch this morning, with which they were very pleased. I spoke on the telephone to people afterwards.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I am sure they were. Drug education has been extensively undertaken across three continents for the past three decades. If we hope that drug education will curtail drug use, we are sadly mistaken. That is not to say that drug education is not important, and that it is not important to equip our young people with knowledge and ways to minimise the harm they will undoubtedly encounter from the experience of drug use. It is certainly not the case that we will be able to achieve any substantial reduction in drug use from these drug education programs.

That might seem like a heresy. I can image the member for Joondalup and Minister jumping up and down saying that the Opposition says that drug education will not help and it is opposed to drug education. The Opposition is not opposed to drug education. However, it is incredibly importantly that we keep our eyes open to what can be achieved with drug education.

At a conference last weekend at the Australian Parliamentary Group for Drug Law Reform, I had the benefit of obtaining a paper which had been delivered at the recent conference of the Australian Drug Foundation, which is perhaps the premier research body in relation to drug issues in this country. This was a very substantial paper which detailed the sort of research conducted into drug education programs.

Mr Omodei: By whom was it presented?

Ms MacTIERNAN: It was by Geoff Munro, the Director of the Centre for Youth Drug Studies at the Australian Drug Foundation. He is an eminent academic in this area who has reviewed the literature and found that drug education is often used as the "search for a magic bullet capable of inculcating our young people against drug use". He considers whether this has had any effect. He talks about different waves of drug education programs in the school systems in Australia and America over the past three decades. Some programs were based on providing factual information.

[Leave granted for the member's time to be extended.]

Ms MacTIERNAN: The first wave focused on providing information on the premise that if young people understood the dangers of drugs they would not use them. The programs were laced with fear messages designed to scare the would-be drug users. The second wave focused on personal development programs which stressed decision making skills and values clarification, based on the view that drug use resulted from deficiencies in young people's coping skills. The third wave - similar to that in Western Australia - commenced around the world in the 1980s and emphasised social competencies by developing social skills by teaching resistance skills - the "just say no" approach for young people to encourage them to refuse the offer of drugs. The third wave is predicated on the assumption that drug use results from externally applied peer pressure. Many of the education programs are a composite of elements of the three waves.

Mr Osborne: Do you support the third wave?

Ms MacTIERNAN: It depends on which third wave the member is talking about!

We must go beyond the feel-good cliches about education if we are to deal with the problem. We must be prepared to be critical. We know that education is seen to be a good thing. Everyone trots out education as the number one solution, whether it is a matter of consumer affair, an industrial relations issue, or a safety in the workplace matter. Of course education is good, but this research has critically studied in three continents the effect of the three strategies, either in isolation or in composite, and it has indicated very little effectiveness as a result.

Mr Johnson: I agree with advertising, in the sense that education is correct. The DrinkSafe and the Quit campaigns have reduced the number of binge drinkers and smokers. Two years ago in this House I said that we should spend money on directly targeting the people most affected - that is, the drug users.

Ms MacTIERNAN: It is interesting that older people have given up cigarette smoking. The campaigns have been effective for them.

Mr Johnson: And young men. It is the young women who have not given up.

Ms MacTIERNAN: The incidence of tobacco use by young people has increased.

Mr Johnson: That is why we should target those people.

Ms MacTIERNAN: I want to go through this information. The member may acknowledge that the point of the paper is that many education programs may be effective, but when talking about education programs aimed at reducing drug use, the evidence appears to be that the campaigns I have described, which fairly broadly encompass most of the programs implemented in Australia, Europe and the United States, have had little effect.

I will go through the various studies: A 1975 study found that fear-based approaches did not inhibit drug use. Other studies were carried out in 1978 and 1980 on various types of programs and found very little evidence for behavioural change from improvements in knowledge and attitudes. Fear does not seem to work to change usage rates, nor does improvement in knowledge or attitudes. In 1986 an analysis was made of 143 drug prevention programs conducted over 11 years in the United States. The report states that programs which consisted of information or personal development skills alone did not impact on subsequent drug use, and it recommended that they be discontinued.

Mr Wiese: What do these brilliant people suggest?

Ms MacTIERNAN: If I can get on with my argument! I am sure that most members are unaware of this analysis of education programs, and that they have been found incapable of delivering a reduction in drug usage. I guess the analysis is summarised in this way by Dr Munro: The experience of two decades demonstrates that experimentation in popular drugs is an entrenched adolescent behaviour, and one not easily changed by school programs. Apparently the perceived benefits of drug use outweigh the potential problems that schools emphasise. This is being increasingly realised by drug educators.

One of the major concerns of many educators is that we require schools, in some magical way, to solve society's problems. In some areas, educators are developing a resistance to engage in drug programs in schools because of the unrealistic expectations that are often placed on them. However, it is important to work out what may be achieved by a drug education program, given that many of the types of programs that have been embarked on to date do not appear to change the level of usage. Considering the level of alcohol use and illicit drug use by young people, notwithstanding an ever increasing number of programs in schools, it is clear that the programs are not delivering a reduction in use. That does not mean we give up on education. It means we must have realistic goals for the education programs that we implement.

It can be strongly argued that the central aim of schooling is to educate young people and prepare them for living and working in the world around them. That is the same objective we should have in our drug education. We must ensure

our young people understand, in a balanced and objective way, the pharmacological properties of drugs and develop an understanding of their impact. We must be realistic; we must understand this probably will not reduce the incidence of use. We must be prepared to ensure that children develop abilities to act in such a way as to minimise drug-related risks, and to understand the broader debate on drug issues.

Alarming deaths have occurred through the use of illicit drugs, but if young children had better knowledge, those deaths may not have occurred. A classic example is a young lady, Anna Woods, who died largely as the result of dehydration after using ecstasy. Young people in Australia and the United Kingdom have died of dehydration after taking ecstasy.

It would not accord with the Government's anti-normalisation approach for us to ever get to the stage where we talked to our kids about how, if they did use drugs, they might use them in a safer fashion. That would be contrary to the "Just Say No" philosophy that is at the heart of the Government's approach. I think all members who have teenage children would admit that they would rather have those children alive, although taking drugs, than dead.

As a parent, I believe it is my duty to not only ensure that children are aware of the dangers of drugs but also recognise that young people are inherently risk takers and in many instances will take drugs regardless of how much we beat them around the head and tell them about the dangers of drugs. Our obligation as parents, legislators and policy makers is to ensure that there is an opportunity for young people to learn how to minimise the harm from using these substances.

If the only form of drug education that we will accept is one that is predicated on prohibition, we are doomed to fail. This is not just my philosophy; is a philosophy that is founded on research and scientifically tested principles. We cannot expect the education programs which form the central part of the Government's drug strategy to deliver a major reduction in drug use. If the Government is not prepared to take a broad minded approach to drug education, it will not achieve any minimisation or reduction in the harm that our young people experience as a result of using illicit or licit drugs.

I hope the member for Joondalup and other members from both sides who will go onto this committee will be prepared to adopt a broad minded approach to this issue and to remember that at the end of the day, we want not cosy and comfortable politics but a solution that has the capacity to minimise the harm to young people in our society from drug use.

MR BROWN (Bassendean) [4.22 pm]: The original terms of reference of the proposed Select Committee into the Misuse of Drugs Act were to consider "the adequacy of the provisions of the Misuse of Drugs Act, and associated state or federal legislation (and their inter-relationships) in achieving the objective of the detection and prosecution of illicit drug dealers or traffickers in Western Australia". The motion sought to deal with a narrow issue; namely, the nature of the law and the enforcement of the law with regard to drug dealers and traffickers.

The document launched today by the Minister for Family and Children's Services, entitled "Together Against Drugs", states that -

The penalties for high level and major drug suppliers will be strengthened with the penalties for all drugs suppliers being reviewed through a Parliamentary Select Committee.

Obviously in the production of this very nice book there was liaison between the Minister for Family and Children's Services and the member for Joondalup about the nature of the proposed select committee. This book would have taken some weeks to produce. During that time, there has been debate in this House about this matter, and the member for Fremantle has moved for the establishment of a more broad ranging parliamentary select committee.

The amendment moved by the member for Hillarys seeks to expand the terms of reference of this select committee. I would like the member for Joondalup to respond to this question: Now that the terms of reference of the select committee are proposed to be expanded to include the words in subparagraph 1.2, will the select committee, if necessary, investigate and range across any or all of the strategies in the action plan and put them under the microscope?

I want it to be made clear that this action plan will not be used to prevent the committee from going down any of the paths that it could go down, and that the committee will have a broad ranging role to deal with any of the matters that are contained in that plan and may make recommendations which conflict with, support or modify any of the strategies in that plan.

Mr Baker: That will be a matter for the committee to determine. The initiatives announced this morning by the Minister for Family and Children's Services can also be inquired into.

Mr BROWN: Although I accept that the committee can interpret for itself the proposed terms of reference, the member for Joondalup has confirmed that nothing in those terms of reference will preclude the committee from examining and testing the strategies in that document.

I am concerned that the committee must produce its final report by 20 November 1997. This issue is of critical importance to the community and to people who are taking illicit drugs. However, it is equally important to ensure that the committee is not arbitrarily forced to bring down a report without having received all the appropriate information. This issue is also extremely complex. If a deadline of 20 November 1997 were set, some members of the committee might endeavour to expedite the proceedings of the committee to the point where full consideration was not given to the complex range of policy development issues.

An example of where that has occurred over the past three or four years in this Parliament is the ridiculous debate about a boot camp. Everyone will remember that the Government rushed in and said, "Let us have a boot camp. This is the solution to the juvenile justice problem. It will be a re-education camp for juvenile offenders and it will work tremendously well", and the Attorney General travelled the world, brought back a report and said, "This works everywhere; it is great." People who had done any reading on this subject knew it would not work from day one. The Government made the decision and for political reasons it did not want to walk away from it. It was caught with that decision and it tried to bring forward legislation that picked up the commitments it made. The legislation was complex and convoluted. Research which was done after the legislation was introduced showed that if proper research had been done before the legislation was introduced it would have indicated that in the previous 12 months only one juvenile would have gone to the boot camp. That illustrates how ridiculous it was. The decision was made too quickly. It was a waste of money and resources, as well as a bad policy decision, and the people of this State were made a laughing stock because of this proposal. If the same thing happens to this strategy it will be an absolute travesty. Although I agree there is some urgency - I am not proposing that the committee should not have a deadline or will sit back and take it easy and say it has three years to complete its deliberations - there is also a need for the issue to be properly thought through.

It is evident from the research that there are conflicting opinions, and one must weigh them up. However, value judgments must be made, and one must weigh them up. The debate on the drugs task force was whether we should go down the harm minimisation track, which accepts implicitly that there is drug use, or pretend there is no drug use and go down the enforcement track. This conflict was referred to in the report of the drug task force. These things must be thought through. If this report is to mean something, be used by Government and held up as a document of high repute, there must be a thorough process. It is not an easy issue to deal with; therefore, I question whether 20 November 1997 is an appropriate date by which the committee must report. If the report can be prepared by that date it will be fine, but if the Parliament calls for an interim report the committee will have to shift its focus from the main report to an interim report. That deadline, even with the best will in the world of all the committee members and their agreeing to work through the winter recess to read submissions and other things, is a hard ask. I have concerns about that.

My second concern involves the broad context of the inquiry. The terms of reference do not give the select committee the power to look specifically at prevention. On the issue of crime prevention alone a lot of material is available and the committee would need to revisit the crime prevention strategy that was said to have been put in place by the Government. Members of the committee will need also to read the findings and papers that came out of the crime prevention seminar which was held 18 months ago. A diverse range of views emanated from that seminar. If the committee is to go down this path it will be required to rethink the existing legislation. For example, when the young offenders legislation was debated in this House there was a long discussion on juvenile justice teams. Under the Young Offenders Act juvenile justice teams are very narrow teams. They look only at the crime and the punishment. Members on this side of the House said in that debate that the provisions of the legislation were not sufficient and the Government should look at the New Zealand model which considers the whole person - their education, what they do in their own time and the circumstances of their family. If they are from a different cultural background, that must be taken into consideration. The New Zealand model endeavours to work out not only a suitable punishment for the crime, but also a program for that individual. That view was rejected because it was considered to be inappropriate. The Government did not want to pick up the New Zealand model.

The proposal in the document released today by the Minister for Family and Children's Services, "Together Against Drugs", is that a range of departments and agencies combine to deal with this issue, and that is appropriate. However, it is appropriate not only at a senior level, but also when dealing with the issues on the ground. Unfortunately, in the past the Opposition's view has not been accepted by the Government. If the committee is to do its job properly, it must consider that matter and some of the legislation that has passed through this place which, in hindsight, is wrong.

My third point is that this is a complex issue and I refer members to a publication from the Australian Institute of Criminology titled "The future of crime control". The institute was established many years ago and criminologists

and others work there. The publication states that the increasingly complex nature of crime, both in Australia and elsewhere in the world, is such that conventional law enforcement responses are often no longer adequate. It said that crime is becoming more sophisticated and increasingly interlinked with economic and social systems. How true. We cannot treat a person who takes drugs purely on the basis that he does take drugs; we must consider him in terms of the legal and social systems that operate in society. To do that requires a lot of in-depth consideration and significant evidence from a range of disciplines across the spectrum.

Another matter I hope the committee will consider is what I call a recalcitrant problem in relation to the drugs issue. Some time ago I wrote to the Attorney General requesting him to give a reference to the Law Reform Commission on a range of recalcitrant problems in my electorate. Part of these problems arise out of an area where a known drug house operates. People who live in a particular street are intimidated by the drug house and will not leave their front yards. There are bashings in the street. The police are called at least three times a week and from time to time they lay charges and from time to time people are convicted. It is a major problem, but it cannot be resolved by looking at the nature of the offence and trying to deal with it in isolation. A much broader view of that sort of recalcitrant problem must be taken. I do not know whether the Attorney General will pick up that idea and provide a reference to the Law Reform Commission. He has not indicated to me that he will. I hope it is a matter the committee will consider. It is an important issue because it deals with the distribution aspect.

I note that the committee will examine state and federal legislation and their interrelationships. I note also that the federal coalition Government has slashed funding to the Australian Federal Police. *The West Australian* of 25 April this year carried an article which stated -

Federal police in WA say they are losing the war against the heroin trade because they are starved of money . . .

Australian Federal Police Association spokesman Mick Duthie said that, in addition to dealing with annual finance cuts, AFP agents were being told to cut costs by reducing the size of their vehicle fleet.

"You can't go and get the No.7 bus to investigate a drug trafficker," he said. . . .

"Our ability to assist the people of WA to target trafficking and importers is pretty much being compromised by the lack of funding.

An editorial in *The West Australian* of 26 April states -

The number of people admitted to WA hospitals suffering from heroin overdoses and symptoms of dependence has soared in the past four years. Last year, 105 people went to hospital with a heroin overdose - up from 60 people in 1995 and a massive leap from just 15 people in 1993. Patients with symptoms of heroin dependence jumped from 59 in 1993 to 441 last year.

The Australia Federal Police Association spokesperson said that the federal coalition Government has cut funding to this area of law enforcement! That view was backed by the Commissioner of Police and by the Premier. When the State Government had a disagreement with the Commonwealth Government over road funding, it instituted a major advertising campaign on television and radio and in newspapers about getting more road funding for Western Australia. In this case the State Government has also said the Federal Government has cut back funding and as a result of that, more heroin is coming onto the streets and more young people and other people are being killed as a result of the Federal Government's negligence in this area; yet what is the State Government doing about it? Is it objecting to the cutback in funds as loudly as it did with the cutbacks in road funding? Where are the advertisements and the commercials? What pressure is being placed on the Federal Government over this issue? It was good enough to scream loudly about road funding cuts; however, it is not good enough to scream loudly on this issue. The Government needs to address that problem.

MR KOBELKE (Nollamara) [4.44 pm]: Drug abuse and the heroin problem are major threats to our society. The problem must be taken seriously and the response must be a comprehensive one. Any inquiry should examine all the issues associated with drug abuse. I do not believe that anyone in this House would be so bold or foolish as to suggest he or she has the answer to the problem. It is a problem that we must face together. A parliamentary committee will be an effective vehicle for considering solutions to the problem, and for discussing the problem with everybody who has an interest in this matter, including families who have been affected and academics and professional experts so that we can set up programs to tackle this most serious of problems. A committee of the Parliament is an excellent vehicle for taking up that challenge and for making recommendations to the Government to deal with the problem. It is in that light that I will comment on the motion and amendment that are before the House. I have a tinge of regret that the mover, the member for Joondalup, has moved such a limited motion on behalf of the Government. I hope that, while it is limited, this committee will be productive and will provide some of the solutions to this most complex problem.

A parliamentary committee is not only a cheap way of carrying out a major investigation; it is also important because it draws together members from both sides of the political fence. We should try to establish a bipartisan approach on an issue as complex as this. The Government will have to encourage a bipartisan approach if there is to be any chance of success in dealing with this issue. A parliamentary committee would be a good vehicle for trying to establish that bipartisan approach. Members of the committee may decide there are certain crucial areas on which agreement cannot be reached. However, significant consensual agreement may be reached on a number of areas. That is yet to be seen. A committee will have a chance of establishing areas of agreement with a bipartisan approach.

It is with regret that I heard the member for Joondalup declare that he did not believe a bipartisan approach was possible. Misrepresenting the position of the Opposition will not help solve the drug abuse problem in this State. If the member continues to try to score cheap political points, he will wear the odium for that. This issue is far too important to deal with on party political lines.

The member for Joondalup said that Labor members see cannabis as a minor, harmless drug. That is absolute nonsense. It does the member no good to try to set up the Opposition with false claims for political purposes. This problem is too important to play cheap politics over. We need to address the problem to try to find an answer to it. As I said, I do not have the answers. However, it is such an important and pressing problem that we must try to find solutions to it.

Mr Omodei: Let me get this straight. Do you believe cannabis is a dangerous drug?

Mr KOBELKE: Absolutely.

Mr Baker: Hasn't your side called for cannabis to be decriminalised?

Mr KOBELKE: The member for Joondalup is again trying to create an illusion about the Opposition's point of view in an attempt to score cheap political points. Kids are dying out there day by day and the member for Joondalup wants to score cheap political shots. He should go back into his hole until he can lead this committee in a constructive way and stop playing politics with such an important issue.

I want to take up matters which were raised by the member for Joondalup in his attempt at playing cheap politics. This issue is an extremely complex one. It is complex from a medical point of view; it is even more complex from a social point of view. What leads people to take drugs and to fall into drug dependency? Law enforcement and what might be appropriate laws are also extremely complex issues. It is absolute nonsense for people to try to set up paper tigers that they then try to knock over. It is also nonsense for people to suggest there are causal relationships when they have no evidence to substantiate it. Some members opposite would like us to debate whether there is a causal relationship between young people using cannabis and moving on to harder drugs.

I do not know the answer to that. I am very conservative on that point; I tend to say that, even without a strong, proven case, one should be extremely cautious about any action because there might be a link. Members opposite say there is a link because there is some correlation. I will take up the line of reasoning members opposite use in jumping from there to saying that there is some causal relationship between factor A and factor B.

I will give the example of a case based on facts that are currently easily established in Western Australia. In the past four years under the Court Government we have seen spiralling expenditure on advertising and publicity. In the past year the Government has spent \$35m on advertising in newspapers, on television and in other media. In that four years we have seen a huge increase in reported drug offences and an astronomic increase in deaths from heroin overdose. We have this high correlation between government spending on advertising and the increasing drug problem in Western Australia. Will government members use the same logic and say that, because we have a high positive correlation, one causes the other? That is absolute nonsense. That is the level of argument coming from some members opposite.

I will continue with this example. One sometimes finds that two factors with a high positive correlation are totally coincidental. More often, a third factor somehow connects the two. In this example, there is a third factor: The approach of the Court Government, which believes that as long as it can control the media and present the right picture, that is all that matters. That is why we have seen a doubling of expenditure on advertising and publicity to \$35m per annum but no effective action against the huge increase in drug problems in our community. This Government's approach is to manage the media, and to pay for the advertising. If it can convince people it is doing something, that is all that counts. It does not need to do anything effective; it must simply convince people it is doing something.

The reason for the high correlation coefficient is not causal - the huge amount of advertising does not cause the drug problem - but there is a link. This Government simply wants to be seen to be responding to the problem; it is not responding in order to be effective, and unfortunately the motion before the House reflects that.

The member for Joondalup in his statement and in the original wording of the motion is trying to play politics. That simply will not wash. Like other members, I have had parents visit my office or telephone me absolutely distraught about what is happening to their son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter who is using heroin. They want the Government to respond. To respond for responding's sake is not adequate. We must have programs that have some chance of helping.

I share the Government's frustration, but I do not have the answer. It is too important an issue for the Government simply to try to con people; to tell them it is doing something when all it is doing is paying for a glossy advertising campaign. It cannot do that; it must try to address the issue. I hope this committee will be able to make a contribution in that area, despite its poor start.

Mr Trenorden: It has not started yet.

Mr KOBELKE: The poor start is the drafting of the motion. It was deliberately narrow and did not open up ways to solve the problem. The member who moved it is playing party politics instead of taking up the issue and trying to get people to address it in a serious way to provide solutions.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: The amended motion improves it and I support that. However, the motion moved by the member for Fremantle was far better. It would have taken on the issue -

Several members interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: Members opposite think that because a member on this side moved the motion they should not look at it. If they were to look at it they would see that it addressed a range of key issues relating to the drug problem and requested the committee to look into them. They cannot say that about this motion. The motion as first moved is primarily about the functioning of the current legislation. The amendment has broadened it, and I support that.

Mr Baker: All key aspects of this problem are referred to in the amended motion.

Mr KOBELKE: I am glad that we have improved it. The point I am making is that the initial motion did not do that, but we have now improved it.

The range of problems involved is such that the committee should look widely at the issues. It should present a range of programs and recommendations with the support of all committee members. When the committee reports to Parliament, hopefully the Government will take up its recommendations and they will receive bipartisan support so that we have effective programs to deal with a very complex and difficult problem. That is what the Opposition wants. However, if the member for Joondalup wants to play politics, as he has done in his contribution and in his original motion, we will not advance to meaningful solutions.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: I am trying to point out what I see to be the case. I quoted a statement made by the member for Joondalup showing clearly that he started by playing politics. I will not let that fly past; I am putting on the record that he was playing politics in my hope that this committee can help us deal with this problem.

I will go over very briefly some of the problems that should be addressed, although other members have covered them, perhaps far better than I. First, the committee must consider the current level of reports of heroin overdoses. No-one seems to have the figures. If the Government were serious, it would have those figures. Press reports suggest that 10 reports are being made each day - some people are taken to hospital by ambulance and some cases are self-reported. One person dies in Perth each week from heroin overdose. The loss of that life and the cost to the families cannot be described. In addition, we must consider the cost to the wider community. An elderly lady in my electorate died last week. While she was in her seventies her house was broken into, she was beaten up and her walking stick was smashed over her head by people trying to steal her property. Anecdotal evidence suggests that the culprits were after money for drugs. That is the cost to the wider community of not addressing this issue.

The committee must also address the huge issue of corruption and all the worries we have about the Police Service. It is no good toughening our laws if we do not have an effective Police Service able to deal with the issue.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: They should all be dealt with. The current motion will allow that to be dealt with. I am going through the points.

Mr Baker interjected.

Mr KOBELKE: I am not trying to play politics; I am trying to outline the issues. If the member is trying to read something else into it, he can do so.

Then we had the issue in our gaols. It is totally incomprehensible that people who are in a position to know say that it is easier to get drugs in gaols than out on the streets and that we read reports of overdoses and deaths in our gaols. If that is happening, surely in our community we have a most serious problem with people using drugs and with the whole area of enforcement and corruption. Those issues cannot be left to go away. I hope the Minister will support this committee and encourage it to work in a way which addresses the whole issue, so that it does not steer away from issues because they may not be politically comfortable for the Government or the Opposition. A whole range of issues must be looked into. As I suggested earlier, we may not reach agreement on the solutions in all areas. However, we must not limit the areas to be looked into.

I am most disappointed that the Minister's major launch is, as I have said, the Government's approach of the past. I am holding out hope that the Minister will change, because the issue is so important. The approach of the past is to be seen to be doing something and paying for advertising. If the program launched today is so important and the Minister believes it will be successful, why not make a ministerial statement in this House? If the Minister has any respect for this place and has an issue of such huge moment, she should at least make a short ministerial statement and provide all members with copies of any brochures or booklets which were distributed at the up-market breakfast this morning attended by a whole lot of key members of the community. How do we judge it? The Minister thinks it is worth getting together the Governor and a whole lot of important, distinguished people for breakfast in order to do a glitzy launch and hand out booklets. However, on a program to try to solve the drug problem she considers that it is not worth making a short ministerial statement to the House and ensuring that all members of Parliament have at the earliest opportunity a copy of the program.

Mr Baker: A ministerial statement would not have added anything practical to fixing the drug problem. What difference would it make?

Mr KOBELKE: The member for Joondalup does not seem to understand that this is the Parliament of Western Australia. It has an important role to play if the laws of this State are effectively to address the drug problem. The Minister believes that this Parliament is of so little importance that a major statement by this Government, which will be on television and has been on radio I assume all the afternoon, was made at an expensive breakfast attended by a lot of people but she did not think it worth formally telling the Parliament about it. This Government to date is about creating publicity to try to show that it is doing something. We want to see this Government work cooperatively with this side of the House and with the people of this State so that we can do something effective about the totally unacceptable abuse of drugs in our community.

Amendment put and passed.

Motion, as Amended

Question put and passed.

Appointment of Select Committee

On motion by Mr Baker, resolved -

That the following members be appointed to serve on the Select Committee - The member for Carine (Mrs Hodson-Thomas), the member for Mitchell (Mr Barron-Sullivan), the member for Kalgoorlie (Ms Anwyl), the member for Fremantle (Mr McGinty), and the mover.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (FORESHORE PARKING) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Dr Gallop, and read a first time.

Second Reading

DR GALLOP (Victoria Park - Leader of the Opposition) [5.05 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Australian Labor Party vigorously opposes the introduction of beachfront parking fees. Our view is that requiring people to pay to park at the beach would be a tax on the Australian way of life. The advent of the user pays philosophy and the rising cost of most recreational pursuits means that the beach remains one of the last public amenities that families and individuals can access for free. Many families cannot afford a night at the movies, a day at the football or a leisurely weekend away in the country. However, the beach remains their sanctuary, a place to

get away from the pressures of work, to refresh the mind and body and spend precious time together. This Bill will ensure it remains that way. It will ensure that our beaches remain free of charge for all Western Australians, regardless of their income or whether they are fortunate enough to live within walking distance of the coast.

I believe our beaches are a fundamental part of the Australian spirit of egalitarianism. Our beaches do not discriminate against rich or poor, man or woman, young or old. Our beaches belong to us all. They are there for us all to enjoy and must never become the exclusive playgrounds of those who can afford to pay. Make no mistake, that is what our beaches will become if the Cottesloe Town Council or any other local government authority is allowed to impose fees for beachfront parking.

When the Cottesloe council first considered this matter in October, all sides of politics were quick to condemn the move and defend the right of all Western Australians to access their beaches for free. I brought into this Parliament a private member's Bill which sought to prevent councils from introducing beachfront parking fees. The Australian Labor Party believed a swift and decisive legislative response was required to keep the bean counters at bay not only at Cottesloe but elsewhere along our coastline. The Minister for Local Government refused to support my legislation, pledging instead to stop any council from introducing parking fees by way of a motion of disallowance. On 23 October the Minister told this Chamber -

This morning I told the council that should it make such a decision, that local law would not be allowed by the Parliament.

He went on to say -

The pastime of people going to the beach without having to pay parking fees has been a fundamental and traditional right, and the Government will make sure that continues.

Later that day, in response to a grievance from the former member for Vasse, the Minister again argued that legislation was unnecessary and that the Local Government Act gave him the power to act to protect free access to our beaches. He said -

The powers are strong. The Minister, on recommendation from the Governor, may control the law making power of a local government. When the Government says that people will be able to go to the beach without paying, it is making it clear to the public that that is what will happen.

So there we have it; no ifs, no buts, no maybes; a cast iron pledge to the people of Western Australia only three weeks before the announcement of the December election. Beachfront parking fees would not be allowed. The Government had spoken; no ifs, no buts, no maybes.

Now, nine months later, with the election behind us and the Cottesloe council voting to proceed with beachfront parking fees, the Minister has had a change of heart. He has dived into the ocean at Cottesloe, dog paddled out to the pylon and performed a triple somersault backflip into the water. Indeed, he has had more positions on this matter than most Eagles players would have in an average football season. The Minister now says that he is prepared to consider the council's proposal and will allow it, if it is fair and reasonable. On the Peter Kennedy program on radio station 6WF yesterday, the Minister claimed that there need be only "some free parking on the beach"; no mention of fundamental rights or traditions but only the need for "some free parking on the beach". That means Cottesloe council is free to introduce parking meters and the like, as long as some parking space remains free of charge.

This matter must not be left to the discretion of a particular Minister or a particular Government. The Bill amends the Local Government Act such that local authorities "shall not make any local law or any regulation providing for any fee or charge for the parking of any vehicle in any public car park abutting the ocean foreshore". This legislation puts the matter beyond doubt and will prevent other councils from following Cottesloe's example, something that the current Mayor of Cottesloe conceded on ABC Radio was a real possibility. I urge members to support this Bill and the Australian way of life.

MR OMODEI (Warren-Blackwood - Minister for Local Government) [5.10 pm]: I oppose the Bill and I will bring to the attention of the Leader of the Opposition a number of issues that make me wonder whether he has read his own Bill. The Bill proposes to amend section 3.5 of the Local Government Act. It states that a local government shall not make any local law or any regulation providing for any fee or charge for the parking of any vehicle in any public car park abutting the ocean foreshore. That means that councils would be able to charge car parking on every car park on the other side of the road. I thought that the Leader of the Opposition was not in favour of that.

Dr Gallop: The Minister can suggest a form of words.

Mr OMODEI: I will. When the Government brought in the changes to the Local Government Act in 1995 it included many checks and balances in relation to local laws and general competence. The local laws are subordinate legislation, as were the old by-laws.

The Leader of the Opposition's press release constantly refers to by-laws. We all know that by-laws have been superseded by local laws. That serves only to confuse the public. Local laws are subject not only to scrutiny by the Delegated Legislation Committee but also to checks and balances under the Local Government Act. I refer the Leader of the Opposition to the regulation making power where the Governor may prescribe matters about which councils may not make a local law. Section 3.5 of the Local Government Act states

(3) The power conferred on a local government by subsection (1) is in addition to any power to make local laws conferred on it by any other Act.

(4) Regulations may set out -

(a) matters about which, or purposes for which, local laws are not to be made; or

(b) kinds of local laws that are not to be made,

and a local government cannot make a local law about such a matter, or for such a purpose or of such a kind.

The Act states clearly that with a stroke of the pen the Minister may -

Dr Gallop: I would much prefer Parliament to do it; that is why we are here.

Mr OMODEI: The Leader of the Opposition should have taken note of the editorial in *The West Australian*. It said that this is not a time for stunts.

Dr Gallop: It is not a stunt. It is a Bill. The Minister should treat it on its merits.

Mr OMODEI: It is a stunt. I listened to the Leader of the Opposition carefully. The Bill would restrict parking only on those parking areas abutting the ocean, not those on the other side of the road. The Leader of the Opposition should drive through the local government areas of Cottesloe, Cambridge, Stirling and Fremantle. I understand he was a councillor in the City of Fremantle. I did not see him moving to stop paid parking at the foreshore adjacent to Bathers Beach. The Leader of the Opposition is being hypocritical. One can walk from the car park near Cicerello's Fishmarket to the beach in 30 seconds.

Under section 3.17 of the Local Government Act the Governor can amend or repeal a local law.

Dr Gallop: Why don't you tell the council that is what you will do?

Mr OMODEI: I have said that very plainly.

The Act states that the Governor may make a local law to amend the text of or repeal a local law by order of the Minister or of the Government. The ability exists for not only the Parliament to revoke or amend a local law, but also the Minister to ask the Governor to revoke that local law. The procedures for making local laws state that local government must give statewide public notice of that local law and the local law cannot come into practice for at least 14 days. Not only that, once the local law is proposed by the local government it can be passed only by a special majority, which is 75 per cent of the council. There are a number of inhibiting factors where local government has difficulty in making local law. In the process the Parliament could revoke or amend that local law. However, when Parliament is not sitting the Minister may recommend to the Governor that he revoke that local law and also the Minister may move immediately to make a local law about matters which the local government cannot make a local law.

Dr Gallop: Why don't you say you will do it?

Mr OMODEI: That is exactly what I have said. The Leader of the Opposition must be busy as he has not been taking notice of me.

Dr Gallop: I have read everything the Minister has said, and it is not clear.

Mr OMODEI: I am pleased. The Leader of the Opposition will have read the editorial in *The West Australian* of Wednesday 25 June which says -

The Government has the power to negate any user-pays system of parking the council might adopt.

But this would not be a solution. Nor would the Opposition's proposed pre-emptive legislation, which is a needless political stunt . . .

The result will be of interest to all local authorities whose ratepayers pay a disproportionately high cost for the maintenance of facilities or services for the free benefit of the wider community.

Every local government across the State provides services for people who come into their communities and use their facilities.

Mr McGowan: Do you support the Cottesloe council?

Mr OMODEI: Not at all. Not only do I have the power to stop the council immediately but also the Parliament has the power. I am astounded by the Bill, and I picked it up only in the past six minutes. Clause 4 proposes to amend section 3.5 by inserting the following-

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or any other Act, a local government shall not make any local law or any regulation providing for any fee or charge for the parking of any vehicle in any public car park abutting the ocean foreshore.

That is the same as last year. It means that councils can apply fee parking for every single car park from Fremantle to the northern suburbs and around the State provided the car park is not abutting the foreshore.

Dr Gallop: No, it does not. The Minister told us earlier that he has the power to stop it. This stops beachfront parking fees. That is the whole issue. Where has the Minister been in the past six months?

Mr OMODEI: My God father! The Leader of the Opposition has not been down to Cottesloe recently. If one is heading north on the left-hand side of the road there is a lot of car parking, equivalent to if not more than on the other side of road. The Leader of the Opposition should read the article in today's newspaper which states -

Shop owners along Marine Parade, which runs parallel to the beach, echoed Mr Eakins' fears that parking fees would damage business. They said it would not help Cottesloe residents because people would simply park in streets farther from the ocean to avoid paying fees.

The Bill would allow parking up the right-hand side of the road all the way to Alkimos, wherever there is a parking area. This Bill would enable the Cottesloe council to do exactly what it wants to do.

Dr Gallop: The Minister can suggest a better form of words.

Mr OMODEI: That proves that the Leader of the Opposition did not carefully consider his own legislation.

Dr GALLOP: It goes to prove that if you pass this legislation, there will be no beach front parking fees.

Mr OMODEI: The Leader of the Opposition was told that it was a stunt last time, and it is this time. The facts are that the current Local Government Act has more than adequate powers to control the Town of Cottesloe.

Dr Gallop: You will not exercise them.

Mr OMODEI: It is the same power that forced the City of Subiaco to come to the party on parking for the football. We had the power to amend or revoke that local law. That is why finally Subiaco and Mayor Kosta saw reason and took the deal the Football Commission was offering. That is the true story about parking at the football ground.

The Government has made it clear that it does not support a beach parking fee. My colleague the member for Cottesloe will talk about that further. The Government will not accept wholesale paid parking.

Dr Gallop: What about retail parking? Would you accept that?

Mr OMODEI: There is already retail parking there. Obviously the member does not know that either. There is limited parking at Scarborough next to the Radisson Observation City Hotel, which is near the Leader of the Opposition's old council, the City of Fremantle, which failed to abolish paid parking in Fremantle.

Mr Kobelke: Where is the paid parking at Scarborough on council land?

Mr OMODEI: I said there was limited parking; I did not say paid parking. There is limited parking opposite Observation City. The member for Nollamara will recall it was the Labor Party that allowed that to happen there. What do members opposite think happens when people stay there for two hours and five minutes? They are fined for breaching the parking regulations. It is a source of revenue for the City of Stirling. The Leader of the Opposition comes into this place with a Bill like this, when he sat on the Fremantle City Council and had paid parking introduced a stone's throw from the beach.

Dr Gallop: When? What year was that?

Mr OMODEI: I do not know. I understand it was in the early 1980s. I did not check.

Dr Gallop: When was I on the Fremantle council? You seem to know all about it.

Mr OMODEI: Was the member, or was he not, on the council?

Dr Gallop: Of course I was. When was I? In other words, you don't know.

Mr OMODEI: To be quite honest, I do not care.

Dr Gallop: But you come into this Parliament and say that you do not know.

Mr OMODEI: The Leader of the Opposition was on the Fremantle City Council and allowed paid parking to be introduced adjacent to Bathers Beach. Why did the member not move to remove that paid parking when he was a councillor?

Dr Gallop: When did it happen? You are hopeless.

Mr OMODEI: I do not think I am hopeless. The member has been caught out again.

Dr Gallop: Remember the Edgell-Birds Eye problem, Minister, when you sat in this place and told untruths about it?

Mr OMODEI: I know it very well. It is an excellent and very successful project.

The Town of Cottesloe wants to put in place revenue raising measures to assist it in looking after its beaches. I suggest that there are other ways it can do that. As the Minister for Local Government, I will pay the council the courtesy of listening to what its proposition is. If there are some areas in which there can be some sensible compromise on paid parking -

Dr Gallop: So, there will be beachfront parking fees?

Mr OMODEI: We have said that all along.

Dr Gallop: No you haven't; not before the election. You said going to the beach was an Australian tradition and that paid parking would not be allowed.

Mr OMODEI: It still is. I have said again that our beaches are icons that people enjoy and that Mr and Mrs Smith should be allowed to go to Cottesloe Beach and watch the sun set without being charged for parking. I think members all agree on that. This Bill the Opposition has brought into this place would allow paid parking on the eastern side of Marine Parade, which is exactly the opposite from what the Opposition has been talking about all week. The Opposition has been caught out again; it has made a mess of it. It tried the stunt and it has not worked. Powers in the Local Government Act will be used by the Government if the Cottesloe Town Council wants to do something that is unreasonable and that creates wholesale paid parking along the beach. We all know what that would do; it would open the floodgates for Cambridge and Stirling to do the same, and eventually people would have to pay at Cable Beach to watch the sun go down and to surf at the mouth of the Margaret River - and on it would go. That is why this Government is opposed to wholesale paid parking along the beach. It is opposed to that for the very same reasons the Opposition is. The Opposition does not have to try a stunt.

Mr McGowan: Why don't you support the Bill?

Mr OMODEI: If I supported this Bill, it would mean that paid parking would occur at Cottesloe and at other places.

An opposition member: Rubbish!

Mr OMODEI: Members opposite should read their own Bill, for God's sake. It is very simple; it is only one paragraph, which goes to prove what a stunt it is. The member for Rockingham as the shadow Minister for Local Government should read the Local Government Act from section 3.5 onwards. He will see how easy it is for the Parliament to amend or revoke a local law.

Mr McGowan: Not more than two minutes ago you said you would not rule out paid parking.

Mr OMODEI: I said the Government would not be in favour of wholesale paid parking on beaches in Western Australia. The member for Rockingham already knows there is controlled parking in Western Australia. The Government opposes this legislation because it is a nonsense. The Opposition is playing yet another stunt in this Parliament. It has become a bit of a habit lately. I oppose the legislation.

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [5.25 pm]: I am fascinated and flattered that so many people in this Chamber are so interested in my electorate. I thank them for their interest; it is unusual.

Ms Warnock: I love to go there, as you know.

Mr BARNETT: The member for Perth is sighted by me on a weekly basis on Sunday morning at North Cottesloe.

Mr McGowan: What about Noel Crichton-Browne. Isn't he at the Blue Duck all the time?

Dr Gallop: He is down there plotting against you most of the time.

Mr BARNETT: If he is, he picks the wrong place to do it.

I oppose the Bill introduced by the Leader of the Opposition. This legislation has a lot to do with people jumping to rapid positions instead of thinking through the issues. Cottesloe Beach is probably the best known beach in Western Australia. When people visit this State, they invariably visit Cottesloe Beach. It has that pre-eminent position. It is close to the city, it is accessible, and it is a stunning beach with many beachside facilities. It is probably the best known beach in Perth.

There are three broad reasons parking fees might be put in place. The first is simply to raise revenue. The second is that it might be argued that there should be an element of user pays. This is the argument that would be put by some on the Cottesloe Town Council. The Cottesloe council does an outstanding job in cleaning the beaches for which it has responsibility at Cottesloe and North Cottesloe on a nightly basis over summer and maintaining excellent facilities around the beaches. That must be recognised. That maintenance is expensive; it costs about \$400 000 a year. The users of the beach are the whole community, as it should be. However, the question is raised: Who should pay? Is it appropriate that Cottesloe ratepayers bear the full cost of that?

Those ratepayers are not alone; other ratepayers support facilities in their electorates that are visited widely. The member for Warren-Blackwood pointed out the example of shires in his electorate that maintain tracks into forest areas. Other shires that have sporting facilities, theatre, arts and festivals within the boundaries may all have the same argument. If we follow that user pays argument through, some people in Cottesloe may be under the view that they should be exempt from parking fees because, after all, they pay by way of rates. I put it to the House that there is no way this Government, or anyone, would agree to a discriminatory parking policy. If there were to be parking charges along Cottesloe Beach, it would apply to everyone - Cottesloe residents, Cottesloe ratepayers and visitors to the area. That must be made clear. Making people who visit the beach pay a parking fee and contributing that to beach maintenance is equitable in the sense of the user pays principle.

The third reason parking fees might be imposed relates to the allocation of parking spaces. There is no doubt there is a problem at Cottesloe Beach and the surrounding area on a hot summer day on weekends. Even after work during the week it is not uncommon in a suburb of fairly congested roads to see parking up to a kilometre back from the beachfront. The beach is there for everyone to use. People should be able to go to the beach, park their car, enjoy the activities, go for a swim, and then leave. However, congestion is occurring in the Cottesloe area. If a limited area were made available for short term parking, perhaps on a paid basis - it might as well be - it would guarantee one area where there would be a maximum of an hour paid parking and a turnover of available bays. That would mean many people who wanted access to the beach, such as the elderly, disabled or people with large families or young children, would know there was a constant turnover in one area. They would have a chance of accessing the beach and using the facilities. That point should not be ignored. Pricing plays a role in making sure there is access to the beach. People may make grand statements in this House that free parking is the Australian way, and I agree with that, but access can be denied in a practical sense to the elderly, disabled and people with young children when the beach is crowded and no parking is available. Pricing can free up parking and result in a turnover in parking spaces. I do not support paid parking all along the beachfront, but this Parliament would be failing if it did not have the commonsense to look at the issue.

Dr Gallop: Why not say this before the election?

Mr BARNETT: I did. The issue is the cost of maintaining the area and making sure that as many people as possible in a practical sense have access to the beach. If the proposal is along the lines of providing some short term paid parking, I have an open mind about it and it has merit. Along with the Minister for Local Government, I certainly would not support paid parking all along Cottesloe Beach, and I would not support a discriminatory arrangement whereby Cottesloe residents would not pay for parking but visitors would. That is totally un-Australian and unacceptable. Cottesloe council has raised a legitimate issue, and members in this place should have the intellect and commonsense to treat it as a legitimate issue and consider the merits of the case.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr McGowan.

ACTS AMENDMENT (LAND ADMINISTRATION) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr Barnett (Leader of the House), read a first time.

JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Membership

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [5.32 pm]: Subsequent upon the election of the member for Geraldton as Chairman of Committees and his consequent automatic disqualification from being a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation, I move -

That the member for Geraldton be discharged from the committee and the member for Wanneroo be appointed in his place.

Question put and passed, and a message accordingly transmitted to the Council.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

MR BARNETT (Cottesloe - Leader of the House) [5.33 pm]: I move -

That the House at its rising adjourn until a date and time to be fixed by the Speaker.

It is clear that the member for Warren-Blackwood has suffered in an arduous parliamentary session, and I am conscious that this has been a long and, at times, difficult session. There have been 13 weeks of sitting out of a possible 16 weeks, and I recognise that has caused disruption to members, their activities and their personal lives. I acknowledge that, and look forward to a more joyous spring session.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.34 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

MOTOR VEHICLES - POLICE ESCORTS

394. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm that as a result of changes to the Road Traffic Act 1974 Regulations, the police will no longer be escorting oversized heavy haulage vehicles of between 5.5 metres and 6.0 metres width?
- (2) If yes to (1) above, can the Minister explain why this decision was made?
- (3) If yes, does the Commissioner of Police accept that this practice is safe?
- (4) Is it true that from 1 July 1997, accredited pilot drivers will be permitted to cross double white lines legally?
- (5) If yes to (4) above, what is -
 - (a) WorkSafe's position on this; and
 - (b) the effect on the insurance cover of the pilot drivers?
- (6) During discussions on amendments for the piloting of oversized loads in the State of Western Australia -
 - (a) was the heavy haulage industry consulted;
 - (b) what were the names of those consulted; and
 - (c) was the Transport Workers Union consulted?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(3) No. The changes in the Road Traffic Act 1974 are to grant traffic direction powers to pilot vehicle drivers that have completed and passed an accredited course of training. The current requirement for police to escort loads over 5.5 metres will remain and has the industry's support.
- (4) Changes to the Traffic Act will enable traffic powers similar to those provided to police to be given to accredited pilots when escorting oversize loads. The crossing of double white lines can only be carried out where necessary in the execution of the movement of an oversize load. Due care and attention must be given to the task and the manoeuvre undertaken only when it is safe to do so.
- (5)
 - (a) WorkSafe has been consulted as section 19 of the Western Australian Occupational Safety and Health Act 1984 places responsibilities on employees and contractors to provide adequate information, instruction, training and supervision to employees.
 - (b) Discussion with insurance companies indicates that when the regulations are modified, appropriate cover can be negotiated.
- (6)
 - (a) Yes.
 - (b) Consultation was extensive and all interested parties had the opportunity to full input to the review process.
 - (c) Yes.

MINING - GOLD

Royalty - Draft Proposal

446. Ms ANWYL to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) What formal discussions have been held with the gold industry, since March 1996, about the proposed gold royalty?
- (2) Which ministry has been responsible for preparation of the draft proposal for a gold royalty announced in March 1997?
- (3) Will the Minister provide details of the proposal?

- (4) When will the proposal be put to Cabinet?
- (5) How is it intended to implement the royalty (ie. by way of regulations, or money bill etc.) and will the Minister provide details?
- (6) I refer to the comment by the Premier, that of 476 gold producers only 76 will be required to pay a royalty, and ask -
 - (a) who or which ministry prepared those estimates;
 - (b) what are the grounds for exempting producers with a production of 100,000 ounces per annum; and
 - (c) what are the names and addresses of the companies or producers referred to?
- (7) When will appropriate legislation be introduced to establish the royalty?
- (8) What will be the mechanism for collection of the royalty?
- (9) Has the Minister calculated the number of extra full time employees that will be required to administer the gold royalty and which department or ministry will have responsibility for that administration?
- (10) What research has been done by the Government as to the effect of the proposed gold royalty on -
 - (a) the Western Australian economy;
 - (b) regional areas;
 - (c) the Goldfields;
 - (d) the mining industry;
 - (e) employment in Western Australia?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response -

- (1) At ministerial level a number of meetings have been held with the Gold Industry Forum and the Association of Mining and Exploration Companies. Meetings have also been held at departmental level with the Gold Industry Forum and the Chamber of Minerals and Energy of Western Australia.
- (2) Treasury, in consultation with the Department of Resources Development and with technical input from the Department of Minerals and Energy.
- (3) The details of the proposal were announced in the Budget. Further consultation is to occur with the industry on the structure of the royalty.
- (4) The royalty was considered by Cabinet on 1 April 1997.
- (5) The royalty could be implemented by way of amendments to the Mining Act Regulations.
- (6) (a),(c) The Department of Minerals and Energy advised that 71 goldmining projects produce more than 1 000 ounces of gold per annum. That department can supply names and addresses for those projects.
 - (b) Exempting the first 1 000 ounces of gold produced per annum by each project would help minimise the impact of the royalty on the industry, particularly as prospectors and small producers would then not pay any royalty. It would also recognise the relatively high administration costs of collecting a royalty on producers mining less than that amount.
- (7) Still to be determined.
- (8)-(9) The royalty is likely to be collected by the Department of Minerals and Energy under the authority of the Mining Act. Details of the collection mechanism and the associated resource requirements have not yet been determined.
- (10) Government agencies have studied the impact of the reintroduction of the commonwealth income tax on gold mining profits in 1991, the study commissioned recently by the industry from the Economic Research

Centre at the University of Western Australia and various other studies concerning the impact of the mining sector on the State's economy. As indicated in the reply to (1), the industry has also been consulted directly.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Membership

455. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

- (1) With reference to your answer to question on notice No 31 of 1997, who are the current members and chairpersons of the following committees and boards -
- (a) the Women's Advisory Council of Western Australia;
 - (b) the Family and Domestic Violence Implementation Advisory Committee;
 - (c) the Centenary of Women's Suffrage Committee;
 - (d) the Seniors Ministerial Advisory Committee;
 - (e) the Child Care Services Board;
 - (f) the Family and Children's Advisory Council; and
 - (g) the Western Australian Taskforce on Poverty?
- (2) When was each member appointed and for what period of time?
- (3) How much remuneration is each member paid?

Mrs PARKER replied:

(1)-(2)

The Women's Advisory Council of Western Australia

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>REMUNERATION</u>
Professor Leonie Still (President)	16.06.97 - 16.06.99	\$280 per day; \$185 per ½ day
Lally Butt	19.02.96 - 19.02.98	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Julie-Ann Harper	19.02.96 - 19.02.98	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Lynne Johnston	19.02.96 - 19.02.98	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Robyn McSweeney	19.02.96 - 19.02.98	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Lois Gatley	16.06.97 - 16.06.99	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Barbara Johnson	16.06.97 - 16.06.99	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Jessica May	16.06.97 - 16.06.99	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Mariagrazia Saraceni	16.06.97 - 16.06.99	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day
Julie Zilko	16.06.97 - 16.06.99	\$186 per day; \$123 per ½ day

The Family and Domestic Violence Implementation Advisory Committee

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>REMUNERATION</u>
Ron Carey	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	Nil
David Kelly	12.06.97 - 30.06.97	New Member
Jennifer Gardiner	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Jocelyn Jones	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Robin Shine	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Angie Hartwig	26.09.96 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Jill Flannigan	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Helen Leidel	01.02.97 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Irene Froyland	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ian Vaughan	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	Nil
Reta Clutton	01.12.96 - 30.06.97	Nil
John Fussell	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	Nil
Sue Renshaw	15.02.97 - 30.06.97	Nil
Cath Negus	12.05.97 - 30.06.97	Nil
Peta Wootten	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	Nil
Nawdy Roussetty	15.02.96 - 30.06.97	Nil

Deputy Members

Julie Hansen	To 30.06.97	Nil
Rebecca West	To 30.06.97	Nil
Allison White	To 30.06.97	Nil
Mel Ainsworth	To 30.06.97	Nil

The Centenary of Women's Suffrage Committee

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>REMUNERATION</u>
Kath White (Chair)	25.03.97 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Ms Jenni Ballantyne	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised

Professor David Black	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Dr Patricia Giles	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Mrs Kath Finlayson	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Ms Sandra Jamieson	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Mrs Marlena Jeffery (Patron)	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Her Honour Judge Kennedy	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Ms Margaret McAleer	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Ms Margaret Nadebaum	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Mrs Ruth Reid	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Professor Leonie Still	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Ms Cheryl Vardon	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised
Ms Gina Williams	11.11.96 - Yr. 2000	Not finalised

The Seniors Ministerial Advisory Committee

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>REMUNERATION</u>
Mr Ian Osborne MLA	18.03.97	Nil
Mrs Margie Bass	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Dr Peter Brine AM	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mr Norman Harris	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mrs Bettine Heathcote	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mrs Joy Jeffes	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mr Neville Lane ED	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mr Shri Manohar	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mrs Betty Mazzarol	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mr Peter Norris	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mrs Marlene Robins	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mr John (Jack) Tinetti OAM	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day
Mr Leonard Vickridge OBE VRD	01.07.96 - 30.06.98	\$108 per day; \$73 per ½ day

The Child Care Services Board

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>(3)REMUNERATION</u>
Ms Karen Farley	07.03.97 - 07.03.98	\$196 per day; \$130 per ½ day
Ms Kate Fischer	07.03.97 - 07.03.2000	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Karen Williams	07.03.97 - 07.03.2000	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Bronwyn Stewart	07.03.97 - 07.03.2000	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Heather Finch	01.05.97 - 01.05.2000	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day

The Family and Children's Advisory Council

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>REMUNERATION</u>
Mrs Ruth Reid	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$196 per day; \$130 per ½ day
Mr John Barich	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mrs Mary Clark	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Shantha Cokis	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mrs Shelley Curry	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Brian Gordon	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mrs Tracey Gosling	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Dr Judy MacDonald	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Sven Silburn	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mrs Jo Wilkie	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Rae Walter	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Pippa Warburton	24.06.96 - 24.06.98	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day

The Western Australian Taskforce on Poverty

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>REMUNERATION</u>
Non Government Members		
Mr Ian Carter	May 1996 - May 1997	\$196 per day; \$130 per ½ day
Ms Leanne Strommen	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Anne Hawkins	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Lynda Wennstrom	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Brian Gordon	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Ms Anne Harris	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Major Laurie Venables	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Doug Robertson	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Shawn Boyle	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Willem Bouwer	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Jim Morrison	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Mr Lyndon Rowe	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day
Rev George Davies	May 1996 - May 1997	\$131 per day; \$86 per ½ day

Government Members

Aboriginal Affairs Department	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Disabilities Services Commission	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Education Department	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Family and Children's Services	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Homeswest	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Office of Seniors Interests	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Department of Training	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Women's Policy Development Office	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil
Office of Youth Affairs	May 1996 - May 1997	Nil

EDUCATION - COUNSELLING SERVICES

Students

532. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

What appropriate specialised counselling services does the Education Department provide for -

- (a) children;
- (b) youth,

of culturally and linguistically diverse background who have been -

- (i) assessed as being "students at risk";
- (ii) subjected to torture and trauma in the past?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (a)-(b) (i) The Education Department of WA has an extensive range of support services available to all students attending government schools in Western Australia. At system level these include services provided through the student support branch within the Education Department. At district level these include psychology and social work services along with the provision of Aboriginal liaison officers and Aboriginal education workers. At school level services include school-based nurses, psychologists and AEWs. Students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds deemed to be "at risk" have access to these student services. This includes access to commonwealth funded English as a second language programs for eligible students who are at risk of not accessing the curriculum because of a language barrier. Access to services is made available through the use of an ethnic aide or the Translating and Interpreting Service. In response to identified need, the Education Department through the School Psychology Service has appointed a part time - 0.4 FTE - specialist school psychologist to the Swanbourne district to service the needs of students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who attend Intensive Language Centres within the Swanbourne district. For early childhood students from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who are deemed "at risk", the Education Department outsources services to the Ethnic Child Care Resource Unit.
- (ii) Children and youth from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds attending government, preprimary, primary or secondary schools and who are survivors of torture and trauma have access to student support services according to need. These services include welfare officers, school psychologists, school nurses and youth education officers. The Education Department, through referral processes, utilises the services of the Association for the Services of Torture and Trauma Survivors to support students deemed to be seriously at risk of not fulfilling their educational potential because of past experiences of torture and/or trauma.

SCHOOLS - CLEANING

Day Labour Force - Submissions

539. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Education:

- (1) With regard to contracting out of day labour, has the Minister seen a copy of an information sheet on contracting out of day labour cleaning in schools addressed to District Superintendents and Principals headed "Information for Principal and Cleaning Staff" and signed by Ron Mance, Executive Director, Personnel and Services, Education Department of Western Australia?
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that no school cleaning will be contracted out until after due consideration of all public submissions post 24 March 1997?

- (3) Can the Minister advise how long he will take to review the submissions?
- (4) Can the Minister confirm that a minimum of three months notice will be given to schools prior to the school being contracted out?
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that the transition to contracting out will occur over a vacation period and will this be the case for each school contracted out?
- (6) Can the Minister confirm that neither he nor the Education Department of Western Australia have given any consideration to the development of a program, timetable or implementation plan to contract out cleaning in day labour schools?
- (7) If yes, can the Minister table all relevant documentation?
- (8) If no, has the Minister made the decision to contract out day labour schools, as announced in his press release of 22 February 1997, without any consideration as to the development of a program, timetable or implementation plan to contract out?
- (9) Can the Minister advise as to his intention of the approximate number of schools that will be contracted out each month?
- (10) Can the Minister advise as to the approximate number of schools which will be contracted out before 31 December 1997?
- (11) Can the Minister advise what criteria has been developed by the EDWA to determine what schools will be chosen to go to contract and when will this occur in accordance with such criteria?
- (12) Can the Minister advise the number of departmental FTEs allocated to the department to the development and implementation of contracting out of day labour cleaning?
- (13) Can the Minister provide names of these departmental officers, current classification, position, current salary, and any allowances paid to each of these officers?
- (14) Can the Minister advise what budget allocation was made for these officers in the current financial year?
- (15) Can the Minister advise what expenditure can be attributed to these officers in the current financial year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) Submissions are currently being analysed and a report will be prepared for the Minister, to which he will give due consideration.
- (4) Yes. It is the department's intention to provide three months' notice.
- (5) Yes.
- (6)-(7) In April this year the Education Department commenced exploring options for the implementation of contract cleaning. An implementation schedule will be developed from this process. Once the Government has made a decision about the scale and timing of the change, the Education Department will fully inform and consult with cleaners, unions, principals, registrars, parent groups and the cleaning industry.
- (8) The press release of 22 February 1997 outlined the proposed changes to school cleaning and invited submissions from interested parties. When those submissions have been properly considered, future action will be decided by the Government.
- (9) Should the decision be to contract out school cleaning, the intention would be to implement contract cleaning in about 50 schools per term. However, the scale and pace of implementation will be determined after all public submissions have been considered.
- (10) No. Future action will only be determined following full consideration of public submissions.
- (11) Location of the school and school size have been used by the department in exploring the options for the implementation of contract cleaning.
- (12) 6.5 FTEs have been assigned to implement reform in the area of cleaning and gardening service delivery to schools. In addition there are numerous other people within the department who become involved from time to time.

- (13) Those directly involved in the implementation of cleaning and gardening service delivery reform are as follows -

	Salary Range
Level 8 Project Manager	\$67 363 - \$73 173
Level 7 Project Coordinator	\$59 479 - \$63 751
Level 6 Project Industrial Officer	\$51 045 - \$56 523
Level 5 Team Leader	\$43 863 - \$48 478
Level 3 Project Officer	\$35 018 - \$38 020
Level 2 Secretary 0.5	\$30 394 - \$33 771
Level 1 Personnel Officer	\$12 076 - \$29 376

- (14) Budget 1996-97 for the reform program -

Salaries	\$350 000
Contingencies	\$220 000

- (15) Estimated actual expenditure 1996-97 -

Salaries	\$277 000
Contingencies	\$107 000

RAILWAYS - *AVONLINK*

Use

575. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How often does the *AvonLink* passenger rail service operate from Northam to Perth?
- (2) On average, how many passengers use this service on a daily basis?
- (3) What is the estimated loss this service makes per year?
- (4) How much does the Government subsidise each passenger?
- (5) Are there any plans to close this service?
- (6) Are there any plans to expand or extend this service?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Nine *AvonLink* services and 19 combined *AvonLink Prospector* services operate between Northam and Perth each week.
- (2) Thirty-one.
- (3)-(4) I am unable to provide this information as the operation of the *AvonLink* services are not costed separately from the operation of the *Prospector* services.
- (5)-(6) No.

RAILWAYS - ROCKINGHAM-PERTH

Construction and Route

576. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the estimated time frame for connecting Rockingham to the Perth rail network?
- (2) When will such a rail service become operational?
- (3) What is the proposed route for such a rail service?
- (4) When will construction commence on such a rail route?
- (5) What is the estimated cost of establishing a rail service to Rockingham?
- (6) Is the Government considering building a rail service to Rockingham via Fremantle?
- (7) If not, why not?
- (8) What is the proposed route by which such a rail service will enter Rockingham?
- (9) Where will the train stops be located?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2) The Government has committed to construct the railway as far as Thomsons Lake in Jandakot by the year 2005. A master plan for the entire south west railway to Mandurah will be undertaken over the next 18 months. This will assist the Government to make a decision on the timing of construction at least as far as Rockingham. \$1.6m has been allocated for this work which will -

establish the final scope and feasibility of the work; including the development of concepts and planning up to but not including detailed design;

confirm the final route;

confirm the patronage estimates, the number and location of stations required;

examine how the railway will be operated and integrated with the rest of the urban system;

identify and quantify the infrastructure and rolling stock requirements;

examine the impact on (an integration with) other parties' planning and services;

examine the impact on the environment;

develop a firm cost estimate for the project;

examine the options for funding, implementation, ownership, construction and operation; and

produce a benchmark against which any future amendments can be measured.

- (3),(8) The route proposed is -

Along the existing Armadale railway to Kenwick; thence along the freight railway reservation to the Kwinana Freeway at Jandakot - but on dedicated passenger tracks.

Along the Kwinana Freeway reservation to just north of Kwinana.

Along the eastern/south eastern outskirts of Kwinana and Leda before finally accessing Rockingham along an old east/west railway reservation alongside the northern perimeter of the proposed university - parallel to and approximately 400 metres north of Dixon Road - before swinging south to access the Rockingham City Centre and then most likely continuing on a through route to Mandurah. The Government has received the report of a study which investigated various options for a railway route into Rockingham but has not yet decided on the preferred alignment. However, the route indicated above is common to all serious options.

- (4) See (1). The Government has committed to complete the first stage to Jandakot by 2005 and moneys in the order of \$20m have already been allocated for forward works in the Kenwick and Thornlie areas.
- (5) The master planning exercise will provide firm cost estimates for the rail service to Rockingham.
- (6) No direct rail service is planned between Fremantle and Rockingham.
- (7) The Government is planning to provide a rapid transit bus system from Rockingham to Fremantle via Kwinana and Spearwood. In the longer term this may be upgraded to light rail. Modelling indicates that a rapid transit system using buses will have sufficient capacity to meet demand along the corridor and is a more cost effective solution.
- (8) At this stage stations are planned at the intersection of the railway and Ennis Avenue adjacent to the proposed university just north of Leghorn Street and at the Transit Mall within the city centre. However, issues such as this will be confirmed in the master plan referred to above.

FORESTS AND FORESTRY - REGIONAL FOREST AGREEMENT

Steering Committee - Tourism Representative

592. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware the Commonwealth and State Governments have established a process to decide on forest allocation and use for the next 20 years?

- (2) Is the Minister aware a steering committee on the Regional Forest Agreement had been established?
- (3) If so, is the Minister aware the tourism industry does not have a representative on that committee?
- (4) What steps does the Minister intend to take to ensure the Tourism Council of Australia (WA Chapter) is given a voice on the committee?
- (5) When does the Minister intend to take action on this matter?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) At Tourism Council Australia's (WA Chapter) State Council meeting, held on 13 March, attended by Mr Shane Crockett, the commission's chief executive officer, it was resolved that the WATC should represent the tourism industry's interest on this committee. The WATC's chief executive officer attends those meetings. The WATC is liaising with the appropriate Federal and State Governments to progress this representation.
- (5) This matter has been in hand since the issue was raised at the state council meeting.

MOTOR VEHICLES - LICENCES

Expiry - Notification

644. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is it standard practice to advise the registered owners of all licensed motor vehicles of the date of expiry of their licence and of their need to renew that licence by a given date?
- (2) Does the licensing section of the Department of Transport accept responsibility for notifying all owners of licensed motor vehicles of the expiry of the current vehicle licence?
- (3) What allowance, if any, is made when an error by the licensing section of the Department of Transport leads to a failure to give notice of an expiry of a motor vehicle licence?
- (4) Does this extend to giving an apology to the registered owner of the licensed motor vehicle for the failure to advise of the expiry of a licence?
- (5) Are there any statistics on the number of errors by the licensing section which have led to people not being informed of the expiry of a licence for a registered motor vehicle and, if so, what are these statistics?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes. Notification by renewal account is given from 35 to 42 days prior to expiry.
- (2) Yes. Provided the record is not subject to fines enforcement conditions, subject to a defect notice, or where "Nomination of Use" for a heavy vehicle has not yet been received.
- (3) Managers and senior client service officers can waive any penalties associated with late payment, including where the Licensing Division has made an error.
- (4) It is normal practice for the Licensing Division to extend apologies where inconvenience is caused.
- (5) The Licensing Division is always seeking to improve customer service in a proactive manner. An example of this is negotiations are presently underway with Australia Post to correct errors in street, suburb and postcode fields.

SCHOOLS - NON-GOVERNMENT

Registration Requirements - Review

705. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Does the State Government require an assessment of a proposed non-government school's impact on other schools before registration?

- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) Does any Federal authority require, or conduct, such an assessment?
- (4) Will the State Government review non-government school registration requirements?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Until 1997 the State Government relied upon assessments being undertaken by the Commonwealth Government. The State Government is currently developing a procedure for assessing the impact of new non-government schools on other schools prior to registration.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The Commonwealth Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, through the New Schools Committee, conducted assessments up to 31 December 1996. From 1 January 1997, new schools need only satisfy the planning requirements of the State in which they are located.
- (4) Yes. This is being done in response to the commonwealth changes.

SCHOOLS - FUNDING

Increase

707. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What was the percentage increase in total Government funding per student in non-government schools from 1995-96 to 1996-97?
- (2) What was the percentage increase in total funding per student in government schools from 1995-96 to 1996-97?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) 6.3 per cent. This is represented by a total increase of \$11 316 914.
- (2) 5.1 per cent. This is represented by a total increase of \$71 458 733.

These figures have been calculated by dividing the total direct expenditure by the State Government on government schools and non-government schools, by the number of students within these sectors, respectively. Recurrent and capital expenditure is included.

SCHOOLS - GOVERNMENT

Fees - Level

708. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How does the State Government monitor school fees in government primary and secondary schools?
- (2) Has the Government set a maximum school fee and if so -
 - (a) what are they;
 - (b) have they been exceeded by any schools and, if so, which schools?
- (3) Will the Government allow schools to use debt collectors to collect unpaid school fees in 1997?
- (4) How many schools employed debt collectors to collect unpaid school fees in 1996?
- (5) Which schools?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) School fees in government primary and secondary schools are monitored through each district education office.
- (2) (a) The Education Act 1928 states that no fees shall be payable for children attending any government primary school. However, provision is made for a voluntary contribution by parents. In 1997 schools may require each student in years 8, 9 and 10 to pay a school charge not exceeding \$225. Within this charge schools are required to offer a normal curriculum.

- (b) Yes, when schools have offered specialist units with additional consumable charges. Where students do not wish to meet these additional charges, they are able to take units in that subject area without disadvantage. Each district office monitors schools in this regard.
- (3) Provision is made in the Education Act, section 12(2) for the recovery of unpaid fees; however, schools use this mechanism only as a final resort.
- (4) The decision to employ a debt collector to collect unpaid charges in secondary schools rests with individual schools. Data of this kind is not retained centrally.
- (5) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - PSYCHOLOGISTS

Complaints

711. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it true that school psychologists are overworked and that there is a need for more appointments as claimed by the School Psychologists Association?
- (2) Is the Minister aware of complaints by the School Psychologists Association about the demands being placed on its members?
- (3) What action is the Government taking in response to these complaints?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) School psychologists are appointed to District Education Centres and the number of school psychologists in each location is determined by the needs of the schools in the district. If the needs of schools are such that additional school psychologists are required, districts are free to appoint them through their individual budgets. In Western Australia the ratio of school psychologists to students is regarded as generous when compared to the provision of similar services in other States.
- (2) I am aware of the comments by the School Psychologists Association.
- (3) As part of the Education Department's district realignment outlined on 28 May 1997, it is intended that districts will have further capacity for the appointment of additional school psychologists, where required.

MOTOR VEHICLES - POLICE ESCORTS

714. Ms McHALE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the National Road Transport Commission currently examining national uniform legislation on the piloting of oversized/overmass vehicles?
- (2) Is it likely that their final recommendation will be to require police escorts on vehicles of 5.5 metres or over?
- (3) What are the current provisions in other States for the police escort of oversized vehicles?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) The National Road Transport Commission has developed a set of "Recommended Conditions for Permit Travel" which is part of the Road Transport Reform (Oversize/Overmass Vehicles) Regulations.
- (2) No. The guidelines specify two pilot vehicles and one escort vehicle for loads greater than 5.5 metres wide. The definition of an escort vehicle means a vehicle that is being used to -
- (a) transport a police officer or other persons authorised to direct traffic; and
- (b) warn other road users of the presence of an oversize vehicle or combination.

- (3) Provisions for police escorts in other States are -

New South Wales: Greater than 5.5 metres wide - two pilots and contact each police traffic region for any additional requirements - ie, additional pilots or police.

Victoria: No police escorts required. VicRoads accredited pilots replace police.

Queensland: Greater than 4.6 metres wide - police required - introducing accreditation for pilots. New accreditation scheme will allow loads greater than 5.5 metres two pilots/escort - police or accredited.

South Australia: Greater than 6.0 metres wide - two pilots/one police.

Northern Territory: Greater than 5.5 metres wide private escorts, police for traffic control in urban areas.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - AVERAGE SIZE

717. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What is/was the average government primary school size in -
- (a) 1997;
 - (b) 1996;
 - (c) 1995;
 - (d) 1994?
- (2) What is/was the average government secondary school size in -
- (a) 1997;
 - (b) 1996;
 - (c) 1995;
 - (d) 1994?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)
- (a) 285 students.
 - (b) 283 students.
 - (c) 279 students.
 - (d) 277 students.
- (2)
- (a) 796 students.
 - (b) 775 students.
 - (c) 787 students.
 - (d) 808 students.

PRIMARY SCHOOLS - ENROLMENTS

718. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

What is/was the average enrolment at government primary schools in -

- (a) 1997;
- (b) 1996;
- (c) 1995;
- (d) 1994?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Please refer to parliamentary question 717.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - MEMBERS

Appointment and Remuneration

732. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Who are the current members of the following -
- (a) Lands and Forest Commission;
 - (b) National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority;
 - (c) Forest Production Council;
 - (d) Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management;
 - (e) Environmental Protection Authority;
 - (f) The Advisory Council to the Environmental Protection Authority;
 - (g) Forest Review Committee;

- (h) Kings Park Board;
 - (i) Zoological Gardens Board;
 - (j) Perth Zoo Society;
 - (k) Research Committee - Perth Zoo;
 - (l) Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee - Perth Zoo;
 - (m) Customer Focus Committee - Perth Zoo; and
 - (n) Censorship Advisory Committee?
- (2) When was each member appointed and for what period of time?
- (3) How much remuneration was each member paid?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) (a) Lands and Forest Commission
- Appointed Members
Mr Leon Harold Watt (Chairman)
Mr Patrick John McNamara (Deputy Chairman)
- Ex-officio Members
Executive Director, CALM (Ex-officio)
- (b) National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority
- Appointed Members
Mr Tom Day (Chairman)
Mrs Marion Blackwell (Deputy Chair)
Dr Sue Colyer
Mr Graeme Rundle
Mrs Pat Barblett
Mr Kevin McMenemy
Cr Hugh Browne
Mr Terry Adams
Mr Rod Bellotti
- Ex-officio Members
Executive Director, CALM
Director of Nature Conservation, CALM
Director of National Parks, CALM
Director of Forests, CALM
- (c) Forest Production Council
- Appointed Members
Mr Mario Nicholas Bajada
Mr Ardino Gosatti
Mr Patrick John McNamara
Mr Ron O. Pollard
Mr Graham Shepherd
Mr Donald Spriggins
Mr Anthony Wheatley
- Ex-officio Members
Executive Director, CALM
Director of Nature Conservation, CALM
- (d) Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management
- Prof Des O'Connor, Mr Bill Morrow, Ms Helen Kruh, Cr Rob Rowell, Cr Clive Robartson, Mr Stephen Drake-Brockman.
- (e) Environmental Protection Authority
- Ray Steedman, Bernard Bowen, Chris Rowe, Marion Blackwell, Dr Sally Robinson.
- (f) The Advisory Council to the Environmental Protection Authority
- Nil. Has not been reconvened this year.

- (g) Forest Review Committee
Bernard Bowen (Chairman, advisory committee appointed by EPA to assist in compiling the progress report on CALM's Forest Management Plan), Noel Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Mattiske, Warren Murphy, John Pate, Gerard Rayner, Leon Watt, Joanna Young.
- (h) Kings Park Board
George Savell, Lorraine Allchurch, Alan Boys, Norma Calcutt, John Considine, Anne Durack, and Tony Ednie-Brown
- (i) Zoological Gardens Board
Mr Charles MacKinnon
Prof S.D. Bradshaw
Prof J. Howell
Ms R. Burges, CEO Perth Zoo
His Worship the Mayor of South Perth, John Hardwick
Ms Margaret Nadebaum
Ms Carol Day
Mr Ted Bull
- (j) Perth Zoo Society
Mr Denis McInerney, Chairman
Mr Allen Burtenshaw, Director Visitor Services, Perth Zoo.
Mr Kevin Edwards,
Ms R. Burges
Mr Charles MacKinnon
Mr John Osborn
Dr Bryant Stokes
Ms Georgina Pearce
Ms Soosie Thomson
Ms Barbara Dene Jones
Ms Annabelle O'Connor
Mr Holly Wood
Ms Jennifer Ventores
- (k) Research Committee
Dr Mark Bradley
Mr Colin Hyde
Professor John Howell
Professor Don Bradshaw
- (l) Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee
Professor John Howell
Ricky Burges
Dr Mark Bradley
Mr Colin Hyde
Dr Sherri Huntress
Mr Joseph Jeyaretnam
Mr Eric Ball
Mr Graham Mabury
- (m) Customer Focus Committee
Mr Allen Burtenshaw
Mr Ian Williams
Ms Claudia Karba
Manager Education (position currently vacant)
Ms Ros Sainsbury
Representative Zoo Catering
Ms Pamela Smith
- (n) Censorship Advisory Committee
Dr Rosemary Coates
Mrs Robyn Quin
Father Dennis Claughton
Mrs Gwen Roderick
Ms Lynette Quinlivan

Mr James Ford
Mrs Dallas Pegrum
Mr Frank Morisey (Secretary)

(2) (a) Lands and Forest Commission

Mr Leon Watt	31.10.1994	31.10.1997
Mr Patrick McNamara	31.10.1994	31.10.1997

Ex-officio Members
Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director, CALM

(b) National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority

Mr Tom Day	9.11.1993	31.1.1998
Mrs Marion Blackwell	22.3.1985	31.1.1997
Dr Sue Colyer	14.2.1995	31.1.1997
Mr Graeme Rundle	10.12.1993	31.10.1996
Mrs Pat Barblett	14.2.1995	31.1.1997
Mr Kevin McMenemy	9.11.1993	31.10.1996
Cr Hugh Browne	25.2.1997	31.12.1997
Mr Terry Adams	9.11.1993	31.10.1995
Mr Rod Bellotti	8.8.1996	31.8.1998

Ex-officio Members
Dr Syd Shea, Executive Director, CALM
Mr Keiran McNamara, Director of Nature Conservation, CALM
Mr Jim Sharp, Director of National Parks, CALM
Mr Don Keene, Director of Forests, CALM

The Schedule to Section 29 of the CALM Act allows for appointed members to continue albeit that their terms of appointment may have expired.

(c) Forest Production Council

Mr Mario Nicholas Bajada	1.9.1992	31.12.1999
Mr Ardino Gosatti	22.3.1985	31.12.1999
Mr Patrick John McNamara	22.3.1985	31.12.1999
Mr Ron O Pollard	22.3.1985	31.12.1999
Mr Graham Shepherd	1.9.1992	31.12.1999
Mr Donald Spriggins	22.3.1985	31.12.1999
Mr Anthony Wheatley	22.3.1985	31.12.1999

Ex-officio Members
Dr Syd Shea (Chairman)
Mr Don Keene (Deputy Chairman)

(d) Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management

Prof Des O'Connor was appointed 26/9/94 for 3 years;
Mr Bill Morrow was appointed 26/9/94 for 3 years;
Ms Helen Kruh was appointed 26/9/94 for 2 years **;
Cr Rob Rowell was appointed 26/9/94 for 2 years **;
Cr Clive Robartson was appointed 25/9/95 for 2 years;
Mr Stephen Drake-Brockman was appointed 13/5/96 for 1 year **;

** indicate positions currently up for renewal and renominations have been called.

(e) Environmental Protection Authority

Ray Steedman was appointed on 20 January 1997 and his term of appointment expires on 31 December 1998.

Bernard Bowen and Chris Rowe were appointed at the beginning of 1996 and their terms of appointment expire on 31 December 1997.

Marion Blackwell and Sally Robinson were appointed on 6 May 1997 and their terms of appointment expire on 6 May 1998 and 31 December 1999 respectively.

(f) The Advisory Council to the Environmental Protection Authority

Not applicable.

(g) Forest Review Committee

The members of the advisory committee appointed by the EPA to assist in compiling the progress report on CALM's Forest Management Plan were appointed in June 1996 and their terms of appointment expire on 31 August 1997.

(h) Kings Park Board

George Savell	8.6.94	3 years
Lorraine Allchurch	8.6.96	2 years
Alan Boys	20.6.95	3 years
Norma Calcutt	20.6.96	2 years
John Considine	8.6.94	3 years
Anne Durack	20.6.95	2 years
Tony Ednie-Brown	20.6.95	3 years

(i) Zoological Gardens Board

Mr Charles MacKinnon, reappointed 13.2.96 for 2 year term.
 Prof S.D. Bradshaw, reappointed 28.2.95 for 3 year term.
 Prof J Howell, reappointed 28.2.95 for 3 year term.
 Ms R. Burges, CEO Perth Zoo, appointed 12.9.95 for term of contract.
 His Worship the Mayor of South Perth, John Hardwick, appointed 6.5.97 for 2 years.
 Ms Margaret Nadebaum, appointed 6.5.97 for 2 years.
 Ms Carol Day, appointed 6.5.97 for 2 years.
 Mr Ted Bull, appointed 6.5.97 for 2 years.

(j) Perth Zoo Society

Mr Denis McInerney, Chairman, appointed June 1995, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Mr Allen Burtenshaw, Director Visitor Services, Perth Zoo.
 Mr Kevin Edwards, appointed 1992, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Ms R Burges, CEO Perth Zoo, appointed 12.9.95 for term of contract.
 Mr Charles MacKinnon, appointed February 1994, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Mr John Osborn, appointed April 1997 maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Ms Barbara Dene Jones - appointed September 1995, maximum 3 years with further renomination - no fees payable.
 Dr Bryant Stokes, appointed November 1996, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Ms Georgina Pearce, appointed February 1997, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Ms Soosie Thomson, appointed February 1997, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Ms Annabelle O'Connor, appointed April 1997, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Mr Holly Wood, appointed April 1997, maximum 3 years with further renomination.
 Ms Jennifer Ventores, appointed September 1995, maximum 3 years with further renomination.

(k) Research Committee

Dr Mark Bradley, December 1994, no set term.
 Mr Colin Hyde, December 1994, no set term.
 Prof John Howell, December 1994, no set term.
 Prof Don Bradshaw, December 1994, no set term.

(l) Animal Experimentation Ethnics Committee

Prof John Howell, May, 1996, no set term.
 Ricky Burges, May 1996, no set term.
 Dr Mark Bradley, May 1996, no set term.
 Mr Colin Hyde, May 1996, no set term.
 Dr Sherri Huntress, May 1996, no set term.
 Mr Joseph Jeyaretnam, May 1996, no set term.
 Mr Eric Ball, May 1996, no set term.
 Mr Graham Mabury, May 1996, no set term.

(m) Customer Focus Committee

Mr Allen Burtenshaw, April 1995, no set term.
 Mr Ian Williams, April 1995, no set term.
 Ms Claudia Karba, April 1995, no set term.
 Manager Education (position currently vacant), April 1995, no set term.
 Ms Ros Sainsbury, April 1995, no set term.
 Representative Zoo Catering, April 1995, no set term.
 Ms Pamela Smith, April 1995, no set term.

- (n) Censorship Advisory Committee
- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| | Appointed |
| Dr Rosemary Coates | 12 October 1993 |
| Mrs Robyn Quin | 12 October 1993 |
| Father Dennis Claughton | 12 October 1993 |
| Mrs Gwen Roderick | 12 October 1993 |
| Ms Lynette Quinlivan | 27 August 1996 |
| Mr James Ford | 27 August 1996 |
| Mrs Dallas Pegrum | 27 August 1996 |
| Mr Frank Morisey (Secretary) | 13 May 1993 |
- All members, excluding the Secretary, have been appointed for a period of five years.
- (3) (a) Lands and Forest Commission
Appointed Chairman: \$4500 per annum plus \$600 per annum expense of office allowance.
Deputy Chairman: \$108 per full day meeting and \$73 per half day meeting.
- (b) National Parks and Nature Conservation Authority
Appointed Chairman - \$7500 plus \$600 expense of office allowance per annum.
Appointed Members - \$3750 per annum.
- (c) Forest Production Council
Appointed Members - \$108 per full day meeting and \$73 per half day meeting.
- (d) Western Australian Advisory Council on Waste Management
Prof Des O'Connor - \$145 full day; \$97 half day.
Mr Bill Morrow - \$108 full day; \$73 half day.
Ms Helen Kruh - \$108 full day; \$73 half day.
Mr Rob Rowell - \$108 full day; \$73 half day.
Cr Clive Robartson - no fee public servant.
Mr Stephen Drake-Brockman - \$108 full day; \$73 half day.
- (e) Environmental Protection Authority
Ray Steedman is paid \$114,844 pa, Bernard Bowen is paid \$39,466 and the other three members are paid \$14,956 per annum.
- (f) The Advisory Council to the Environmental Protection Authority
The members of the Advisory Council to the EPA were paid \$92.50 per meeting.
- (g) Forest Review Committee
The members of the Forest Review Committee are paid \$92.50 per meeting.
- (h) Kings Park Board
Paid from initial appointment:
- | | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| George Savell | \$14,450.00 |
| Lorraine Allchurch | \$ 6,375.00 |
| Alan Boys | \$ 4,125.00 |
| Norma Calcutt | \$ 1,875.00 |
| John Considine | \$ 6,375.00 |
| Anne Durack | \$ 4,125.00 |
| Tony Ednie-Brown | \$ 4,125.00 |
- (i) Zoological Gardens Board
Mr Charles MacKinnon - fees of \$5,100 pa
Prof S.D. Bradshaw - no fees paid
Prof J Howell - no fees paid
Ms R. Burges, CEO Perth Zoo, appointed 12.9.95 for term of contract - no fees paid
His Worship the Mayor of South Perth, John Hardwick - \$73 per half day.
Ms Margaret Nadebaum - \$73 per half day.
Ms Carol Day - \$73 per half day.
Mr Ted Bull - \$73 per half day.
- (j) Perth Zoo Society
No fees paid.
- (k) Research Committee - Perth Zoo
No fees paid.
- (l) Animal Experimentation Ethics Committee - Perth Zoo
No fees paid.
- (m) Customer Focus Committee - Perth Zoo
No fees paid.

- (n) Censorship Advisory Committee
The Chairperson receives a fee of \$97.00 per half day. The other members, with the exception of Mr Morisey who is a public servant, receive a fee of \$73.00 per day.

COMO SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL - EXCESS LAND

Valuation and Report

733. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) I refer to the two hectares of land at Como Senior High School which are regarded as being excess to the school's requirements and ask, has the Minister's department received any valuation/report on this land from the Department of Land Administration?
- (2) If so, what is the nature of such a report or the detail of any valuation?
- (3) If this land is to be excised and disposed of will the Minister give an assurance that all or part of the proceeds will be made available to his department for the benefit of the Como Senior High School?
- (4) If only part of the proceeds will be retained for the school, will the Minister indicate what proportion?
- (5) Has the Minister's department received any approach from Curtin University or Technology Park for the use of this land or has his department made any overtures to these institutions in this regard?
- (6) If so, with what result?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The Valuer General's Office has provided a valuation of the area that it is proposed to sell from the site of the Como Senior High School. The valuation should remain confidential, at this stage.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The school has negotiated with the department for not more than 75 per cent of the proceeds of the sale to be redirected into the building and equipping of a computer/technology centre for the school. It is anticipated that this will equate to approximately \$1.2m.
- (5)-(6) Discussions were held with Curtin University some time ago regarding certain options for education in the area, but these did not proceed further.

TRANSPORT - CONCESSIONAL FARES

Change - Saving

735. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) I refer to the decision in the state Budget to reduce the two-hour concessional fare period to 90 minutes and ask what is the rationale behind such a reduction?
- (2) How much will it save the State?
- (3) How much analysis went into the decision, given that the 90 minutes includes travelling time to and from the city and walking time from bus stops within the city?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) A two hour transfer period was introduced to allow a passenger sufficient time to complete a forward journey, not to make a return trip. However, the mechanical ticketing system available at the time was not capable of gradating transfer times to take account of different travel distances. Therefore, it was necessary to allow the same transfer time for all journeys over all zones. This enabled some passengers travelling over shorter distances to make return trips using the same ticket. They were, in effect, enjoying a substantial benefit which was not available to passengers travelling longer distances, or to commuters. The change to 90 minutes applies to travel over one to four zones and applies to all passengers. It was made possible because the electronic ticketing system now in use allows the transfer time to be related to a specified number of zones. The change was introduced as part of the ongoing process to make the Transperth fare structure more equitable and to ensure that all users made a fair contribution towards the cost of providing public transport services.

- (2) Based on a review of Transperth's fare structure - carried out by a consultant in 1994 - the reduction in the transfer time would result in 0.5 per cent fall in demand but a 0.9 per cent increase in fare revenue. In 1997-98 this is expected to add around \$0.5m to total fare revenue.
- (3) See (1) and (2).

SCHOOLS - PREPRIMARY

Vista Street and Kensington Centres

737. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that, with the transfer of equipment from the Vista Street Centre to stock the new Kensington preprimary centre, in Banksia Terrace, that the Vista Street Centre now has inadequate items for its current four year old program?
- (2) How are the necessary toys, educational aids and craft materials for the four year old centre to be funded?
- (3) Given that many parents with children at the Vista Street Centre have previously raised funds for equipment purchased for that centre, will the Minister's department undertake to urgently provide funds for the items necessary for the four year old program?
- (4) If no to (3) above, how does the Minister expect the centre to operate without suitable equipment?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) When programs at Kensington Primary School were transferred from the Vista Street preprimary to the new on-site preprimary unit, equipment was unofficially removed from Vista Street. The school has since been instructed to ensure that the Vista Street unit is appropriately equipped.
- (2) Funds have been allocated to Kensington Primary School to enable them to buy appropriate equipment for the new on-site centre.
- (3) No additional funds will be provided to the Vista Street Centre for equipment.
- (4) The centre is not expected to operate without equipment. Kensington Primary School has been instructed to ensure that adequate equipment is available to conduct the program for four year olds.

RAILWAYS - WESTRAIL

Glue Sniffing on Trains

767. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is Westrail aware of an incident on 8 April 1997 on the 5.34 pm train from Perth to Midland, where members of the public were subjected to fumes from glue sniffing carried out on a crowded train?
- (2) When did Westrail become aware of the incident?
- (3) How was it managed at the time?
- (4) What action has been taken since then in regard to -
- (a) the alleged offenders;
 - (b) preventing future similar incidents?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) The driver of the train was advised by a passenger via the on-board emergency intercom system when the train was departing Bayswater station at approximately 5.45 pm on 8 April that an incident was taking place on the train. The driver immediately called for assistance by radio. The train's next scheduled stop was Bassendean at 5.48 pm and it was not possible to arrange for security personnel to be in attendance at Bassendean by that time. The train was scheduled to run express to Midland from Bassendean and arrangements were made for a Westrail security officer to meet the train at Midland station when it arrived at 5.53 pm. A security officer, with the assistance of local police, detained the alleged offenders at Midland station approximately eight minutes after the incident was reported.

- (4) (a) Charges were laid against the alleged offenders as follows -
- One juvenile charged with offensive behaviour, violent behaviour, assault on a public officer and assault occasioning bodily harm.
- One juvenile charged with offensive behaviour and obstruction.
- Two adults charged with obstruction.
- (b) Westrail is making every effort to provide a safe environment for people to travel on suburban trains. Unlawful behaviour is not confined to Westrail, it is a broader social issue which must be addressed across the whole community. In fact the unlawful behaviour within the community is spilling over onto the railway system through people with anti-social attitudes using the train services to move from place to place. It is common for people involved in incidents on trains to have joined trains inebriated or suffering the effects of substance abuse. The only way to stop those people causing concern to other passengers on the trains is to not allow them to travel on the trains, and this is being considered.
- Young Aboriginals were involved in the incident and in recognition of the involvement of Aboriginal people in anti-social behaviour on suburban trains and at stations, Westrail recently appointed a member of the Aboriginal community to its staff to liaise with young Aboriginal people in an effort to curb the type of behaviour which is the subject of this question. The initiative is aimed at encouraging young Aboriginal people who are likely to offend to respect the rights of other passengers who use the public transport system. It is critical to ensure every passenger is entitled to a safe and pleasant journey. Westrail and its security staff will act against any unacceptable behaviour regardless of their nationality or race.

RAILWAYS - WESTRAIL

Security Guards on Trains

768. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

When are security guards present on trains?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

I presume the member is referring to suburban trains and my answer is provided on that basis.

Security officers are present on all train services after 6.00 pm from Perth each evening and on selected train services during daylight hours.

TAXIS - ARMADALE-KELMSCOTT

Licence Restrictions

774. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) On 23 February 1993, did the Minister advise the holders of the Armadale/Kelmscott restricted taxi car licences, who sought lifting of the licence restrictions, that he was referring the matter to the Taxi Control Board?
- (2) On 5 April 1993, did the Minister advise them that he had received the report from the Taxi Control Board but was considering the recommendations of an independent consultant into the Taxi-Car Control Act 1985 and that he would defer consideration of their requests until that was completed?
- (3) On 29 June 1994, did the Minister advise them that the review of the Taxi-Car Control Act 1985 was complete and that he was in the process of preparing new legislation and when the new legislation was in place he would review the restricted area licences?
- (4) On 19 February 1996, did the Minister advise them that the Department of Transport had programed an ongoing review of the appropriateness of area restricted taxi licences and that this review must await the development of a data atlas of supply and demand which was scheduled for completion mid 1996?

- (5) On 20 September 1996, did the Minister advise them that the data atlas was still being developed and it was anticipated to be due for completion in November 1996?
- (6) Given it is now over four years since representations were first made to the Minister by these taxi drivers, when will the Minister make a determination on these restrictions?
- (7) Is the Minister aware of the difficulties experienced by these drivers in respect to leasing their cars at night because of the very limited local work available at that time in Armadale?
- (8) Can the Minister advise why restrictions have been lifted in most other areas but remain in the Armadale region?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(5) Yes.
- (6) It is important that an adequate assessment of the service levels in the Armadale area is established before consideration is given to any licence condition changes to the Armadale/Kelmscott area restricted taxis. Unfortunately the establishment of the "data atlas" has not as yet been completed. The Department of Transport has experienced difficulties in obtaining the required data; however, it is expected that this will be overcome during the second half of this year.
- (7) I understand the Armadale/Kelmscott area restricted taxis are affiliated with Black & White Taxis, which has recently commenced a campaign to promote local area services. The Department of Transport has arranged for Black & White Taxis to discuss with the Armadale/Kelmscott taxis, their concerns.
- (8) I am not aware of the lifting of restrictions in 'other areas' as the member for Armadale has indicated, particularly during the term of this Government.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - CLEANING AND GARDENING PROJECT

Entertainment Expenses

808. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How much was allocated within the cleaning and gardening project for entertainment expenses in 1996-97?
- (2) On how many occasions in 1996-97 has Geoff Power, the Project Manager for Facilities and Services, had luncheon appointments with contract cleaning companies?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) \$4 000 was allocated within the cleaning and gardening project budget for catering associated with meetings involving principals and registrars, representatives from the contract cleaning companies and central office personnel.
- (2) During 1996-97, Geoff Power, Project Manager, Facilities & Services, has had numerous meetings with representatives of the Master Cleaners Guild and individual contract cleaning companies about the cleaning services contract, contract evaluation methodology, cleaning standards and contract performance. Lunch was provided at three of these meetings.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

825. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?
- (2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?
- (3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?
- (4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Dr HAMES replied:

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

(1)-(2) The Chairperson of the Government Employees' Housing Authority Board receives an annual fee plus an annual expense allowance.

(3) Chairperson Mrs Helen Stewart
 Mr Gary Hall (Treasury)
 Mr Garry Fischer (Education Department)
 Mr John Coles (Homeswest)
 Mr Steven Jones (Police Service)
 Mr Peter Quinn (Teachers Union)
 Mr John Bannan (Police Union)
 Ms Toni Walkington (CPSU/CSA)
 Deputy Members Mr James Noney (Treasury)
 Ms Caroline Brasnett (Education Department)
 Mr Alex Anastasakis (Homeswest)
 Mr Trevor Clarey (Police Service)
 Mr David Kelly (Teachers Union)
 Mr Stephen Smith (Police Union)

(4) The chairperson receives an annual fee of \$7 500 plus \$1 200 expense allowance. No other member or deputy member of the authority's board is remunerated for their services.

Office of Water Regulation:

(1) Members serving on the Farm Water Coordinating Committee and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Plumber Licensing are paid sitting fees.

(2) Farm Water Coordinating Committee
 Ministerial Advisory Committee on Plumber Licensing

(3) The following are members of the Farm Water Coordinating Committee -

Mr Bill McNee MLA - Chairman	Mrs B Dinnie
Mr Malcolm Strahan	Mr D Tierney
Mr K O'Neill	Mr R Bayly
Mr K Stephens	Mr J McDougall
Mr P Taplin, Water Corporation	Mr W Merrilees, Treasury
Mr E O'Loughlin, Agriculture WA	Mr I Laing, OWR

The following are members of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Plumber Licensing -

Mr J Reeves - Chairman	Mr H Bennett, Bunbury Water Board
Mr Len Glamuzina	Mr M Della Posta
Mr T Hall	Mr T Lenegan
Mr T Lyons	Mr D McCutcheon, Busselton Water Board
Mr P Taplin, Water Corp.	Ms A Haddon-Casey, OWR

(4) Farm Water Coordinating Committee members are paid \$108/full day plus mileage, and accommodation expenses (if it is necessary for them to overnight in Perth). Any member paid from the public purse is not paid a sitting fee.

Ministerial Advisory Committee members are paid as follows -

Chairman - \$196/full day; \$130/half day
 members - \$131/full day, \$86/half day
 plus mileage allowances.

Water & Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust -

(1)-(4) See paper No 491.

Water Corporation -

(1)-(4) See paper No 491.

Homeswest -

(1)-(4) See paper No 491.

Aboriginal Affairs -

(1)-(4) See paper No 491.

Rural Housing Authority Industrial & Commercial Employees' Housing -

(1)-(2) The boards of the Rural Housing Authority and the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority.

The task force responsible for the amalgamation of the two authorities mentioned above.

(3) Members of the Rural Housing Authority Board are Shirley Thorne, Bert Dolin and John Moore, and Robin Lynch.

Members of the Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority Board are Garry Spencer, Ross Mclean and Mike Bonney and Dr Jim Limerick.

Members of the task force are Bert Dolin and Mike Bonney, Robin Lynch, Dr Jim Limerick and Quentin Harrington.

(4) Board members who are paid are as follows -

Rural Housing Authority - Members paid for their services -

Chairman - Shirley Thorne receives \$4 500 per annum and an expense allowance of \$600 per annum.

Bert Dolin and John Moore receive \$73 for a half day sitting and \$108 for a full day sitting.

Industrial and Commercial Employees' Housing Authority members paid for their services -

Chairman - Garry Spencer receives \$97 for a half day sitting and \$145 for a full day sitting.

Michael Bonney receives \$73 for a half day sitting and \$108 for a full day sitting.

Amalgamation task force - Members paid for services -

Bert Dolin and Mike Bonney receive \$73 a half day sitting and \$108 for a full day sitting.

Garry Spencer receives \$97 for a half day sitting and \$145 for a full day sitting.

Bert Dolin, John Moore and Michael Bonney receive \$73 for a half day sitting and \$108 for a full day sitting

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - MEMBERSHIP

Statistics

835. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

(1) What boards, committees or the like in each portfolio under the Minister's control provide a sitting fee, or other payment, to board or committee members?

(2) What is the name of each board and/or committee?

(3) What are the names of the members of each board and/or committee?

(4) How much is each member of the board and/or committee paid for their services?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

(1) The Rottneest Island Authority has a board comprising 6 members. They are paid sitting fees as follows:

	Daily rate	Half day
Chairperson	\$145	\$97
Members	\$108	\$73

This follows a Public Service Commission letter 26 October 1989 and was adopted at the RIA Board meeting in November 1989. Subcommittees are formed through Board meetings and when a board member is on a committee he/she is paid a sitting fee the same as for the board meeting.

The Board of the Western Australian Tourism Commission

- (2) Rottnest Island Authority (Board)
 Rottnest Island Authority Implementation Subcommittee
 Rottnest Island Authority Finance Options Subcommittee
 Board of the Western Australian Tourism Commission
 Audit/Finance Committee
 EventsCorp Advisory Board
 Rally Australia Board of Management
 Perth Convention Bureau Board
 National Advisory Board
 International Advisory Board
 Tourism Industry Development Board
 Regional Tourism Review Board
 1997 Whitbread Round the World Race Host Port Committee
 1997 ITU Triathlon World Championship Advisory Board
 ISAF World Windsurfing Championship Advisory Board

- (3) Rottnest Island Authority Board

Chairman Mr Ross Hughes
 Deputy Chairman Mr Craig Lawrence
 Mr Jim Snooks
 Mr Guy Leyland
 Mr Bob Murrie
 Mrs Claire Huston

RI Implementation Subcommittee

Chairman Mr Jim Snooks
 Mr Ross Hughes
 Mr Craig Lawrence
 Mr Brian Easton - Chief Executive Officer, Rottnest Island Authority
 Mr Ray Adams - Project Consultant to the RIA

RI Finance Options Subcommittee

Chairman Mr Craig Lawrence
 Mr Bob Murrie
 Mr Guy Leyland
 Mr Brian Easton - Chief Executive Officer, Rottnest Island Authority
 Mr Neil Brown - Manager, RI Business and Corporate Development

Board of the Western Australian Tourism Commission

Kevin Carton Chairman
 George Booth
 Ruth Harrison
 Annette Knight
 Kevin Harrison
 Ron Buckey
 Rod Warren
 Shane Crockett

Audit/Finance Committee

Kevin Carton Chairman
 Ron Buckey
 Shane Crockett
 John Aquino

EventsCorp Advisory Board

Kevin Carton Chairman
 Michael Blakiston
 Garry Connelly
 Ray Turner
 Philip Neck
 Hallam Pereira
 Shane Crockett
 Linda Wayman
 Robyn Darben
 Mike Rees

Rally Australia Board of Management

Kevin Carton Chairman
 Garry Connelly
 Garry Hunt
 Clare Power
 Mal Hemmerling
 John Large
 Shane Crockett
 Linda Wayman
 Robyn Darben

Perth Convention Bureau Board

The Perth Convention Bureau is a limited liability company which contributes one third of all Perth Convention and Incentive Division's marketing costs. The Bureau's budget is directly linked to private sector investment through annual membership subscriptions. Its Board therefore is an independent body whose minutes are tabled at the WATC Board meetings for information only.

National Advisory Board

Ron Buckey Chairman
 Brian Bowater
 John Ravlic
 Pauline McLeod
 Warren Pateman
 Ian Dawson
 Diane Doust
 Dianne Mossenson
 Greg Tate
 George Boylen
 Chris Hendrie
 Shane Crockett
 Simon Walsh

International Advisory Board

George Booth Chairman
 George Benney
 Kevin Campbell
 Loretta De Stefani
 Rodney Coates
 Graham Hornel
 Steven Koh
 Laura Lewis
 Manny Papadoulis
 Terry Simpson
 Warrick Welsh
 Stephen Lee
 Richard Spain
 Shane Crockett
 Rick Thomas

Tourism Industry Development Board

Kevin Harrison Chairman
 Laurie O'Meara
 Simon Holthouse
 Tim Shanahan
 Graeme Robertson
 Gary Ryan
 Peter Sarich
 Dan O'Sullivan
 Veronica Howman
 Jim Sharp
 Mark Hohnen
 Shane Crockett
 Terry McVeigh

Regional Tourism Review Board

Annette Knight Chairperson
 Lesley Briscoe

Margaret Mason
David Kirkland
Bob Mason
Andrew Hammond
Sandra Marks
Bart Boelen
Simon Walsh

1997 Whitbread Round the World Race Host Port Committee

Linda Wayman Chairperson
Gavin Budd
Victor Paino
City of Fremantle Representative
John Lightfoot
Brian Wales
Doug Kerr
Beverley Ward
Judith Molyneux
Marylyn Rodgers
Kevin Owens
Brian Adams
David Lynn

1997 ITU Triathlon World Championship Advisory Board

Linda Wayman Acting Chairperson
Phil Briars
Tim Wilson
John Aquino
Alan Brien
Don McGrath
Jack Busch
Peter Hall
Mike Smith
Chris Hewitt

ISAF World Windsurfing Championship Advisory Board

Quentin Little Acting Chairperson
Ann Campbell
Ralph McManis
Di Shaw
Bob Simpson
Dusan Mills
Grant Kitto
John Bradbury
Greg Johns
Bill Joselin

- (4) Only Rottneest Island Authority Board members are paid sitting fees for board or committee services. See (1). Each member of the WATC Board is paid \$816.66 (gross) per month. Kevin Carton is a part-time salaried employee who receives a salary of \$39 872. As part of his contract, his duties involve chairing the EventsCorp Advisory Board and Rally Australia Board of Management.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

846. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
(b) radio advertising; and
(c) newspaper advertising,

between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?

- (2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -

- (a) television advertising;
(b) radio advertising; and

- (c) newspaper advertising,
between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Department of Land Administration:

- (1) (a) \$6 000.
(b) \$25 331.
(c) \$261 169.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$101 065.

LandCorp:

- (1) (a) \$76 546.
(b) Nil.
(c) \$326 853.
- (2) (a) \$45 150.
(b) Nil.
(c) \$61 610.

Ministry of Fair Trading:

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) \$400.
(c) \$40 500.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$13 500.

Western Australian Electoral Commission:

- (1) (a) \$436 792.
(b) \$12 600.
(c) \$333 879.
- (2) (a) Nil.
(b) \$2 000.
(c) \$43 000.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

855. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
- (a) television advertising;
(b) radio advertising; and
(c) newspaper advertising,
- between 1 July 1996 and 30 March 1997?
- (2) How much does each department and agency under the Minister's control plan to spend on -
- (a) television advertising;
(b) radio advertising; and
(c) newspaper advertising,
- between 1 April 1997 and 30 June 1997?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Department of Transport:

- (1) (a) \$1 085 458.
(b) \$284 263.
(c) \$454 081.

- (2) (a) \$49 242.
- (b) \$22 562.
- (c) \$102 933.

Main Roads:

- (1) (a) \$169 070.
- (b) \$108 189.
- (c) \$348 446.
- (2) (a) \$29 471.
- (b) \$26 205.
- (cs) \$90 000.

MetroBus:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) \$11 744.
- (2) Nil.

Eastern Goldfields Transport Board:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) \$1 054.
- (2) Nil.

Westrail:

Westrail's accounts are not structured for the information to be provided in the manner requested without considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties. I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide the detail requested; however, I am prepared to provide the members with the following information which could readily be extracted from Westrail's accounts -

- (1) \$106 942.78 was debited to Westrail's advertising account for the period July 1 1996 to April 5 1997.
- (2) It is anticipated that Westrail will expend approximately \$60 000 on advertising in the period April 1 1997 to June 30 1997.

Fremantle Port Authority:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) \$109 000 including international shipping and port magazines.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) \$34 000 including international shipping and port magazines.

Albany Port Authority:

- (1) (a) Nil.
- (b) \$480.
- (c) \$3 536.
- (2) (a) Nil.
- (b) \$240.
- (c) \$500.

Bunbury Port Authority:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
 - (c) \$2 967.
- Note - excludes calling for tenders, job advertisements and specific issues.
- (2) (a) Nil.
 - (b) \$180.
 - (c) Nil.

Note - excludes calling for tenders, job advertisements and specific issues.

Dampier Port Authority:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
- (c) \$26 000.

- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$8 000.

Esperance Port Authority:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$3 330.

- (2) Nil.

Geraldton Port Authority:

- (1) The only advertising undertaken by the Geraldton Port Authority is in the calling of tenders and seeking applications from job seekers.

- (2) Nil.

Port Hedland Port Authority:

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) \$199.
(c) \$3 110.

- (2) Nil.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

862. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
- (a) television advertising;
- (b) radio advertising; and
- (c) newspaper advertising,
- in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development:

- (1) \$26 440. This figure does not include spending on calling expressions of interest for studies or tenders, or on advertising staff vacancies.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$26 440.

Western Power:

- (1)-(2) Western Power's expenditure on advertising must be considered commercial in confidence since this information would be of considerable benefit to the corporation's competitors.

Office of Energy:

- (1) \$223 516.
- (2) (a) \$160 000.
(b) Nil.
(c) \$25 000.

AlintaGas:

- (1)-(2) This information is commercially confidential.

Education Department of Western Australia:

- (1) \$562 827.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$562 827.

Department of Education Services:

- (1) \$64 336.
- (2) (a) \$46 164.
(b) Nil.
(c) \$18 172.

Department of the Curriculum Council:

- (1)-(2) Not applicable. The department was not established until 1 July 1996.

Secondary Education Authority:

- (1) The Authority has no budget allocation for advertising.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

867. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
 - (a) television advertising;
 - (b) radio advertising; and
 - (c) newspaper advertising,in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Department of Land Administration:

- (1) \$377 583.
- (2) (a) Nil.
(b) \$24 890.
(c) \$280 102.

LandCorp:

- (1) \$877 862.
- (2) (a) \$93 274.
(b) Nil.
(c) \$784 588.

Ministry of Fair Trading:

- (1) \$26 740.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$26 740.

Western Australian Electoral Commission:

- (1) \$33 837.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$33 837.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Expenditure

876. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on advertising in the 1995-96 financial year?
- (2) How much did each department and agency under the Minister's control spend on -
 - (a) television advertising;
 - (b) radio advertising; and
 - (c) newspaper advertising,
 in the 1995-96 financial year?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Department of Transport:

- (1) \$525 514 (includes advertising on television, radio, newspapers, cinema and also public posters and displays).
- (2)
 - (a) \$16 000.
 - (b) \$51 386.
 - (c) \$403 973.

Main Roads Western Australia:

- (1)-(2)
 - (a) Nil.
 - (b) \$47 729.
 - (c) \$312 610.

MetroBus:

- (1) \$15 847.
- (2)
 - (a)-(b) Nil.
 - (c) \$15 847.

Eastern Goldfields Transport:

- (1) \$1 446.
- (2)
 - (a)-(b) Nil.
 - (c) \$1 446.

Westrail:

- (1) A total of \$627 531.63 was debited to Westrail's advertising account for the 1995-96 financial year.
- (2) Westrail's accounts are not structured for this information to be extracted without considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide the information. If the member has a concern about a specific aspect of Westrail's advertising I will endeavour to provide a reply.

Fremantle Port Authority:

- (1) \$101 000.
- (2)
 - (a)-(b) Nil.
 - (c) \$101 000, including international shipping and port magazines.

Albany Port Authority:

- (1) \$3 580.
- (2)
 - (a) Nil.
 - (b) \$2 920.
 - (c) \$660.

Bunbury Port Authority:

- (1) \$2 131.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$2 131.

Dampier Port Authority:

- (1) \$40 000.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$40 000.

Esperance Port Authority:

- (1)-(2) Nil.

Geraldton Port Authority:

- (1) The only advertising undertaken by GPA is in the calling of tenders and seeking applications from job seekers.
- (2) Nil.

Port Hedland Port Authority:

- (1) \$2 311.
- (2) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$2 311.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Allocation

883. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development:

- (a) \$10 000 has been set aside in the departmental allocation, although advertising opportunities will be assessed on their relevance to resources development in Western Australia as they arise throughout the financial year.
- (2) To communicate resources opportunities and benefits to various target audiences.

Western Power:

- (1) Western Power's planned expenditure on advertising for 1997-98 must be considered commercial in confidence since this information would be of considerable benefit to the corporation's competitors.
- (2) The purpose of Western Power's advertising is to help assist its commercial objectives.

Office of Energy:

- (1) \$220 000.
- (2) Gas and electricity safety campaigns; energy efficiency rating; promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy, in particular, energy efficiency awards, renewable remote area power subsidy program, house energy rating scheme and energy information service.

AlintaGas:

- (1) This information is commercially confidential.

- (2) The purpose of AlintaGas' advertising is to promote AlintaGas to the people of Western Australia as reliable and customer focused, with a product which is safe, economical and environmentally friendly. Ultimately, advertising at AlintaGas is used to increase natural gas sales.

Education Department of Western Australia:

- (1) The estimated allocation for advertising in 1997-98 is \$240 000.
- (2) The purposes of this advertising are general, including job vacancies, contract tenders and promotions for special events, such as Education Week.

Department of Education Services:

- (1) \$21 000.
- (2) The purpose of this advertising is to ensure that all parents living in remote parts of the State are informed about the availability of boarding facilities for secondary school students and where they can get further information.

Department of the Curriculum Council:

- (1) \$10 000.
- (2) The purpose of this advertising is to advertise information about the curriculum framework, expression of interest for contract work and for job vacancies.

Secondary Education Authority:

- (1) The authority has no budget allocation for advertising.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Allocation

888. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Department of Land Administration:

- (1) \$520 650.
- (2) (a) Notify members of the public on crown land related matters.
 (b) Public information on amendments to the Strata Titles Act.
 (c) Advertising lost duplicate certificates of title.
 (d) Expressions of interest for the provision of services.
 (e) Products and services promotion.
 (f) Job vacancies.

LandCorp:

- (1) LandCorp does not budget separately for advertising from other marketing expenditures. Any advertising expenditure for 1997-98 will be contained within the overall estate marketing budget of \$1.75m.
- (2) The purpose of the advertising is to inform the public of LandCorp's land development activities.

Ministry of Fair Trading:

- (1) \$51 000.
- (2) To inform the public of services offered by the ministry and to ensure an awareness of regulatory and legislative reforms and the discharge of the ministry's ongoing licensing functions.

Western Australian Electoral Commission:

- (1) Nil.

- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Allocation

897. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Department of Transport:

- (1) \$370 000.
- (2) Promotion of transport services including special event services, public notices for fares and service variations.
Promotion of cycling.
Marine safety issues.
Tenders and contracts.
Staff recruitment.
Vehicle licence plates.
Road safety issues.

Main Roads Western Australia:

- (1) \$785 000.
- (2) Calling of tenders for goods and services, staff recruitment, road safety and awareness campaigns, roadworks, road closures and detours.

MetroBus:

- (1) \$10 000.
- (2) To keep public informed of service changes.

Eastern Goldfields Transport Board:

- (1) \$1 500 approximately.
- (2) Awareness, changes in services, fares, etc.

Westrail:

- (1)-(2) Westrail's advertising budget for 1997-98 financial year has not yet been determined.

Fremantle Port Authority:

- (1) \$154 300.
- (2) Port operations: Tenders, nautical notices, employment, trade promotions, etc.

Albany Port Authority:

- (1) \$15 000.
- (2) Marketing requirements and port user information.

Bunbury Port Authority:

- (1) \$3 000.
- (2) Port promotion and trade development.

Dampier Port Authority:

- (1) \$24 000.

- (2) Promotion of the services available through the Port of Dampier.
Tendering for contracts and leases.
Staff recruitment.

Esperance Port Authority:

- (1) Nil.
(2) Not applicable.

Geraldton Port Authority:

- (1) Nil.
(2) Not applicable.

Port Hedland Port Authority:

- (1) \$3 000.
(2) Promotion of the port.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

Allocation

901. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) How much has each department and agency under the Minister's control allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
(2) What is the purpose of the advertising?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response -

- | | | |
|-----|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| (1) | Ministry of Sport and Recreation | \$40 000 (estimate). |
| | Recreation Camps and Reserves Board | \$10 000 (estimate) |
| | Western Australia Boxing Commission | Nil |
- (2) Ministry of Sport and Recreation - public awareness programs, grant applications, job vacancy advertisements.
Recreation Camps and Reserves Board - camp promotion, job vacancy advertisements.
Western Australian Boxing Commission - Not applicable.

Western Australian Sports Centre Trust:

- (1) \$80 000.
(2) To promote the services and facilities at Challenge Stadium and Arena, Joondalup.

Western Australian Institute of Sport:

- (1) \$10 000.
(2) For the advertising of vacant positions within WAIS.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - POLLING AND MARKET RESEARCH

Statistics

904. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Resources Development; Energy; Education:

- (1) How much has been allocated by each department and agency under the Minister's control for -
(a) public opinion polling;
(b) market research;
(c) customer research; and
(d) stakeholder research,

in the 1997-98 financial year?

- (2) What is the precise nature of the polling and/or research that will be undertaken by each department and agency?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Department of Resources Development:

- (1) (a)-(c) Nil.
(d) \$25 000.
- (2) The Department of Resources Development undertakes an annual survey of its clients and staff to provide input to its performance management mechanism. This enables the department to ensure that its programs meet government objectives and client needs.

AlintaGas:

- (1)-(2) This information is commercially confidential.

Western Power:

- (1)-(2) Western Power's planned expenditure on market, stakeholder and customer research for 1997-98 must be considered commercial in confidence since this information would be of considerable benefit to the corporation's competitors.

Office of Energy:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$5 000.
(d) Nil.
- (2) Customer research for the magazine "Energy Matters" to improve the quality of the magazine and for evaluation of the remote area power subsidy renewable energy support scheme.

Education Department of Western Australia:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) An amount of \$60 000 has been allocated in the 1997-98 budget for the implementation of customer focus initiatives including customer research.
(d) Nil.
- (2) The precise nature of the research has yet to be determined, but it is expected that it will be guided by a reference group in consultation with the Education Department's customer service council.

Education Department Services:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c)-(d) No specific allocation.
- (2) Surveys of customer satisfaction with services provided, are undertaken as part of normal operations.

Secondary Education Authority:

- (1)-(2) No funds have been allocated to these areas in the 1997-98 financial year.

Department of the Curriculum Council:

- (1) (a)-(d) \$50 000 has been set aside. However, it has not been segmented in any of the specific research categories outlined.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - POLLING AND MARKET RESEARCH

Statistics

909. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) How much has been allocated by each department and agency under the Minister's control for -

- (a) public opinion polling;
- (b) market research;
- (c) customer research; and
- (d) stakeholder research,

in the 1997-98 financial year?

- (2) What is the precise nature of the polling and/or research that will be undertaken by each department and agency?

Mr SHAVE replied:

Ministry of Fair Trading:

- (1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$10 000.
(d) Nil.
- (2) The sum detailed in (1)(c) above is the amount the ministry expects to disburse to provide performance indicator information at both strategic and operational levels.

LandCorp:

- (1) LandCorp does not differentiate estate specific market research from total marketing expenditure. The 1997-98 expenditure on general market research is budgeted at up to \$55 000. LandCorp includes customer and stakeholder research under market research. LandCorp does not plan to undertake general public opinion polling. Any focus group will be included under market research.
- (2) The precise nature of the research will be determined at the time of its implementation.

Department of Land Administration:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Not applicable.

Western Australian Electoral Commission:

- (1) Nil.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - POLLING AND MARKET RESEARCH

Statistics

918. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much has been allocated by each department and agency under the Minister's control for -
- (a) public opinion polling;
 - (b) market research;
 - (c) customer research; and
 - (d) stakeholder research,
- in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) What is the precise nature of the polling and/or research that will be undertaken by each department and agency?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following responses -

Department of Transport:

- (1)(a) Nil.
(b) \$255 000.
(c) \$182 000.
(d) Nil.
- (2) The Department of Transport plans to undertake market research to examine rail interchange commuter patterns and to evaluate individualised marketing intervention of the Travelsmart pilot program. In

addition, ongoing market and customer research will be undertaken to measure passenger/operator satisfaction. The licensing division will undertake customer research as an integral part of a strategy to enhance delivery of services to customers.

Main Roads Western Australia:

(1)-(2) \$129 000. This is comprised of -

Stakeholder research for strategic planning, including workshops and focus groups, \$15 000.

Community perceptions survey - general road user attitudes for inclusion in annual report, \$35 000.

Real time traffic information survey. Determining what is the most useful real time traffic information and the best ways to provide it to customers, \$10 000.

Community awareness displays survey. Evaluation survey regarding road safety queries; ideas for community awareness display improvement and demographic questions regarding clients attending road safety shopping centre displays, \$35 000.

Busback evaluation telephone survey. Assess recall of road safety messages on the back of buses, \$4 000.

School zones evaluation survey. School and community evaluation to assess the implementation of school 40 kmh speed zones, \$30 000.

MetroBus:

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) \$24 000.
(d) Nil.

(2) To survey key indicators of customer satisfaction.

Eastern Goldfields Transport Board:

(1) Nil.
(2) Not applicable.

Westrail:

(1) Westrail does not hold separate accounts within its advertising account for polling and research activities. Extraction of the detailed information requested would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide information.

(2) It is anticipated that polling and market research to be undertaken in the 1997-98 financial year will be for the following activities -

Market research within the grain industry to determine performance requirements for Westrail's grain transport task.

Surveys of passengers using country passenger services to determine timetable requirements.

Surveys of suburban train passengers to determine -

- the number of people using suburban train services;
- preference for secured car parking at railway stations; and
- travel requirements for people with disabilities.

Fremantle Port Authority:

(1) (a)-(b) Nil.
(c) No specifically identified funding.
(d) Nil.

(2) Relating to (1)(c) customer surveying of satisfaction levels.

Albany Port Authority:

(1) Nil.

(2) Not applicable.

Bunbury Port Authority:

(1) Nil.

(2) Not applicable.

Dampier Port Authority:

(1) Nil.

(2) Not applicable.

Esperance Port Authority:

(1) Nil.

(2) Not applicable.

Geraldton Port Authority:

(1) Nil.

(2) Not applicable.

Port Hedland Port Authority:

(1) Nil.

(2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CRITICAL COMMENT

Auditor General

952. Mr BROWN to the Deputy Premier; Minister for Commerce and Trade; Regional Development; Small Business:

(1) Since 1 July 1995 has any department or agency under the Deputy Premier's control received a critical comment, letter or direction from the Auditor General?

(2) If so -

(a) what department or agency;

(b) when did the Auditor General make the critical comment;

(c) what were the precise circumstances that gave rise to the critical comment;

(d) how did the circumstances come about; and

(e) who was responsible?

(3) When did the matter first come to the Deputy Premier's attention?

(4) Did the Deputy Premier make the Parliament aware of the matter when it came to his attention?

(5) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade:

(1) The Auditor General includes critical comments relating to agencies in his general reports to Parliament. The Department of Commerce and Trade has not been the subject of any comments in these reports since 1 July 1995. Minor issues such as amendments to the format of financial statements information have been raised by the Auditor General. These minor issues are routinely discussed between the Office of the Auditor General and the agency and are not significant enough to be drawn to the attention of Parliament through his reports.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Small Business Development Corporation:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Technology Industry Advisory Council:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Gascoyne Development Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Great Southern Development Commission:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)
 - (a) Great Southern Development Commission.
 - (b) December 1996.
 - (c)-(d) The Great Southern Development Commission received a critical comment from the Auditor General with respect to further work required on performance indicators. The Great Southern Development Commission has received no critical comment from the Auditor General on its financial management capability.
 - (e) Regarding performance indicators and their development, the commission encountered difficulties in obtaining definitive, constructive and practical advice from the Office of the Auditor General.
- (3)-(5) Not applicable.

Kimberley Development Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Mid West Development Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Peel Development Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

Pilbara Development Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2)-(5) Not applicable.

South West Development Commission:

- (1) No.

(2)-(5) Not applicable.

Wheatbelt Development Commission:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Wheatbelt Development Commission.
 (b) 27 November 1996.
 (c) Qualified performance indicators.
 (d)-(e) The auditors changed their opinion on the client survey relevance.
- (3)-(5) Not applicable.

RAILWAYS - WESTRAIL

Maintenance Costs

976. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What has been the total maintenance cost paid out by Westrail in the last seven financial years?
- (2) When the metropolitan rail system was electrified, were there any calculations done on the degree to which maintenance costs would be reduced?
- (3) To what extent was it calculated that the maintenance cost would be reduced by the introduction of the electrified system and new rolling stock?
- (4) Have those predictions turned out to be correct?
- (5) Are separate maintenance costs available for the metropolitan area electrified system and country rail?
- (6) What has been the cost of each in terms of maintenance, over the last seven financial years?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(6) Provision of this information would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a specific concern about the topic, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

995. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Housing; Aboriginal Affairs; Water Resources:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is the total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Dr HAMES replied:

Water Corporation:

- (1)-(3) The Water Corporation does not lease motor vehicles.

Office of Water Regulation:

- (1) The Office of Water Regulation owns its fleet of vehicles.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

Water and Rivers Commission including the Swan River Trust:

- (1) No.
- (2) Fleet management, fuel, insurance and licensing.

(3) \$34 000.

Government Employees' Housing Authority:

The Government Employees' Housing Authority does not lease any vehicles. Vehicles are provided to the authority by Homeswest.

Rural Housing Authority:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Insurance and licence.
- (3) \$500 and \$250 respectively per annum.

Homeswest:

- (1) Penalty on excess kilometres.
- (2) Fuel, insurance, registration, damage to vehicles - that is, excess on claims, tyres, windscreens, minor panel damage, and wholesale sales tax.
- (3) Total costs for March 1997 were -

Motor vehicle expenses	\$51 814
Less lease costs	\$26 017
 Total	 \$25 797

Aboriginal Affairs:

- (1) Yes. The Aboriginal Affairs Department has a lease with Matrix Australia via State Supply for its motor vehicles. We also have an agreement with Lease Plan Australia for the management of our fleet.
- (2) The AAD pays Lease Plan Australia on a monthly basis for the fuel, registration, maintenance, interest, management and fringe benefits tax associated with each motor vehicle.
- (3) \$12 198.26 per month.

GOVERNMENT VEHICLES - LEASING

Payments

1007. Mr BROWN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) In each department and agency under the Minister's control which leases motor vehicles, does the lease provide for any payments other than the monthly payment?
- (2) What payment does each department and agency have to make for each vehicle other than the monthly payment?
- (3) What is total cost of those payments for each department and agency?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following reply -

Ministry of Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Insurance, pass on costs (extraordinary items), transportation of replacement vehicles.
- (3) Ministry of Sport and Recreation - \$41 500 in 1996-97.
Recreation Camps and Reserves Board - \$11 700 in 1996-97.

WA Sports Centre Trust:

- (1) No.
- (2) Payments for maintenance, registration, insurance and fuel.

- (3) \$2 000 per month.

Western Australian Institute of Sport:

- (1) No.
- (2) Fringe benefits tax and sales tax.
- (3) \$6 799 for 1996-97 for fringe benefits tax; total of \$15 279 for 1996-97 and 1997-98 for sales tax.

ARTS AND CULTURE - WA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Head of the Classical Department - Resignation

1014. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is it true that the most recently appointed Head of the Classical Department in the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music has resigned?
- (2) What were the agreed terms of employment for the position of this Head of Department, Classical Music, in 1997?
- (3) What reasons did the person holding this position give in his letter of resignation, for leaving the position, after only half a semester of the 1997 academic year?
- (4) Is it true that the Dean of the Conservatorium has refused to allow a tenured member of the Conservatorium staff, of 13 years standing, to teach in his areas of expertise in 1997?
- (5) Is there an ongoing need for teaching in these areas?
- (6) Have other less experienced and less qualified staff been newly employed to teach course units previously taught by this tenured member of staff?
- (7) What is the cost of employing these extra staff?
- (8) What duties has this staff member been permitted to perform in fulfilment of his contract?
- (9) Did the outgoing Head of Department, Classical Music, attempt to resolve this issue during his tenure in the position?
- (10) Did he cite this issue, and the failure of the Conservatorium to resolve it, as one of his reasons for resigning?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) He signed a standard university three year contract commencing 27 January 1997 and terminating on 31 December 1999.
- (3) He gave no reasons for leaving in his formal letter of resignation to the director dated 20 March 1997. However, unbeknown to the conservatorium, he was also employed at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music at the same time as he was employed by the WA Conservatorium of Music and was commuting each week between the two institutions. His family and other business interests were based in New South Wales. He indicated to both the Director and the Dean of the WA Conservatorium of Music that the position in WA was not what he had expected.
- (4) A tenured staff member was allocated revised duties after he had requested and been granted a temporary reduction of his contract to 50 per cent so he could complete further studies. As he was not available on a full time basis, alternative duties were allocated to him. Subsequent to that, he has now been offered a revised position within the academy which places him in research and development. This appears to be a satisfactory resolution of the problem.
- (5) All areas of the curriculum are being appropriately covered with existing staff.
- (6) No.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) The staff member is involved in research and development.

- (9) Yes.
- (10) Yes, but not in his letter of resignation.

ARTS AND CULTURE - WA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Administrative Assistant

1015. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the person who is Chair of the Board of Management Music Advisory Committee of the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts and a co-opted community member of the Board also been seconded from the Department of Education to the Western Australian Conservatorium, in order to assist the Dean with administrative matters?
- (2) Does this constitute a potential conflict of interest?
- (3) What is the cost of this part-time appointment in 1997?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised -

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) There is no part time appointment in 1997.

ARTS AND CULTURE - WA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Staff and Students

1016. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students are enrolled in the Conservatorium of Music within the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts?
- (2) How many staff are employed by the Conservatorium?
- (3) How many students and staff are there, respectively, in the other schools of the Academy?
- (4) Does the Dean of the Conservatorium have full-time secretarial staff?
- (5) Do the Deans of the other two schools in the Academy have such administrative assistants and, if not, what are the secretarial staffing arrangements?
- (6) Why is it necessary for the Dean of the Conservatorium to have such an assistant?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised -

- (1) There are 234 students enrolled in the WA Conservatorium of Music.
- (2) There are 24 full time academic staff employed by the Conservatorium.
- (3) There are 457 students and 15 full time academic staff in the WA School of Visual Arts and there are 501 students and 37 full time academic staff in the WA School of Dramatic Arts.
- (4) There are two full time secretaries and a 0.5 secretary allocated to the WA Conservatorium of Music. The staff deal with matters relating to the Conservatorium as well as work generated through the Dean's office. Staff have access to all secretarial support within the Conservatorium.
- (5) The Dean of the Conservatorium does not have an administrative assistant, nor do the deans of the other schools. As stated in (4) they have access to secretarial staff. In the WA School of Dramatic Arts there are three full time secretaries and in the WA School of Visual Arts there are 1.5 full time secretaries.
- (6) The Dean of the Conservatorium does not have such an assistant.

ARTS AND CULTURE - WA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Promotion Procedures

1017. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What procedures were followed in the recent promotion to Senior Lecturer of a member of the Conservatorium's jazz staff?
- (2) Were these the standard procedures used for such promotions within Edith Cowan University?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised -

- (1) The academy followed established procedure in providing the staff member with a temporary/acting salary upgrade which will remain in place until the present enhanced duties have been completed. He will return to his substantive position at the end of 1997. The position will then be advertised.
- (2) The staff member was not promoted, however, the procedures followed were standard for the university.
- (3) Not applicable.

ARTS AND CULTURE - WA CONSERVATORIUM OF MUSIC

Teaching Hours - Variations

1018. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Are students at the Western Australian Conservatorium of Music receiving the full complement of supervised teaching hours, as stipulated in the Edith Cowan University Handbook, in the following areas: aural training; history; principal study?
- (2) Were students at the Western Australian Conservatorium informed at the time of course enrolments about any variation to the published number of teaching hours?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I am advised -

- (1) The Western Australian Conservatorium of Music, which is part of Edith Cowan University, provides both higher education (university) and vocational education and training courses. For the 1997 calendar year, the university requested that there be a 10 per cent reduction in teaching hours generally to accommodate higher education funding cuts by the Commonwealth. The WA Conservatorium of Music complied. VET courses were not affected. Consequently the Edith Cowan University Handbook for 1997, which was printed in 1996, is now inaccurate (although accurate at the time of printing). However, all changes which have been considered appropriate for higher education programs within the academy have been processed through the academy's Academic Committee and the university's Academic Board.
- (2) Students were informed during orientation week of the 10 per cent reductions and the reasons for those variations to the higher education programs.

ROADS - ROE HIGHWAY

Extensions - Funding

1026. Mr RIPPER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What funding is provided in the 1997-98 budget for each of stages 2, 3, and 4 of the proposed Roe Highway extensions?
- (2) What funding is provided in the forward estimates for each of stages 2, 3 and 4 of the proposed Roe Highway extensions?
- (3) By what date will stage 4 of the extensions be completed?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Stage 2 \$16.7m.
Stage 3 \$1.3m.
Stage 4 Nil.
- (2) Stage 2 \$5.7m.
Stage 3 \$16.2m.
Stage 4 \$30.1m.
- (3) By the year 2000.

HEALTH - VISION IMPAIRED SERVICE

Review

1028. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) With regard to the vision impairment service, what was the total cost of the review of the service undertaken by the Kadmos Group?
- (2) Has the Government prepared a response to the Kadmos review and, if so, will it be made available to the public?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) \$28 000.
- (2) The review of the Visiting Teacher Service was commissioned by the Education Department's Disabilities and Learning Difficulties branch. The aim was to review the management of the Visiting Teacher Service with a view to improving its efficiency and effectiveness. The Kadmos Group who undertook the review presented a report to the Disabilities and Learning Difficulties branch personnel who in return presented this to the senior executive group of the Education Department. The Visiting Teacher Service in 1996 implemented recommendations from the review and is currently trialling a new service delivery model. The report of the review of the Visiting Teacher Service is available for viewing through the Disabilities and Learning Difficulties branch of the Education Department.

SCHOOLS - GOVERNMENT

Sponsorship and Promotion Policy

1029. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Education:

- (1) When was the interim sponsorship and promotion policy for Government schools finalised?
- (2) What are the terms of the policy?
- (3) Which groups, if any, were consulted in the drafting of the policy?
- (4) When will the policy be implemented?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Senior executive of the Education Department approved the interim sponsorship and promotion policy for government schools in April 1996.
- (2) The terms of the policy are -
Western Australian government schools and other sections of the Education Department of Western Australia may choose to participate in sponsorship or promotional activities provided that:
 - a. Participation in sponsorships and promotions should not generate undue pressure on children, parents or schools to purchase particular products or services, or to adopt particular beliefs, attitudes or courses of action.
 - b. All funds, services and products received by a school or other sections of the department must be treated in line with the Financial Administration and Audit Act as outlined in the Financial Management in Schools policy manual.
 - c. Sponsorships and promotions must be consistent with the generally accepted values, purposes and goals of school education as stated in the Education Department Plan for Government School Education, 1998-2000 and with the Education Act, regulations and EDWA policies.

- d. The procedures outlined in the policy document are applied to all sponsorship activities in all government schools and other sections of the Education Department.
- (3) The policy was drafted after consultation with representatives from the Western Australian Council of State School Organisations and Principals Associations.
- (4) The policy will be implemented when the Education Department of Western Australia receives notification of amendments to the State Trading Concerns Act and the repeal of regulation 27 of the Education Department.

SPORT AND RECREATION - POINT PERON

Government's Plans

1040. Mr McGOWAN to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) What are the Government's plans in relation to the Point Peron area of Rockingham?
- (2) What is the Government's intentions in relation to the various camps and clubs that are currently established on Point Peron?
- (3) Has the Government received any expressions of interest from any business concerns in relation to Point Peron?
- (4) If so, from whom and for what purpose?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response -

- (1) A number of government Ministers are involved in considering the future planning needs of Point Peron. Specific long term plans are yet to be determined.
- (2) The recreational camp leases expire in October of this year. A decision regarding their renewal is imminent.
- (3)-(4) The Government has received a concept proposal for a marina at Point Peron. The proposal is being considered in the light of the overall future management and planning of the area.

POLICE - ESCORTS

Wide Load Vehicles

1045. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Government proposing to abandon police escorts from vehicles over 5.5 metres wide?
- (2) If so, why?
- (3) If police escorts are abandoned will this place Western Australia into a different position to other states?
- (4) Does abandoning police escorts make wide load trucks more dangerous?
- (5) Are there any proposals for national standards to be applied to wide loads?
- (6) Will the Government make an accredited course for road pilots compulsory?
- (7) If the Government is planning to abandon police escorts for vehicles up to 6 metres wide what sort of publicity campaign will there be to inform the public?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) No. The current requirement for police to escort loads over 5.5 metres will remain and has the support of the transport industry.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.
- (5) National standards have been developed by the National Road Transport Commission and state road authorities are currently preparing for their introduction. Western Australia has implemented the proposed national principles for escorting wide loads.

- (6) Yes.
- (7) Not applicable.

SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

East Waikiki

1047. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Government planning to construct a new primary school in East Waikiki?
- (2) If so, when?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) A government primary school site has been set aside in Santa Monica Drive, Waikiki and the school will be constructed once there are sufficient students living in the area.
- (2) No timing has been allocated for the establishment of the school. Children from the Waikiki Gardens Estate have the option of attending any of the four neighbouring primary schools - Charthouse, East Waikiki, Koorana and Warnbro - but there are less than 120 primary aged students currently enrolled at those schools from this area. In addition, new residential development in the subdivision is subdued, with only nine houses being constructed there as at March 1997. Consequently it could be at least five years before the school is built, and only then if there is a significant upturn in the home building sector in the interim period. The Education Department has raised the possibility of an interim school in houses with the developers and this strategy will be given further consideration when structure planning is undertaken for new subdivisions in the area.

SCHOOLS - GOVERNMENT

Airconditioning

1055. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) What are the Government's plans in relation to airconditioning in State schools?
- (2) Does the Government have any specific program in place to put airconditioners into all State school classrooms?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) What is the estimated cost of such a program?
- (5) Which State schools are already airconditioned and which are not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) All schools in the Kimberley, Pilbara and Goldfields Education Districts together with those in the northern part of the Geraldton Education District have been provided with air-cooling. Additionally, all demountable and transportable classrooms in schools throughout the State will be air-cooled by the end of this year. Also, funding has been allocated in the 1997-98 capital works program to enable two classrooms to be air-cooled at each special school. This work has been funded because some students in special schools suffer considerable discomfort and stress on those days when high temperatures are experienced due to their various medical conditions.
- (2)-(3) There is no plan to install air-cooling in all classrooms throughout the State. Apart from the northern part of the State as described in (1), the days on which extremely high temperatures are experienced tend to occur over a limited portion of the school year. Schools in proximity to the coast usually experience a sea breeze on most afternoons, which provides relief for those residing and working in these areas. It would be difficult to justify the provision of air-cooling in permanent classrooms to cater for this short period, particularly as it would have to be provided at the expense of other educational programs. Notwithstanding this, in response to community concerns, the director general announced a review of the air-cooling policy which has commenced.
- (4) While no detailed costs have been determined, it is considered that the cost of providing air-cooling in schools in the Perth metropolitan area could be as high as \$15m.

- (5) This information is not readily available since some schools have financed the installation of air-cooling with minor works funds or other school funds.

EDUCATION - TERTIARY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Modern Greek

1065. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students study modern Greek to tertiary entrance examination level through the after hours ethnic schools program?
- (2) Is the number sufficient to do a comparative scaling to ensure that the marks can be validly included within a students TEE score?
- (3) When did the Secondary Education Authority approve the curriculum used for teaching modern Greek?
- (4) What is the total cost to the SEA in -
- (a) preparing;
- (b) administration;
- (c) marking,
- the modern Greek TEE?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) Thirteen. Five students at the Hellenic Community School; eight students at St Andrews Grammar.
- (2) Yes, but using a different procedure than that for larger candidature subjects.
- (3) The syllabus for modern Greek was approved by the authority on 11 December 1996.
- (4) The total cost in 1997 will be approximately \$300.

SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

Ashfield - Asbestos Roof

1088. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget have funds been set aside to replace the asbestos roofs at the Ashfield Primary School?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The details of the 1997-98 asbestos-cement roof replacement program are currently being finalised. It is anticipated that the list of schools will be announced in mid to late July 1997. Ashfield Primary School, which is categorised as a relatively high priority for replacement in the program, is being given consideration for inclusion in the 1997-98 program.

SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

East Beechboro - Asbestos Roof

1089. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Education:

- (1) In the 1997-98 State Budget have funds been set aside to replace the asbestos roofs at the East Beechboro Primary School?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(2) The details of the 1997-98 asbestos-cement roof replacement program are currently being finalised. It is anticipated that the list of schools will be announced in mid to late July 1997. East Beechboro Primary School is being given consideration for inclusion but, with level 2 roofs, is unlikely to be included in the 1997-98 program, because its roofs are categorised as a low priority for replacement, relative to other schools in the program.

AGENTS' LICENCE FEES - REVENUE

1092. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Fair Trading:

What factors have given rise to the estimated significant drop in revenue from agent licence fees for -

- (a) employment agents;
- (b) finance brokers;
- (c) motor vehicle dealers;
- (d) pawnbrokers;
- (e) travel agents?

Mr SHAVE replied:

The Business Licensing Bill, passed in December 1995, affected the renewal periods of a number of occupational licences. The most significant effect of this legislation was to change annual licensing periods to triennial periods. This initiative was taken by this Government as a means of reducing costs to small business. The benefits of reduced costs in processing licences on a triennial basis were passed on to small business in the form of a reduction in the licence fees by one-third and reduced 'red tape' associated with the annual renewal of licences. The change to triennial licensing has meant that the majority of licence renewals are now staggered. This has caused a shift in the receipt of licensing renewal fees hence the changes in estimates reflected in financial projects.

- (a) Employment Agents: Licences granted or renewed between 1 January 1996 and 30 April 1996 were renewed for one year and thereafter for three years. Licences granted or renewed between 1 May 1996 and 31 August 1996 were renewed for two years and thereafter for three years. Licences granted or renewed between 1 September 1996 and 31 December 1996 were renewed for three years and thereafter for three year periods.
- (b) Finance Brokers: Finance brokers whose 'business certificates' expired between 1 May 1996 to 30 April 1997 had their certificates renewed, in turn, for varying periods of one, two or three years. Subsequently, as these certificates again fall due for renewal, they will be renewed for a three year period.
- (c) Motor Vehicle Dealers: Licences granted or renewed between 1 January 1996 and 30 April 1996 were renewed for three years and thereafter for three year periods. Licences granted or renewed between 1 May 1996 and 31 August 1996 were renewed for two years and thereafter for three year periods. Licences granted or renewed between 1 September 1996 and 31 December 1996 were renewed for one year and thereafter for three year periods.
- (d) Pawnbrokers: This occupational licensing group does not fall within the Fair Trading portfolio.
- (e) Travel Agents: Licences granted or renewed between 1 January 1996 and 30 April 1996 were renewed for three years and thereafter for three year periods. Licences granted or renewed between 1 May 1996 and 31 August 1996 were renewed for two years and thereafter for three year periods. Licences granted or renewed between 1 September 1996 and 31 December 1996 were renewed for one year and thereafter for three year periods.

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - EXPENDITURE

Effect of Changed Tax Treatment

1098. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Is the Minister aware the Federal Government changed the tax treatment of funds spent on research and development in its 1996-97 Budget?
- (2) Has the Department of Commerce and Trade or any other department or agency assessed the degree to which the changed tax treatment of research and development expenditure will reduce the level of expenditure on research and development?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) Has the Department of Commerce and Trade or any other department or agency investigated the degree to which the changed tax treatment of funds spent on research and development will have a negative impact on employment in the immediate, medium and long term?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

Department of Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No precise estimates have been made of the effect of the changes.
- (3) Because of other changes in the commonwealth R & D incentives schemes, it would be impossible at this early stage to estimate the reduction, if any, on the level of R & D expenditure by industry. Some of these other changes provide compensation benefits to industry and some impose further restrictions on eligibility.
- (4) No.
- (5) As with (3), the responses to such changes are long term and complex, with both positive and negative elements.

Small Business Development Corporation:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Considered the responsibility of the Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (4) No.
- (5) Considered the responsibility of the Department of Commerce and Trade.

International Centre for Application of Solar Energy:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) CASE has no power to initiate or undertake research and development. No assessment of the changes has therefore been made.
- (4) No.
- (5) Not within the scope of CASE power or functions.

Technology Industry Advisory Council:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) TIAC has not carried out any research in the area.
- (3),(5) Definitive data on the impact is difficult to obtain and it is too soon to assess trends accurately so early after the change.
- (4) No.

Gascoyne Development Commission:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3),(5) Not core business for this agency.
- (4) No.

Goldfields-Esperance Development Commission:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3),(5) Considered the responsibility of the Department of Commerce and Trade.
- (4) No.

Great Southern Development Commission:

- (1) Yes.

(2) The program of the Great Southern Development Commission is not affected by the Federal Government changes in the tax treatment of funds spent on research and development.

(3),(5) Not applicable as it is not the core business of the GSDC.

(4) No.

Kimberley Development Commission:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3),(5) Not applicable. The Kimberley Development Commission's role is not to conduct assessments of changes to federal tax law.

(4) No.

Mid West Development Commission:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) There has been no advice from regional communities/enterprises suggesting the tax changes will impact on their activities nor has there been a request for the issue to be addressed.

(4) No.

(5) While the tax changes have the potential to impact on employment, the commission is confident the recently released state science and technology policy will address any shortfalls.

Peel Development Commission:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3),(5) Not applicable.

(4) No.

Pilbara Development Commission:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3),(5) The changes are not expected to have impacts that are specific to the Pilbara region.

(4) No.

South West Development Commission:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3),(5) The impact has statewide implications not confined to a specific region.

(4) No.

Wheatbelt Development Commission:

(1) Yes.

(2) No.

(3) Not applicable.

(4) No.

- (5) This is a generic matter covering all parts of the State. The ramification of such a policy generally is researched by the regional services section of the Department of Commerce and Trade and is therefore considered the responsibility of the Department of Commerce and Trade.

SCHOOLS - ELECTORATE OF EYRE

Shade Cover for Sand Pits

1100. Mr GRILL to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Could you advise as to how many sand pits are located at kindergartens, pre-primary schools and other schools within the electorate of Eyre?
- (2) Could you advise as to which of those sand pits are covered?
- (3) Could you advise as to whether there is a timetable for placing shade cover over those sand pits?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1) This information is not readily available at present.
- (2) It is proposed to survey the schools in the Goldfields Education District during term three to ascertain the information.
- (3) An amount of \$600 000 has been allocated in the 1997-98 capital works program to commence a three year program to provide shade covers over sandpits at preprimary centres and kindergartens. It is proposed to implement the program on a district-by-district basis with schools in the Kimberley and Pilbara districts comprising the initial phase of the program. Depending on available resources the Goldfields district will also be included at this time. A grant of \$2 500 - with increased loading for rural and remote schools - for each uncovered sandpit together with a guidelines document, will be forwarded to these schools later this year. Schools will arrange for the construction of the shade covers in liaison with the program manager from the Department of Contract and Management Services.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - TOURISM

Membership

1132. Dr CONSTABLE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) With reference to the Minister's answer to question on notice 45 of 1997, who are the current members and chairpersons of the following committees and boards -
 - (a) Board of the Western Australian Tourism Commission;
 - (b) EventsCorp Board;
 - (c) National Advisory Board;
 - (d) International Advisory Board; and
 - (e) Tourism Industry Development Board?
- (2) When was each member appointed and for what period of time?
- (3) How much remuneration is each member paid?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2) Board of the Western Australian Tourism Commission

Kevin Carton	Chairman	reappointed for 2 years from 16/4/97
George Booth		reappointed for 1 year from 16/4/97
Ruth Harrison		reappointed for 2 years from 16/4/97
Annette Knight		reappointed for 2 years from 16/4/97
Kevin Harrison		appointed until 30 January, 1998
Ron Buckley		reappointed for 2 years from 16/4/97
Rod Warren		appointed for 2 years from 16/4/97
Shane Crockett		appointed for a period of 4 years from 23/1/96

EventsCorp Advisory Board

Kevin Carton	Chairman	8 May, 1997 - for a period of 2 years
Michael Blakiston		10 October, 1995 - for a period of 2 years
Garry Connelly		10 October, 1995 - for a period of 2 years
Ray Turner		10 October, 1995 - for a period of 2 years
Philip Neck		3 February, 1997 - for a period of 2 years
Hallam Pereira		18 April, 1997 - for a period of 2 years
Shane Crockett		2 May, 1994 - for a period of five years from 23/2/96 while Chief Executive Officer
Linda Wayman		3 December, 1996 - for a period of 3 years while General Manager of EventsCorp
Robyn Darben		5 November, 1996 - for a period of 3 years while Executive Director of Rally
Mike Rees		14 March, 1994 - for a period of 2 years while Event Development Manager

National Advisory Board

Ron Buckey	Chairman	For the period of appointment as Commissioner
Brian Bowater		October 1995 - 2 years 2 months
John Ravlic		January 1997 - 2 years
Pauline McLeod		January 1997 - 2 years
Warren Pateman		October 1995 - 2 years 2 months
Ian Dawson		October 1995 - 2 years 2 months
Diane Doust		January 1997 - 2 years
Dianne Mossenson		October 1995 - 2 years 2 months
Greg Tate		October 1995 - 2 years 2 months
George Boylen		October 1995 - 2 years 2 months
Chris Hendrie		January 1997 - 2 years
Shane Crockett		While CEO
Simon Walsh		While General Manager, National Sales and Marketing

International Advisory Board

George Booth	Chairman	For the period of appointment as Commissioner
George Benney		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Kevin Campbell		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Loretta De Stefani		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Rodney Coates		February 1996 - 2 years
Graham Hornel		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Steven Koh		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Laura Lewis		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Manny Papadoulis		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Terry Simpson		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Warrick Welsh		February 1996 - 2 years
Stephen Lee		February 1996 - 2 years
Richard Spain		October 1995 - 2 years, 2 months
Shane Crockett		While CEO
Rick Thomas		While General Manager, International Sales and Marketing

Tourism Industry Development Board

Kevin Harrison	Chairman	For the period of appointment as Commissioner
Laurie O'Meara		September 1996 - 18 months
Simon Holthouse		September 1996 - 12 months
Tim Shanahan		September 1996 - 12 months
Graeme Robertson		September 1996 - 18 months
Gary Ryan		September 1996 - 12 months
Peter Sarich		September 1996 - 18 months
Dan O'Sullivan		September 1996 - 12 months
Veronica Howman		September 1996 - 18 months
Jim Sharp		September 1996 - 12 months
Mark Hohnen		September 1996 - 12 months
Shane Crockett		While CEO
Terry McVeigh		While General Manager Tourism Industry Development

- (3) Each member of the WATC Board is paid \$816.66 (gross) per month. Kevin Carton is a part-time salaried employee who receives a salary of \$39 872. As part of his contract, his duties involve chairing the EventsCorp Advisory Board and Rally Australia Board of Management. Remuneration is not paid to members of the EventsCorp Board or to members of the advisory boards.

CONSULTANTS - DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT

Appointment

1134. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many consultants have been engaged by or on behalf of the Department of Transport in the last two years?
- (2) In respect of each consultant -
 - (a) was the consultant appointed following a tender process;
 - (b) what were the essential terms of each appointment (whether by tender or otherwise) including -
 - (i) length of contract; and
 - (ii) the tasks to be performed by the consultant;
 - (c) is/was the consultant a prior employee of the Western Australian Government;
 - (d) does/did the consultant work from the department's offices; and
 - (e) could the work for which the consultant was engaged be performed by any firm listed in the panel contracts?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

As the member is aware, a six monthly report on the engagement of consultants is tabled in Parliament by the Government. The information requested in this question would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response, but if the member has a specific inquiry about a consultant I will endeavour to provide a reply.

SCHOOLS - PRIMARY

Bellevue - Undercover Area

1138. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Education:

Further to question on notice 100 of 1997, can the Minister now advise if there has been any further developments with respect to providing a multi-purpose facility at Bellevue Primary School?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The 1997-98 capital works program did not make provision for a multipurpose facility at Bellevue Primary School. Consideration will be given to its provision when future capital works programs are prepared.

SPORT AND RECREATION - PEOPLE OF NON-ENGLISH SPEAKING BACKGROUNDS

Report - Implementation

1139. Mr CARPENTER to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) What types of resources of -
 - (a) human;
 - (b) financial; or
 - (c) other kind,

has the State Government allocated for the implementation of recommendations of the report "Barriers to Training and Employment for People of Non-English Speaking Backgrounds in the WA Sport and Recreation Industry"?

- (2) To ensure the proper implementation of the recommendations of the report, will the Government set up an advisory council which will include representation from ethnic sporting organisations, the vocational

education area and peak ethnic organisations, such as the Ethnic Communities Council of Western Australia?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response -

- (1) The Ministry of Sport and Recreation regularly schedules "Research Frontiers in Sport and Recreation" forums and the next forum on 4 June 1997 titled "Leaping Cultural Hurdles" will include the report to which the member has referred. Printing of an executive summary of the report has been undertaken by the Ministry of Sport and Recreation for wide distribution. The appropriate response at this point is to increase awareness across the diverse providers of participation and training opportunities in sport and recreation of the study findings.
- (2) No. Given the wide range of recommendations a number of organisations, many over which the State Government has no jurisdiction, will have to consider the merits and value of the respective recommendations and their response to them.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1164. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

Westrail:

- (1) Westrail - a joint venture with Western Quarries Pty Ltd.
- (2) \$2 845 001.
- (3) Westrail's annual report is tabled in Parliament.
- (4) Not applicable.

Esperance Port Authority:

- (1) Esperance Port Authority has a contractual arrangement with Koolyanobbing Iron whereby both partners invest approximately 50 per cent each of capital requirement - \$15m - for the iron ore exports at the port.
- (2) Approximately \$7.5m.
- (3) Annual report produced and tabled in Parliament.
- (4) Not applicable.

Port Hedland Port Authority:

- (1) Port Hedland Port Authority.
- (2)

Investment in Pilbara Stevedores Pty Ltd.	\$ 83 212
Half share in ship loading system with P & O Ports - as cost	\$ 927 564
Total	\$1 010 776
- (3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

Investment and Financial Statements

1168. Mr PENDAL to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Will the Minister list each Government department or agency under his control which is involved in any commercial or business venture by way of invested capital, or partnerships with the private sector on which the department/agency seeks a return?
- (2) Will the Minister indicate the level of investment in each case?
- (3) Will the Minister indicate whether such departments/agencies table their financial statements in Parliament?
- (4) If they do not, will the Minister arrange for such tabling?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response -

- (1) Nil.
- (2)-(4) Not applicable.

MINING - FATAL ACCIDENTS

Number

1198. Mr GRILL to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) How many fatal accidents have there been on a year by year basis in the mining industry during the last ten years?
- (2) Where have those fatal accidents taken place?
- (3) How many fatal accidents and serious accidents have taken place during the last ten years at the Long Shaft Kambalda on a year by year basis?
- (4) What are the names and the date of death of persons killed at Western Mining operations in and around Kambalda from the inception of mining operations in 1969?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response -

- | (1) | Year | No Fatals | No Employees |
|-----|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| | 1987 | 6 | 28 845 |
| | 1988 | 10 | 29 213 |
| | 1989 | 18 | 31 721 |
| | 1990 | 5 | 34 100 |
| | 1991 | 11 | 33 752 |
| | 1992 | 6 | 33 128 |
| | 1993 | 7 | 33 868 |
| | 1994 | 4 | 34 123 |
| | 1995 | 8 | 35 659 |
| | 1996 | 7 | 39 500 |
| | 1997(to date) | 3 | 40 000(estimated) |
- (2) See paper No 493.
- | (3) | Year | No Fatals | No Serious Accidents |
|-----|---------------|-----------|----------------------|
| | 1987 | 0 | 18 |
| | 1988 | 0 | 11 |
| | 1989 | 0 | 5 |
| | 1990 | 0 | 8 |
| | 1991 | 0 | 8 |
| | 1992 | 0 | 2 |
| | 1993 | 0 | 3 |
| | 1994 | 0 | 3 |
| | 1995 | 0 | 4 |
| | 1996 | 0 | 2 |
| | 1997(to date) | 1 | 5(to date) |
- (The above data includes the Victor decline)

(4)	Date	Name
	12/11/69	John Raymond Douglas
	16/05/70	Joeseef Baumgartner
	31/05/70	Stephen O'Conner
	16/03/71	G. Proszenyak
	24/05/71	J. Jaceglav
	11/06/71	R. Chisholm
	20/06/72	G.J. Browne
	28/02/73	W. Hogg
	16/02/73	Erhart Seibell
	12/06/75	B. Buncic
	04/06/75	C. Burrows
	25/09/75	E. Deakin
	10/03/76	M. Rourke
	30/04/76	H. Sandeman
	13/01/77	A. O'Dwyer
	15/03/78	D. Ramsay
	07/02/79	P. Guy
	01/02/79	A. Crowe
	20/06/80	Stephen Cox
	28/08/80	Trevor Colgrave
	05/03/81	Aurel Vulpe
	17/12/81	Alister Millen
	15/09/82	George Smith
	14/12/82	Ronald Renton
	25/08/83	Brendon Nicholas
	01/09/83	Rodney Cream
	22/02/84	Michael Jones
	01/11/84	Luigi Bonadrini
	19/02/86	Michael O'Rourke
	15/10/87	Terrence Mawhinney
	23/05/88	Reginald Woods
	02/08/91	Matt Ritchie
	18/08/92	Laurence Phillis
	15/05/95	John Croom
	31/01/96	Thomas Trueman
	17/06/96	Fred Birch
	13/04/97	Peter Abel

MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Membership

1206. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) The "WA ONE" multicultural policy released in 1995 includes a pledge to - "Encourage all Western Australians to contribute to, and participate in, all levels of public life and the decisions which directly affect them."
- (2) The Register of Boards and Committees does not include information on ethnic background.

MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Membership

1208. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) The "WA ONE" multicultural policy released in 1995 includes a pledge to - "Encourage all Western Australians to contribute to, and participate in, all levels of public life and the decisions which directly affect them."
- (2) The Register of Boards and Committees does not include information on ethnic background.

MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Membership

1213. Ms WARNOCK to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response -

- (1) The "WA ONE" multicultural policy released in 1995 includes a pledge to - "Encourage all Western Australians to contribute to, and participate in, all levels of public life and the decisions which directly affect them."
- (2) The Register of Boards and Committees does not include information on ethnic background.

MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Membership

1217. Ms WARNOCK to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Tourism:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mr BRADSHAW replied:

The Minister for Tourism has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2) See answer to question 1213.

MIGRANTS - COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

Membership

1219. Ms WARNOCK to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of any government policy encouraging people of migrant or "ethnic" background to serve on government boards and committees?
- (2) How many boards and committees within the Minister's portfolio area have members from such backgrounds?

Mr MARSHALL replied:

The Minister for Sport and Recreation has provided the following response -

- (1)-(2) See answer to question 1213.

ENVIRONMENT - SHOALWATER ISLANDS MARINE PARK

Oil Exploration

1222. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

- (1) Does the Government support oil drilling in the vicinity of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park?
- (2) Does the Government support oil exploration in the vicinity of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park?
- (3) Does the Government accept that such exploration or mining is inappropriate in the vicinity of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Minister for Mines has provided the following response -

- (1) The Government supports oil drilling when it can be demonstrated that such drilling does not pose an appreciable risk to its immediate and surrounding environs.
- (2)-(3) Until an (oil) exploration or mining activity is assessed in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act, it cannot be determined whether those activities are inappropriate or not. However, any environmental assessment of petroleum exploration/mining activity in the vicinity of the Shoalwater Islands Marine Park would fully recognise the need to protect the integrity of that park.

RAILWAYS - WESTRAIL

Privatisation - Prospector

1224. Ms ANWYL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In reference to the decision to privatise passenger services on the *Prospector* -
 - (a) when was the decision made;
 - (b) who made the decision;
 - (c) when was the customer survey done;
 - (d) how many customers were surveyed and on which specific train trips;
 - (e) were any, and, if so, which *Prospector* services delayed or cancelled at or about the same time as passengers were surveyed?
- (2) How many staff are now employed in passenger services on the *Prospector* and state for each, their occupation and length of service?
- (3) How many staff were there for the years ending -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995;
 - (d) 1996?
- (4) Was a decision made to base four "on-train staff" in Kalgoorlie last year and, if so, when?
- (5) What time frame is in place for the privatisation process of passenger services and when will tenders be called?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

I presume the member is referring to the decision to outsource the services provided by on-train *Prospector* staff and my answer is provided on that basis.

- (1)
 - (a) April 1997.
 - (b) The Commissioner of Railways.
 - (c) Customer surveys in respect of the decision to outsource the services provided by on-train *Prospector* staff were not undertaken.

- (d)-(e) Not applicable.
- (2) Five senior passenger assistants with 15, 22, 37, 39 and 43 years of service respectively. Thirteen passenger assistants with 8, 8, 8, 10, 11, 11, 16, 17, 19, 21, 21, 25 and 29 years of service respectively. Two operations employees with nine and 24 years of service respectively. Westrail also engages casual staff from time to time to undertake passenger assistant duties as the need arises. Three casual staff are currently employed on these duties.
- (3) (a) Information for 1993 is not available.
 (b) 34.
 (c) 31.
 (d) 24.
- (4) No. The decision to base four on-train staff at Kalgoorlie was taken in September 1995.
- (5) Tenders were invited on 3 May 1997 and will close on 12 June 1997. It is anticipated that the outsourcing of on-train staff on the *Prospector* services will commence on 1 September 1997.

ENVIRONMENT - MOORE RIVER

Housing Development

1233. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) I refer the Minister to concerns about plans for a major housing development to the south of the mouth of the Moore River, and ask, does the Minister acknowledge the environmental value of the river, its mouth and the river environs?
- (2) Will the Minister consider imposing a major buffer zone on the southern bank, and to the extent possible, a major buffer zone on the northern bank, of up to 500 metres in each case?
- (3) Is the Minister aware of the then Opposition's 1992 Wild and Scenic Rivers Policy in which the Coalition pledged itself to extending Western Australian rivers legislation to all rivers and waterways?
- (4) If yes, does current law extend to the Moore River?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) Will the Minister indicate what, if any, negotiations her departments and agencies have had with the developers to ensure the river and environs will not suffer as a result of the development?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

- (1) All Western Australia's river systems have environmental values. The Moore River is no exception.
- (2) One of the considerations for the development of this area is foreshore buffers. The size of the buffers will be determined in consultation with the appropriate agencies including the Department of Environmental Protection and the Water and Rivers Commission.
- (3) Yes. The Water and Rivers Commission was established on 1 January 1996 and has responsibility for all water resources in WA including rivers and other waterways. The commission is currently considering the best way to consolidate existing legislation to protect and manage the State's waterways. This is being done in parallel with worked samples such as the Geographe Bay entity "Geocatch" which is currently being established.
- (4) Yes. The Water and Rivers Commission Act and the Rights in Water and Irrigation Act cover the Moore River. The Water and Rivers Commission is currently working closely with local government and community groups in the Moore River catchment to determine the best way to introduce better management for the river and catchment. In addition, there is the existing environmental protection law that also influences development.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Both the EPA and the Department of Environmental Protection have been involved in assessment of this development since 1994. The next step is for the developer to produce a development plan to guide development of the site. The plan will address the key environmental issues and the DEP will be asked for further input prior to its finalisation.

RAILWAYS - RAIL FREIGHT FACILITY

Canning Vale - Memorandum of Understanding

1237. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the memorandum of understanding been signed by Westrail, Specialist Container Transport and the Department of Environmental Protection concerning noise emissions from the proposed freight rail facility at Canning Vale?
- (2) If yes, when?
- (3) If no, is an MOU being drafted?
- (4) Will the Minister table a copy of the memorandum?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1)-(4) A formal memorandum of understanding has not been signed by Westrail. I suggest the member direct this question to my colleague, the Minister for the Environment in respect of the drafting of such a document.

PASTORAL LEASES - REVENUE

1241. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) In the 1995-96 financial year how much did the State collect in lease payments from pastoral leases?
- (2) How much does the State expect to collect in lease payments from pastoral leases in the -
 - (a) 1996-97 financial year;
 - (b) 1997-98 financial year?
- (3) Are pastoral lease rental payments adjusted up or down to take into account tourism facilities operated on pastoral leases?
- (4) What was the total amount collected in rent from pastoral leases in the -
 - (a) 1985-86 financial year;
 - (b) 1986-87 financial year;
 - (c) 1987-88 financial year?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) \$480 096.
- (2) (a) Approximately \$480 000.
(b) Approximately \$498 000 - subject to excisions or additions. Subject to the enactment of the Land Administration Bill 1997 pastoral lease rents will be reassessed by the Valuer General and the new rent payable from 1 July 1999.
- (3) No, but subject to the enactment of the Land Administration Bill 1997 a pastoral lessee will be able to obtain a permit for other activities including tourist facilities. A fee may be payable where a permit is issued.
- (4) (a) \$440 341.
(b) \$456 660.
(c) \$530 244.

DISABILITY SERVICES - BUDGET CUTS

Opposition by State Government

1242. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Disability Services:

- (1) Did the Minister attend a rally on Friday, 2 May 1997 protesting against Federal Government expenditure cuts to disability services?

- (2) Has the Minister written to the Federal Minister for Family Services strenuously opposing the Federal Government's Budget cuts?
- (3) Is a copy of the letter available to the Parliament?
- (4) If not, why not?
- (5) Does the Government intend to launch a high profile media campaign, including television advertising, condemning the Federal Government for its attack on people with disabilities?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) Given the amount of money the Government spent on supporting "The Fix the Roads" campaign which involved television advertising and the like, will the Government commit an equal level of funds to supporting people with disabilities?
- (8) Is it true the Government will not run a high profile television campaign condemning the Federal Government's actions, in the same way it did a Labor Government with "The Fix the Roads" campaign, simply because it is a Coalition Government?
- (9) If not, what is the reason or what are the reasons for the Government's contradictory position?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) No.
- (6) Negotiations with the Commonwealth Government over funding for disability services for 1997-98 are continuing.
- (7)-(8) In 1997-98 the Government will provide \$130 000 through the Disability Services Commission specifically for a campaign to increase community awareness and acceptance of the needs of people with disabilities. The campaign will include a media component.
- (9) Not applicable.

TRANSPORT - SALE OF FACILITIES AND SERVICES

1266. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to selling off, as opposed to contracting out, all or any part of the public transport system?
- (2) If so, what issue or issues are under consideration?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

PORTS AND HARBOURS - PRIVATISATION

Report

1268. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Government given any consideration to privatising any of the existing Western Australian ports?
- (2) Has the Government received a report on this option?
- (3) Has the Government commissioned any study or asked for a report on this possibility?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1)-(3) No.

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT - ELECTORATE OFFICES

Permanent

1280. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) How many members of Parliament are still waiting for permanent electorate office accommodation?
- (2) Which members are still waiting for permanent electorate office accommodation?
- (3) How many members waiting for permanent electorate office accommodation are from the following political parties -
 - (a) Liberal Party;
 - (b) Labor Party;
 - (c) National Party;
 - (d) Greens;
 - (e) Democrats?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Eight members have yet to be accommodated on a long term basis.
- (2) The members for Thornlie, Rockingham, Yokine, Mitchell, Carine, Vasse, East Metropolitan Region and South West Region.
- (3)
 - (a) Four.
 - (b) Three.
 - (c) Nil.
 - (d) One.
 - (e) Nil.

ROADS - MT KEITH-WILUNA ROAD

Upgrading

1286. Mr GRILL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What is the timetable for the upgrading and sealing of the Mt Keith-Wiluna Road?
- (2) How is the funding for that road to be sourced?
- (3) What work is to be done on the Lake Raeside Crossing?
- (4) How is the Lake Raeside Crossing work to be funded?
- (5) Is the Lake Raeside Crossing to be made an all weather link to overcome the periodic flooding problem?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) Construction will commence in 1997-98 and be completed in mid 2000.
- (2) \$15m of federal funds and \$21m from the State.
- (3) Construct a new bridge, two floodways and a section of raised formation.
- (4) State funds.
- (5) The new crossing is designed to cater for storm events of one in 50 years.

COLLEGES OF TAFE - MIDLAND

Aeronautics Courses

1305. Mr MINSON to the Premier:

- (1) Is the Midland College of TAFE conducting aeronautics courses at Jandakot Airfield from 1998, charging the Government tuition fee rate?
- (2) If so, what is that rate per hour?
- (3) Will all the courses offered be on a full cost recovery basis, taking into account all overheads and salaries?

- (4) Will the Premier give the undertaking that where the public sector operates in competition with the private sector, that the public sector will always operate on a fully competitive "level playing field" basis?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes, the college is offering aircraft ground engineering trades and post trades courses at Jandakot.
- (2) \$0.80 per hour to a maximum of \$544 per year, with a concessionary rate of \$0.50 per hour to a maximum of \$272 per year.
- (3)-(4) Training provided by public training providers on a commercial basis is fully costed. The courses currently offered at Jandakot by Midland college on a full fee for service basis, the commercial pilots licence, private pilots licence, and diploma of aeronautics, take into account all overheads and salaries.

COMMITTEES AND BOARDS - WATER RESOURCES

Membership

1309. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Water Resources:

Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 34 of 1997, who are the members of the following boards, when and for what period were the members appointed, what remuneration is paid to each member, and who are the Government appointees -

- (a) Board of the Water Corporation;
 (b) Board of the Waters and Rivers Commission;
 (c) Rivers and Estuaries Council;
 (d) Swan River Trust?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (a)-(d) See paper No 492.

ROADS - TANAMI ROAD, HALLS CREEK

1323. Mr GRAHAM to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) For what purpose is the 1997-98 budget allocation of \$104 000 made for work on the Tanami Road in the Halls Creek Shire?
- (2) When will the current work commence on the Tanami Road?
- (3) When will current work be completed on the Tanami Road?
- (4) When is it anticipated that the total cost of \$9 794 000 will be spent on the road?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) Formation and drainage improvements, gravel sheeting and minor improvements in road alignment.
- (2) Works are scheduled to commence in May/June 1998 and will be carried out in conjunction with 1998-99 works which will provide efficiencies.
- (3) Works on the Tanami Road will be completed before the start of the wet seasons in 1998.
- (4) Within seven years.

ELECTORAL - DISCLOSURE PROVISIONS

Local Government Councillors and Members of Parliament

1325. Mr McGOWAN to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) Do different disclosure provisions apply to local government councillors from those applying to members of State Parliament?
- (2) If so, how do they vary?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) Yes.

- (2) Real Property: Local government returns only need to contain details of real property located in the district or in an adjoining district.

Trade Unions and Profession or Business Associations: Local government returns are not required to include this information.

Disposition of Property: Local government returns only need to contain details of dispositions of real property located in the district or in an adjoining district.

RAILWAYS - WESTRAIL

Statistics

1335. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

With regard to Westrail activity in the State electorates of -

- (a) Albany;
- (b) Avon;
- (c) Bunbury;
- (d) Burrup;
- (e) Collie;
- (f) Dawesville;
- (g) Eyre;
- (h) Geraldton;
- (i) Greenough;
- (j) Kalgoorlie;
- (k) Kimberley;
- (l) Mandurah;
- (m) Merredin;
- (n) Mitchell;
- (o) Moore;
- (p) Murray-Wellington;
- (q) Ningaloo;
- (r) Pilbara;
- (s) Roe;
- (t) Vasse;
- (u) Wagin,

- (i) where are the Westrail depots, workshops or offices located;
- (ii) how many Westrail employees are based at each of these worksites?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

	Electorate	Locations	Permanent Employees
(a)	Albany	Albany	7
(b)	Avon	Avon Yard	96
		Northam	42
		Toodyay	1
(c)	Bunbury	Nil	
(d)	Burrup	Nil	
(e)	Collie	Collie	16
(f)	Dawesville	Nil	
(g)	Eyre	Nil	
(h)	Geraldton	Geraldton	5
(i)	Greenough	Narngulu	64
(j)	Kalgoorlie	Kalgoorlie	97
		West Kalgoorlie	31
(k)	Kimberley	Nil	
(l)	Mandurah	Nil	
(m)	Merredin	Merredin	9
		West Merredin	49
(n)	Mitchell	Wollaston	11
		Picton Junction	133
(o)	Moore	Coorow	1
		Moora	1
(p)	Murray-Wellington	Pinjarra	2
(q)	Ningaloo	Nil	
(r)	Pilbara	Nil	
(s)	Roe	Esperance	22
(t)	Vasse	Nil	

(u)	Wagin	Katanning	1
		Narrogin	11
		Wagin	27

FISHERIES - DEPARTMENT

Staff - Statistics

1339. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister for Fisheries:

With regard to the Department of Fisheries involvement in the State electorates of -

- (a) Albany;
- (b) Bunbury;
- (c) Burrup;
- (d) Collie;
- (e) Dawesville;
- (f) Geraldton;
- (g) Kimberley;
- (h) Mandurah;
- (i) Mitchell;
- (j) Murray-Wellington;
- (k) Ningaloo;
- (l) Pilbara;
- (m) Roe;
- (n) Vasse;
- (o) Warren-Blackwood,

- (i) are there any Fisheries Officers based in any of these electorates and, if so, -
 - (aa) how many officers are there;
 - (ab) where are they based;
 - (ac) what is the nature of their duties;
- (ii) what vehicles and boats are available for these officers;
- (iii) is overtime available to these officers and, if yes, how much?

Mr HOUSE replied:

- (i)-(ii) Fisheries officers are located at regional and district centres appropriate to the fishing industries in those areas. Fisheries Department district and regional boundaries do not follow electoral boundaries. As some electorates dissect Fisheries Department district boundaries, information requested detailing the number of officers, location and numbers of boats and vehicles has been provided. [See paper No 494.]

The nature of their duties encompasses -

Enforcing provisions of state and commonwealth fisheries legislation.

Liaising with the fishing industry, members of the public and other government agencies and advising on fisheries matters.

Monitoring, surveillance and community education.

Providing input and advice on regional management programs and issues affecting aquatic resources.

(These include patrol vessel crews).

- (iii) Yes. Overtime is available to all these officers and is based on a 15 per cent commuted overtime allowance as per the award, an additional 15 per cent in excess of 10 hours, 50 per cent for weekend hours and 150 per cent for public holiday hours. Overtime depends on seasonal demands. The total amount of overtime - less the commuted award overtime - for all fisheries officers in Western Australia for the 1996-97 budget year is \$328 962.

LEEUWIN SAIL TRAINING SHIP - EMPLOYMENT COURSES

Funding

1340. Dr GALLOP to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Federal Government cut funding for employment courses on the *Leeuwin* sail training ship?
- (2) If yes, what action has the State Government taken in relation to this matter?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. As a result of new directions taken by the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, it is estimated that numbers funded on the sail training ship *Leeuwin* have been reduced by 25 to 30 per cent.
- (2) The State Government is committed to taking all action available to it to try to ensure that the *Leeuwin* remains active in Western Australia. A considerable amount of effort has been devoted to working with the *Leeuwin* and key government agencies. There have been meetings and discussions with representatives of the *Leeuwin*, and continuing discussions both individually and jointly with government agencies whose roles are relevant to the activities of the *Leeuwin*. I understand that there have also been some changes to the organisation and the plans of the *Leeuwin* to enable them to adapt to their new circumstances and to ensure that the options they offer are relevant to the potential user organisations. It is clearly important that the continuation of the *Leeuwin* be seen as a responsibility not simply of the Government but also of the *Leeuwin* Board and organisations in the private sector likely to make use of its services.

Discussions are continuing between the government organisations and the *Leeuwin*, and I am optimistic that a resolution can be found to ensure the continuation of the *Leeuwin* with the support of both government and non-government organisations.

WATER RESOURCES - GREENBUSHES

Supplementary Water Sourcing

1341. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Is the Water Corporation authorised to accept water from the Southampton Augmented Austin Dam to supplement the Greenbushes Town Water Tank?
- (2) If not, why not?
- (3) If so, what conditions apply?
- (4) Is the Water Corporation authorised to accept water from the Southampton Augmented Austin Dam to supplement the Greenbushes town water supply?
- (5) If not, why not?
- (6) If so, what conditions apply?
- (7) Is the Water Corporation authorised to accept water from Cowan Dam to supplement the Greenbushes Town Water Tank?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) If so, what conditions apply?
- (10) Is the Water Corporation authorised to accept water from the Cowan Dam to supplement the Greenbushes town water supply?
- (11) If not, why not?
- (12) If so, what conditions apply?
- (13) From which water sources are the Water Corporation authorised to accept water to supplement -
 - (a) the Greenbushes Town Water Tank;
 - (b) the Greenbushes town water supply?
- (14) What conditions apply to supplementary water sourcing?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Approval has not been sought as this water is not used to supplement the town water supply.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) No.

- (5) See (2).
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) No.
- (8) See (2).
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) No.
- (11) See (2).
- (12) Not applicable.
- (13) (a)-(b) None sought.
- (14) None currently in Greenbushes as the TWS dams supply the town's requirements. However, if approval was required then it would come from the Water and Rivers Commission and water quality would be analysed to ensure it conformed with the requirements of the National Health and Medical Research Council guidelines prior to supply.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Details

1357. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) No.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Details

1359. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Disability Services Commission:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Fremantle Cemetery Board:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Department of Local Government:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board:

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA):

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Details

1360. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Healthway.
 - (b) (i)-(ii) Jurien Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
(iii) Cervantes Chamber of Commerce Inc.
 - (c) (i) Jurien Marine Expo and Blessing of the Fleet (1995) (Arts health promotion sponsorship).
(ii) Jurien Marine Expo and Blessing of the Fleet (1996) (Arts health promotion sponsorship).
(iii) Annual Slalom Windsurfing Carnival (1996) (Sports health promotion sponsorship).
 - (d) (i) \$3 000.
(ii) \$2 000.
(iii) \$1 000.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Details

1366. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;

- (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
- (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
- (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mrs EDWARDES replied:

The Minister for the Arts has provided the following reply -

- (1) Neither the Department of the Arts nor any authority within the Arts portfolio has let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation.
- (2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Details

1368. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Attorney General's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYER ORGANISATIONS

Details

1370. Mr KOBELKE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, or any other employer organisations or bodies established or controlled by an employer organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose for the contract, grant or secondment; and
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) No 9.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

Details

1379. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Lands; Fair Trading; Parliamentary and Electoral Affairs:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?

- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
- (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr SHAVE replied:

- (1) No.
(2) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

Details

1381. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
- (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Disability Services Commission:

- (1) No.
(2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Department of Local Government:

- (1) No.
(2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Fremantle Cemetery Board:

- (1) No.
(2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board:

- (1) No.
(2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council (WA):

- (1) No.
(2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

Details

1382. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -

- (a) the department or agency involved;
- (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
- (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
- (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Health Department of Western Australia:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) King Edward Memorial and Princess Margaret Hospitals.
- (b) Australian Nursing Federation.
- (c) Secondment of an employee from 15 January 1996 to 14 April 1996 inclusive to take up a position as job representative for the ANF.
- (d) Nil.

Healthway:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) (a) Healthway.
- (b) Construction Workers Union - Construction Skills Centre.
- (c) The Building Trades Drug and Alcohol Project (Health promotion project grant).
- (d) \$106 212 (over two years).

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

Details

1390. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Attorney General's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - EMPLOYEE ORGANISATIONS

Details

1392. Mr KOBELKE to the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Have any departments or agencies, within the Minister's portfolios, let or made contracts, grants, or secondments, since 1 July 1995 to the Western Australian Trades and Labor Council, or any union or bodies established or controlled by an employee organisation?
- (2) If yes, then what are the details of each case including -
 - (a) the department or agency involved;
 - (b) the recipient of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (c) a description of the purpose of the contract, grant or secondment;
 - (d) the value or cost of the contract, grant or secondment?

Mrs van de KLASHORST replied:

The Minister for Justice has provided the following reply -

- (1) No.
- (2) (a)-(d) Not applicable.

WATER RESOURCES - GROUND WATER

Gnangara

1396. Dr EDWARDS to the Minister for Water Resources:

- (1) Has a modelling study of the Gnangara ground water area been carried out?
- (2) If no, is this in progress?
- (3) If yes, who performed the study and at what cost?
- (4) Will the final report be available to the public?

Dr HAMES replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Not applicable.
- (3) The study was undertaken by Dames and Moore Pty Ltd. A joint project for the Gnangara and Jandakot ground water areas was carried out at a total cost of \$179 161.65.
- (4) Yes. The modelling study for Gnangara was completed in December 1996. I released the 'Review of Groundwater Protection Priority Area boundaries Gnangara Mound' in February 1997. Copies are available through local libraries, relevant government offices and the Water and Rivers Commission.

COURTS - ALBANY

Child Minding Service

1403. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the child minding service operating in Albany Court -

- (a) how long has the service been operating in Albany;
- (b) how many people have used the service in Albany;
- (c) what was the total cost of the program in Albany until the end of May 1997?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) Commenced 15 November 1996.
- (b) Four.
- (c) \$38.

COURTS - ROCKINGHAM

Child Minding Service

1404. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the child minding service operating in Rockingham Court -

- (a) how long has the service been operating in Rockingham;
- (b) how many people have used the service in Rockingham;
- (c) what was the total cost of the program in Rockingham until the end of May 1997?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) Commenced July 1996.
- (b)-(c) Nil.

COURTS - FINES ENFORCEMENT REGISTRY

Staff

1405. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the operation of the fine enforcement register the Attorney General recently stated that the staff work "in very trying circumstances" -

- (a) what are the trying circumstances;
- (b) how many staff are employed in the registry;
- (c) how many fines were registered in this financial year up to the end of May 1997;
- (d) how many fines were registered with the registry in the 1995-96 financial year;
- (f) on 30 May 1997 how many individual driver's licences are under suspension as a result of the registry activities;
- (g) on 30 May 1997 how many car registrations have been suspended from operating;
- (h) on 30 May 1997 how many people have been prohibited from obtaining a driver's licence;
- (i) from 1 July 1996 to 31 May 1997 what was the total amount paid to enforce warrants issued through the registry;
- (j) from 1 July 1997 to 31 May 1997 what is the total amount collected from warrants after conviction?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

The following information is now available in respect of the Ministry of Justice in relation to the operation of the fines enforcement registry -

- (a) Fines Enforcement Registry staff are often the subject of poor behaviour by clients.
- (b) The Fines Enforcement Registry has an approved 16 FTEs.
- (c) 120 176.
- (d) 138 234.
- (e) No part (e) to question.
- (f) 39 304.
- (g) 7 531.
- (h) 10 437 dummy licences.
- (i) \$218 043.
- (j) \$129 577.

COURTS - JOONDALUP

Children's and Petty Sessions

1410. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Joondalup -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Joondalup as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Joondalup as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Joondalup as at 31 May 1997?
- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Joondalup to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) May's workload indicated an increase over the other four months.
- (b) Petty Sessions - 4 767 Children's Court - 477
- (c) Petty Sessions - 3 714 Children's Court - 506
- (d) Petty Sessions - 3 190 Children's Court - 524
- (e) 9.2 FTEs.
- (f) 10.6 FTEs.
- (g) 10.6 FTEs.
- (h) Nil.

COURTS - MIDLAND

Children's and Petty Sessions

1411. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Midland -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Midland as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Midland as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Midland as at 31 May 1997?
- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Midland to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) No.
- (b) Petty Sessions - 3 625 Children's Court - 438
- (c) Petty Sessions - 3 425 Children's Court - 367
- (d) Petty Sessions - 3 506 Children's Court - 484
- (e) 10.0 FTEs.
- (f) 10.7 FTEs.
- (g) 10.6 FTEs.
- (h) Nil.

COURTS - ARMADALE

Children's and Petty Sessions

1412. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Armadale -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Armadale as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Armadale as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Armadale as at 31 May 1997?
- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Armadale to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) Workload is generally increasing.
- (b) Petty Sessions - 2 835 Children's Court - 291
- (c) Petty Sessions - 2 121 Children's Court - 180
- (d) Petty Sessions - 2 289 Children's Court - 280
- (e) 8.0 FTEs.
- (f) 8.6 FTEs.
- (g) 8.5 FTEs.
- (h) Nil.

COURTS - FREMANTLE

Children's and Petty Sessions

1413. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Fremantle-

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Fremantle as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Fremantle as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Fremantle as at 31 May 1997?
- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Fremantle to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) No.
- (b) Petty Sessions - 4 607 Children's Court - 248
- (c) Petty Sessions - 5 387 Children's Court - 370
- (d) Petty Sessions - 4 527 Children's Court - 543
- (e) 12.6 FTEs.
- (f) 12.7 FTEs.
- (g) 12.2 FTEs.
- (h) Nil.

COURTS - ROCKINGHAM

Children's and Petty Sessions

1414. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Rockingham -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Rockingham as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Rockingham as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Rockingham as at 31 May 1997?

- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Rockingham to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) The workload is generally increasing.
- (b) Petty Sessions - 2 082 Children's Court - 124
- (c) Petty Sessions - 1 883 Children's Court - 195
- (d) Petty Sessions - 1 509 Children's Court - 172
- (e) 5.6 FTEs.
- (f) 5.6 FTEs.
- (g) 5.8 FTEs.
- (h) Nil.

COURTS - MANDURAH

Children's and Petty Sessions

1415. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Mandurah -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Mandurah as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Mandurah as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Mandurah as at 31 May 1997?
- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Mandurah to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (a) No.
- (b) Petty Sessions - 918 Children's Court - 78
- (c) Petty Sessions - 1 211 Children's Court - 99
- (d) Petty Sessions - 1 132 Children's Court - 109
- (e) 3.9 FTEs.
- (f) 4.1 FTEs.
- (g) 4.1 FTEs.
- (h) Nil.

COURTS - BUNBURY

Children's and Petty Sessions

1416. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Bunbury -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Bunbury as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Bunbury as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Bunbury as at 31 May 1997?

- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Bunbury to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) | No. | |
| (b) | Petty Sessions - 1 581 | Children's Court - 293 |
| (c) | Petty Sessions - 1 528 | Children's Court - 209 |
| (d) | Petty Sessions - 1 478 | Children's Court - 149 |
| (e) | 9.1 FTEs. | |
| (f) | 10.1 FTEs. | |
| (g) | 9.8 FTEs. | |
| (h) | Nil. | |

COURTS - GERALDTON

Children's and Petty Sessions

1417. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Geraldton -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Geraldton as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Geraldton as at 31 May 1996?
- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Geraldton to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) | No. | |
| (b) | Petty Sessions - 1 660 | Children's Court - 252 |
| (c) | Petty Sessions - 1 715 | Children's Court - 210 |
| (d) | Petty Sessions - 1 842 | Children's Court - 258 |
| (e) | 7.4 FTEs. | |
| (f) | 7.8 FTEs. | |
| (g) | 7.8 FTEs. | |
| (h) | Nil. | |

COURTS - KALGOORLIE

Children's and Petty Sessions

1418. Mr RIEBELING to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

In relation to the management of Petty Sessions and Children's Courts in Kalgoorlie -

- (a) has there been any substantial increase in the workload from 1 January 1997 to 31 May 1997?
- (b) what are the figures for each jurisdiction?
- (c) what were the figures for the prior period, 1 January 1996 to 31 May 1996, for the two jurisdictions?
- (d) what were the figures for the period 1 January 1995 to 31 May 1995?
- (e) what was the level of staff in Kalgoorlie as at 31 May 1995?
- (f) what was the level of staff in Kalgoorlie as at 31 May 1996?
- (g) what was the level of staff in Kalgoorlie as at 31 May 1997?

- (h) what, if any, extra resources are being allocated to Kalgoorlie to cope with the increases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------|------------------------|
| (a) | No. | |
| (b) | Petty Sessions - 4 434 | Children's Court 1 089 |
| (c) | Petty Sessions - 4 471 | Children's Court - 901 |
| (d) | Petty Sessions - 3 432 | Children's Court - 828 |
| (e) | 7.5 FTEs. | |
| (f) | 7.8 FTEs. | |
| (g) | 7.8 FTEs. | |
| (h) | Nil. | |

COURTS - PETTY SESSIONS

Access to Documents

1427. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Attorney General:

- (1) Did the Ministry of Justice issue a circular to 'All Clerks of Petty Sessions' dated 7 August 1996 concerning the parties' rights to review and receive copies of court documents?
- (2) In that circular did the Ministry distinguish between the rules and procedures to apply relating to access to documents as opposed to the provision of documents?
- (3) Prior to the issuance of the 7 August 1996 circular, had the procedures regarding access to and provisions of copies of documents been the same?

Mr PRINCE replied:

The Attorney General has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) Yes.

RAILWAYS - BRIDGES

Unauthorised Access - Injuries and Prosecutions

1428. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Further to question on notice 339 of 1997 addressed to the Premier, would the Minister advise if -
 - (a) anyone has suffered an injury as the result of gaining unauthorised access to railway bridges;
 - (b) anyone has been cautioned or prosecuted for trespassing on railway bridges?
- (2) If so, when?
- (3) What was the nature of the injuries sustained and/or action taken?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply --

- (1)-(3) Provision of the information sought would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response. If the member has a question about a specific incident regarding unauthorised access to a railway bridge, I will endeavour to provide an answer.

PORTS AND HARBOURS - FREMANTLE PASSENGER TERMINAL

Upgrade

1435. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Does the State Government intend to take any initiative to try and have the Fremantle Port Passenger Terminal upgraded and improved in any way?
- (2) What initiative does the Government intend to take?
- (3) What aspects of the Passenger Terminal will be upgraded to cater for tourists?

- (4) Has the Government consulted with the Tourism industry to ascertain exactly what changes that industry would like to see to the Fremantle Port Passenger Terminal?
- (5) If not, why not?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) The Fremantle Port Authority spent \$1.4m on the upgrading of the passenger terminal and function centre in 1995-96. The improvements included a new cafe/restaurant, new terminal furniture, improvements to the baggage conveyor, improvements to the custom hall and the installation of ceiling fans through the terminal.
- (4)-(5) The Fremantle Port Authority liaises regularly with the cruise ship industry regarding facilities and services for vessels and passengers visiting Fremantle.

HOSPITALS - BEDS

Budget Allocation

1446. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Health:

- (1) Does the 1997-98 Budget provide for additional funds for additional public hospital beds?
- (2) How many additional public hospital beds will be provided in the 1997-98 financial year?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1)-(2) No. Additional public hospital beds have not been funded in the 1997-98 budget. There will be some additional services provided to improve access at Joondalup health campus. This will comprise an additional 183 beds for the use of public patients and is likely to commence operation early in the 1998 calendar year. These will be funded via internal reconfiguration within the health system.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - UNFAIR DISMISSAL LAWS

1457. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Prime Minister or the Federal Government written to the State Government to request the State Government amend its unfair dismissal laws in line with Commonwealth proposals which involve exempting businesses with fewer than fifteen employees from those laws?
- (2) If not, have any representations been made by the Federal Government to the State Government to change its unfair dismissal laws in any way?
- (3) If so, what has the Commonwealth Government requested?
- (4) Has the State Government responded to the Commonwealth's request?
- (5) Does the State Government intend to amend the unfair dismissal laws to reflect or partially reflect the changes promoted by the Prime Minister and the Federal Coalition Government?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) Yet to be determined.

UNIONS - EMBASSY

Removal

1459. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Why has the Premier insisted the workers "tent embassy" be removed?
- (2) Is the "embassy" causing any public harm?

- (3) If so, what harm?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(3) The occupation of land by the Trades and Labor Council to which the member is referring is illegal. The union movement should respect the law as every other Western Australian is required to do.

GRAFFITI - PAMPHLET

1464. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Government produced a pamphlet on graffiti?
- (2) Does the pamphlet contain a message from the Premier?
- (3) When was the pamphlet produced?
- (4) What further initiatives has the Government planned to crack down on graffiti?
- (5) When will those initiatives be implemented?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Yes. The Government has produced a series of pamphlets, fact sheets and other publications on issues relating to graffiti.
- (2) Yes. Some of the publications include forewords signed by myself.
- (3) The publications have been produced at various times since the inception of the graffiti program.
- (4)-(5) I released on Sunday a guide to assist local government to deal with graffiti. The graffiti program is exploring a range of further initiatives in the context of a further report which will be provided to me in the next three months.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

Payment Details

1470. Mr BROWN to the Premier; Treasurer; Minister for Public Sector Management; Federal Affairs:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Premier's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(5) The information requested by the member for Bassendean is not stored centrally and would require the diversion of resources in every agency for a significant period of time and at considerable cost. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector and work is progressing well on the identification of a suitable system to make purchasing and contract data publicly available through some form of electronic bulletin board. I am therefore not prepared to commit additional resources at this time, to produce such specific data which would be of questionable value.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

Payment Details

1476. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?

- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(5) Given the large number of contractual arrangements in place, the details sought are not readily available and I am not prepared to allocate considerable resources to obtain this information. However, if the member has a specific query, I will have the matter investigated.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

Payment Details

1481. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply --

- (1)-(5) The information requested by the member for Bassendean is not stored centrally and would require the diversion of resources in every agency for a significant period of time and at considerable cost. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector and work is progressing well on the identification of a suitable system to make purchasing and contract data publicly available through some form of electronic bulletin board. I am therefore not prepared to commit additional resources at this time, to produce such specific data which would be of questionable value.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

Payment Details

1483. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply --

- (1)-(5) The information requested by the member for Bassendean is not stored centrally and would require the diversion of resources in every agency for a significant period of time and at considerable cost. The Government already publishes periodic reports on the extent of contracting throughout the Western Australian public sector and work is progressing well on the identification of a suitable system to make purchasing and contract data publicly available through some form of electronic bulletin board. I am therefore not prepared to commit additional resources at this time, to produce such specific data which would be of questionable value.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - CONTRACTS

Payment Details

1487. Mr BROWN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) In the month of April 1997, how much was paid to companies and individuals that have contracts (other than employment contracts) with each department and agency under the Minister's control?
- (2) What was the total number of payments made?
- (3) How much was paid to each company and individual?
- (4) What is the name of each company and individual that received a payment?
- (5) What was the purpose of the payment?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

The information requested in this question would require considerable research which would divert staff away from their normal duties and I am not prepared to allocate the State's resources to provide a response but if the member has an enquiry concerning a specific contract, I will endeavour to provide a reply.

MR NEIL BARTHOLOMAEUS - REPORT

1493. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Public Sector Management:

- (1) On 23 October 1996 Parliament was told that the Premier had requested a report on Mr Neil Bartholomaeus' conduct in criticising the Opposition for sponsoring a disallowance motion of the Occupational Health and Safety Act 1984 Regulations. On 6 November 1996 Parliament was told the report had been finalised. Will the Premier now table the report?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) On 7 March 1997, Mr Bartholomaeus wrote a letter of clarification to the honourable member regarding a statement attributed to him in the *Sunday Times* of 20 October 1996. It would appear appropriate that this matter be regarded as closed as no benefit can be gained in further seeking to re-examine the issue.

PORTS AND HARBOURS - FREMANTLE PORT AUTHORITY

Pilot Boats

1495. Mr CARPENTER to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many pilot boats are funded by the Fremantle Port Authority?
- (2) What is the annual cost to the Fremantle Port Authority for the running of these pilot boats?
- (3) What is the annual cost of crewing these boats?
- (4) What is the annual cost of maintaining these boats?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(4) Small craft operations conducted by the Fremantle Port Authority are to undergo market testing in accordance with government policy on competitive tendering and contracting to ensure that the most efficient and least cost service is available to port users. Should there become a business case which supports the public tendering of the service, any potential private operator aspiring to bid for the service would receive considerable advantage if the information requested is available in the public domain.

ROADS - INTERSECTIONS

Vehicle Movements

1496. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

How many vehicle movements per day pass through the following intersections -

- (a) Kwinana Freeway and Forrest Road;
- (b) Kwinana Freeway and Thomas Road;
- (c) Kwinana Freeway and Berrigan Drive;
- (d) Kwinana Freeway and Rowley Road;
- (e) Roe Highway and Tonkin Highway?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply --

- (a) 49 200 vehicles per day (September 1996).
- (b) 31 600 vehicles per day (September 1996).
- (c) 47 500 vehicles per day (September 1996).
- (d) Traffic count information for the site has not been collected.
- (e) 66 600 vehicles per day (August 1996).

TRANSPORT - FERRY SERVICES

Privatisation

1497. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Have any steps been taken to consider, or implement, the privatisation of the ferry services subsidised by the Department of Transport?
- (2) If yes, what steps have been taken?
- (3) If no, why has this passenger transport service been treated differently from the bus service?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following reply -

- (1)-(3) The Government has not privatised any bus, train or ferry public transport services. We have undertaken a process of competitive tendering some parts of the public transport system to achieve additional services, increased flexibility, reliability and innovation at reduced cost to taxpayers. This is being achieved.

Following the public tender of the Transperth Ferry Service in 1994, the contract was awarded to Vyscot Pty Ltd, trading as Perth Water Transport, a company related to Captain Cook Cruises. Perth Water Transport commenced operation under contract to the Department of Transport on 5 February 1995.

STATE FINANCE - TAXES AND CHARGES

Land Tax - Uniform

1501. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

- (1) What are the current minimum land tax thresholds in Victoria, South Australia, New South Wales, Tasmania, Queensland, the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory?
- (2) What, if any, attempts have been made to introduce uniform land tax scales throughout Australia?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply -

- (1) The current minimum land tax thresholds in the other States are -

NSW	\$160 000	A residence exemption applies but from 31 December 1997 land tax will be extended to owner-occupied residential properties with a land value of \$1m or more.
Victoria	\$200 000	Owner occupied residences are taxable if above the threshold.
Queensland	\$100 000	Threshold for companies, trustees and absentees.

	\$200 000	Statutory deduction for resident individuals. Also the principal place of residence of natural persons is exempt.
SA	\$ 50 000	A residence exemption applies.
Tasmania	\$ 1 000	A residence exemption applies.
ACT	No threshold and residences are exempt.	
NT	Does not impose land tax.	

(2) I am not aware of any such attempts.

It is not feasible to introduce uniform tax scales because of the different assessment regimes and the variation in the valuation bases of the jurisdictions as well as the particular tax mix and revenue needs of those jurisdictions. Notwithstanding the difference in thresholds across jurisdictions, Western Australians fare better than most other Australians in respect of their land tax liability, particularly as the valuations in the more populous jurisdictions of NSW, Victoria and Queensland tend to be higher than in Western Australia.

STATE FINANCE - TAXES AND CHARGES

Land Tax - Amount

1502. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

In each of the last ten years -

- what was the total amount paid in land tax;
- what was the total number of land taxpayers;
- what was the average tax per taxpayer;
- what was the percentage increase in land tax since the previous year; and
- what percentage of total State revenue did land tax comprise?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply -

Assessment Year	Land Tax Paid \$m	No of Taxpayers	Average Land Tax/Taxpayer \$	% Increase in Total Land Tax Collections over previous year	Total State Revenue \$1m(i)	Land Tax as % of Total State Revenue
1987-88	63.4	98 758	642	7.5	3 810.4	1.7
1988-89	74.2	93 516	793	17.0	4 270.3	1.7
1989-90	91.9	102 653	895	23.9	4 838.6	1.9
1990-91	115.9	108 362	1 070	26.1	4 940.8	2.4
1991-92	133.6	113 667	1 175	15.3	5 031.7	2.7
1992-93	128.5	119 496	1 075	-3.8	4 982.9	2.6
1993-94	122.9	125 965	976	-4.4	5 698.8	2.2
1994-95	137.1	132 383	1 036	11.6	5 822.2	2.4
1995-96	158.6	142 734	1 111	15.7	6 261.8	2.5
1996-97*	162.0	150 000	1 080	2.1	6 561.7	2.5

* 1996-97 = Estimated Outturn.

(i) Note: The above figures refer to total consolidated fund recurrent revenues rather than total state consolidated fund revenues, as the inclusion of capital revenues would distort the comparisons (capital was only brought into the CF from 1992-93 onwards and it varies significantly from year to year partly due to asset sales).

STATE FINANCE - TAXES AND CHARGES

Land Tax - Exemption

1503. Dr CONSTABLE to the Treasurer representing the Minister for Finance:

When did the Government introduce the exemption from land tax of land which is used by the owner as his principal place of residence?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply -

The exemption has been in the current Land Tax Assessment Act since its inception in 1976. Under the previous Act, viz Land Tax Assessment Act 1907, during 1968 to 1970 land tax was reduced and then abolished below a general land value threshold. In 1971 land tax was abolished for most owner-occupied land, irrespective of the land value, subject to certain conditions.

LAND - STRATA TITLES ADVISORY SERVICE

Funding

1504. Dr CONSTABLE to the Minister for Lands:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the \$350 000 allocated to the new Strata Titles advisory service?
- (2) What is the breakdown of the average cost of converting from a Strata Title to a green title?

Mr SHAVE replied:

(1)	Salaries and contingencies for advice officers	\$201 000
	Support of service and development and printing of publications	\$149 000
	Total	\$350 000

- (2) Options for conversion from strata to green title are presently being considered by the strata titles taskforce, as part of the Government's commitment to the review of strata title legislation. The cost of converting to a green title will vary considerably depending upon the option used. Each strata scheme is unique and conversion will need to be considered on an individual basis. As the conversion is fundamentally a subdivisional process, costs are likely to be similar. The task force is considering ways to minimise these costs.

Conversion to green title may not be warranted or justified in many cases as the community's concerns have been addressed with the recent amendments to the strata titles legislation.

SHIPPING - HMAS SYDNEY

Sinking - Records

1507. Mr PENDAL to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) I refer to the controversy surrounding the sinking of the HMAS *Sydney* off Western Australia in 1941 and ask the Minister, is he aware of claims that the State ship *Koolinda* was the first on the scene to pick up the survivors of the German ship *Kormoran* and not a Blue Funnel ship as otherwise claimed?
- (2) Does the State Shipping Service maintain records/archives touching on the *Kormoran*?
- (3) If not, does the State still retain such records?
- (4) If the State does retain such records will the Minister arrange for their tabling?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) An extract of a Stateship's publication in 1977 indicated that the Stateship *Koolinda* did pick up survivors from the German raider *Kormoran* on 26 November 1941. Thirty-one German survivors were picked up at 24° 07'S 112° 46'E. According to a crew member of the *Kormoran* a battle between that vessel and a British cruiser took place on 19 November 1941. The lifeboats would have drifted away from the battle

scene in the six days before they were picked up. Survivors stated that *Koolinda* was the third vessel they had sighted since taking to the lifeboat. I do not know if one of those vessels was a Blue Funnel ship.

- (2)-(4) Stateships' records pertaining to the *Kormoron* are held at the Battye Library/State Archives.

KYLE INQUIRY - CITY OF WANNEROO

Costs

1508. Mr MacLEAN to the Minister for Local Government:

- (1) What was the total cost to the taxpayer of the Kyle Inquiry into the City of Wanneroo, including the legal costs incurred by the State as a defendant in the various Supreme Court challenges?
- (2) What actual costs have been incurred by the taxpayer to date as a result of the call by the media and the Labour Opposition for a Royal Commission into the City of Wanneroo?
- (3) What estimated costs will be incurred between now and the completion of the Royal Commission?

Mr OMODEI replied:

- (1) \$1 030 129.72.
- (2)-(3) These questions should be directed to the Premier.

TRANSPORT - BUS

Schools - Private

1509. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister representing the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How many dedicated bus services are provided by Transperth each day to service private schools?
- (2) What is the basis for determining whether a private school is provided with such a service?
- (3) Will the Minister provide a list of those services and the average number of patrons using each service?

Mr OMODEI replied:

The Minister for Transport has provided the following response -

- (1) A total of 650 school services are provided by Transperth each school day. Of all these school services, approximately 290, are provided to private schools.
- (2) At present both public and private high schools are dealt with uniformly on a needs basis, as Transperth resources permit. Private schools do not have a designated catchment area and can draw students from great distances. Buses are often provided between the school and the nearest bus or train station, the remainder of the journey being completed by regular public transport.
- (3) On average a school bus carries 35 to 40 students per trip.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND TRADE

Allocation

1510. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Commerce and Trade:

- (1) Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 882 of 1997 is the Department of Commerce and Trade able to provide an estimate of the amount allocated to advertising in the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) If so, how much?
- (3) If not, given that the other departments and agencies under the Minister's control were able to provide details or estimates to question on notice 882 of 1997 why is the department unable to do so?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Department of Commerce and Trade typically spends an estimated \$430 000 annually on all advertising. Expenditure on advertising in the 1997-98 financial year is likely to be similar.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - PUBLIC OPINION POLLING

1512. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) At what dates will the Small Business Development Corporation conduct its public opinion polling during the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) Will the results be tabled in Parliament?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Small Business Development Corporation does not conduct public opinion polling per se. It does support the Small Business Opinion Survey conducted by the Institute for Small Business Research. Surveys are planned for November 1997 and May 1998 for the 1997-98 financial year.
- (2) Results of the Small Business Opinion Survey are disseminated to the public through various means and are available on request. Tabling of the results in Parliament is at the discretion of the Minister for Small Business.
- (3) Not applicable.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - MARKET RESEARCH

1513. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) At what dates will the Small Business Development Corporation conduct its market research during the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) Will the results be tabled in Parliament?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Small Business Development Corporation will be conducting market research as required during 1997-98. The research is generally in relation to small business policy issues and/or the development of new products and services for the small business sector. There are no set dates for the conduct of such research.
- (2) If considered relevant, the results may be tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Small Business.
- (3) Not applicable.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION - CUSTOMER RESEARCH

1514. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) At what dates will the Small Business Development Corporation conduct its customer research during the 1997-98 financial year?
- (2) Will the results be tabled in Parliament?
- (3) If not, why not?

Mr COWAN replied:

- (1) The Small Business Development Corporation will be conducting customer research as part of its program evaluation at various times during the 1997-98 financial year. Customer satisfaction with some services such as the Business Licence Information Service and Business Workshop Service is collected progressively and customer satisfaction with events such as the Business Opportunities and Franchising Expo and Small Business Opportunities and Franchising Expo and Small Business Week is measured during the events. Independent surveys of customers are also conducted for performance indicator purposes and these are mostly performed in the period April to June.
- (2) The results of customer research are used to compile performance indicators. The indicators are published in the annual report of the Small Business Development Corporation which is tabled in Parliament.
- (3) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST

Review

1527. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Has the Auditor General reviewed the Government contract with ComsWest?
- (2) Has the Auditor General conducted an audit of the ComsWest contract?
- (3) Has the Auditor General prepared any report, memo, or recommendation, in relation to the contract the Government has with ComsWest?
- (4) In relation to (1) to (3) above, what was the date of the review, report, or other document?
- (5) In any reports, reviews, or documents, prepared by the Auditor General, have any recommendations been made to the Government on the ComsWest contract?
- (6) What were the recommendations?
- (7) Has the Auditor General examined the financial records of ComsWest or the telecommunications manager?
- (8) If not, why not?
- (9) Is the Auditor General entitled to examine the financial records of ComsWest, or the telecommunications manager, under the terms of the contract the Government has with ComsWest?
- (10) On what date or dates has such an examination been carried out?
- (11) What were the findings of the examination?
- (12) Apart from (1) to (11) above, has the Auditor General had any contact with, or prepared any other reports or recommendations, on matters relating to the Government's contract with ComsWest?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1) Some familiarisation has been done but no detailed analysis.
- (2) No.
- (3) Yes. An internal report was prepared outlining some of the audit issues relating to the ComsWest arrangement. The report recommended that a full performance examination be deferred due to reviews being undertaken or planned by the Treasury Department and State Supply Commission. The report recommended that a watching brief be maintained. Various internal memos on the same matters were also written.
- (4) The internal report was dated 1.11.96
Internal memos between the Auditor General and his staff were dated 2.7.96, 6.9.96, 8.9.96, 9.9.96, 23.9.96, 17.12.96 and 18.12.96.
- (5) No.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) No.
- (8) A scan of the ComsWest arrangement and other government contracts was conducted in August/October 1996 with the objective of identifying issues that warranted a full performance examination. The scan raised a number of issues in relation to the ComsWest arrangement. However, as both Treasury and the State Supply Commission were either finalising or planning reviews, an OAG examination was deferred. Subsequently, a watching brief that has remained over the ComsWest arrangement identified new concerns in December 1996. At that time a decision was taken to reassess the need for an examination once other priority examinations are completed in July to August 1996.
- (9) Yes. Clause 9.9 of the Telecommunications Management Agreement authorises the State's auditor (the Auditor General) to inspect the financial records of ComsWest.
- (10) Not done. An inspection of the financial records would be undertaken if a full performance examination were to proceed.

- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) Yes. A staff member of the Office of the Auditor General acted as an observer to the panel appointed to oversee the Post Implementation Review. However, the staff member made no contribution to the review report.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST

Contract Manager

1528. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

- (1) Under the terms of the contract the Government has with ComsWest, is ComsWest required to liaise with and/or report to a contract manager?
- (2) Has the Government nominated a contract manager?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If so, who is that person?
- (5) How long has that person been the contract manager?
- (6) Have any other people been appointed to the position of contract manager?
- (7) When were those people appointed?
- (8) On what date or dates did those individuals hold the position of contract manager?
- (9) Has ComsWest liaised with the contract manager?
- (10) On what date or dates has the liaison occurred?
- (11) Does the level of liaison between ComsWest and the contract manager indicate a high level of prudence being taken by the Government in the manner in which the contract is being managed by the Government?
- (12) If so, on what basis is this assessment made?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) Not applicable.. answered in previous question.
- (4) Currently the Director of State Contracts in the Department of Contract and Management Services.
- (5) Since 9 January 1997.
- (6) Prior to that date the contract manager was the Director of Information and Communications Access Branch within the Public Sector Management Office (previously called the State Telecommunications Management Unit).
- (7) He was appointed on 1 February 1995.
- (8) 1 February 1995 until 9 January 1997.
- (9) Yes.
- (10) As required, sometimes daily but as a minimum fortnightly at the formal contract management committee meetings.
- (11) I have no reason to believe otherwise.
- (12) This view is based on the information available to me.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

Reports

1530. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Does the Government have a contract with Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd and ComsWest Pty Ltd in relation to the provision of telecommunication services for the State?

- (2) Under the terms of the contract do ComsWest and Pacific Star Communications have to provide reports on the performance?
- (3) Are the reports of ComsWest and Pacific Star Communications reviewed by a contract manager?
- (4) If so -
- (a) has the contract manager reviewed the report submitted by either ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications;
 - (b) when were the reports reviewed;
 - (c) what reports were reviewed;
 - (d) how frequently, under the terms of the contract, is the review of reporting requirements supposed to occur;
 - (e) have the reports and the reviews been carried out in accordance with the contract; and
 - (f) if not, why not?
- (5) Under the terms of the contract are ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications required to produce contract success indicator reports?
- (6) If so -
- (a) how many of these reports have ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications produced;
 - (b) on what dates were the reports produced;
 - (c) were copies of the reports made available to State Government customers (State Government Departments);
 - (d) did the Government seek any advice from departments or agencies that received reports as to the accuracy and usefulness of the reports; and
 - (e) what reports were received by the contract manager from departments and agencies on the accuracy of the reports provided by ComsWest and/or Pacific Star?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes in accordance with relevant schedules of the contract.
- (3) Yes.
- (4)
- (a) Yes.
 - (b) As soon as practicable after receipt.
 - (c) All.
 - (d) Not less frequently than once every 12 months.
 - (e) Yes.
 - (f) Not applicable.
- (5) Yes.
- (6)
- (a) This reporting requirement was included in the monthly business report.
 - (b) Essentially monthly since May 1995 in various forms.
 - (c) These whole of government summary reports have not been made available to customers since a working group of customers redesigned customer accounts to provide the information required by them.
 - (d) No. Since the information was on a whole of government basis rather than agency specific.
 - (e) None.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

Reports

1531. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Does the Government have a contract with Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd and ComsWest Pty Ltd?
- (2) Under the terms of the contract, are ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications required to produce business reports?
- (3) If so, have such reports been produced?

- (4) How many reports have been produced?
- (5) For what customers have they been produced?
- (6) Did ComsWest and/or Pacific Star Communications provide business reports for each month of the first twelve months of the contract and for every quarter thereafter?
- (7) If not, why not?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) Essentially monthly since May 1995 in various forms.
- (5) The business report summarised the business of all the customers as at the time of the reports on a whole of government basis.
- (6) No.
- (7) There was no business to report during the establishment phase of the contract which ended May 1995.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

Management Information System

1532. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Has the Government entered into an agreement with Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd and ComsWest Pty Ltd in relation to the provision of telecommunication services?
- (2) Under the terms of the contract was ComsWest required to implement a management information system?
- (3) Was the management information system established?
- (4) When was the system established?
- (5) Was the management information system established as from the commencement of the contract?
- (6) If not, why not?
- (7) On what date did the management information system commence to operate?
- (8) What was the earliest date any department or agency was required to make a payment for the management information system through the management fee levied on each customer's (department's) account?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(3) Yes.
- (4) February 1995.
- (5) Yes.
- (6) Not applicable.
- (7) In practicable terms as of the first customer account for May 1995.
- (8) September 1995.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

Management Information System

1533. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Under the contract the State Government has with ComsWest Pty Ltd and Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd, is the Government committed to make a payment to purchase the object code licence for the management information system operated by ComsWest?
- (2) What is the payment the Government has to make under the terms of the contract for the licence?

- (3) Is this payment made by the Ministry of Premier and Cabinet or proportionally by all departments and agencies who use the service?
- (4) If not, how is the account met?
- (5) How is it billed to departments and agencies?
- (6) What formula is applied to calculate how much each ComsWest customer contributes pro rata to the monthly management information system charge?
- (7) On average, what percentage does the management information system fee make up in each customer's bill?
- (8) Under the terms of the contract, is the Government entitled to the information contained on the management information system if the contract with ComsWest and Pacific Star Communications is terminated in certain circumstances?
- (9) If so, what circumstances?
- (10) Did the Government specifically write into the contract provisions which entitle the Government to obtain the information contained in the management information system if the contract is terminated?
- (11) If not, why wasn't such a provision included in the contract?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) \$65 000 per month for 30 months.
- (3) By all customers in proportion to their monthly bill.
- (4) Not applicable.
- (5) On their monthly ComsWest account.
- (6) A percentage figure is calculated by ComsWest each month by dividing the required month's MIS payment by the total of the Net Billed Revenue for all customers for that month. This percentage is applied to the Net Billed Revenue on each customer's bill in accordance with the remuneration formula as set out in schedule 2 of the contract.
- (7) About 1 per cent.
- (8) Yes.
- (9) All.
- (10) Yes.
- (11) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

Contract Management Committee

1534. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Does the contract that the Government has with ComsWest Pty Ltd and Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd require as part of the contract that a contract management committee be established?
- (2) Has the committee been established?
- (3) When was it established?
- (4) If the committee has been established-
 - (a) what is the name of each committee member;
 - (b) how frequently does the committee meet;
 - (c) how many times has the committee met in the last twelve months;
 - (d) what were the dates of the meetings;
 - (e) how many times should the committee have met in the last twelve months under the contract;
 - (f) what are the committee's aims, responsibilities and objectives;
 - (g) has the committee reported to the contract manager;

- (h) does the committee keep minutes of its meetings; and
- (i) has the committee reported to the Minister and/or his departments?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) 1 February 1995.
- (4) (a) The Director State Contracts and assistant plus General Manager ComsWest and his assistant. A minute taker is also present.
- (b) Initially weekly and then fortnightly with some exceptions as agreed by the parties to the contract.
- (c) Approximately 21 times.
- (d) Refer to subquestion (b) above.
- (e) As directed by the contract manager.
- (f) To review and monitor progress and carry out functions as agreed by the parties.
- (g)-(h) Yes.
- (i) The committee reports through its chairman who is the contract manager to the Executive Director of the Department of Contract and Management Services and as requested to the Minister for Services.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - COMSWEST AND PACIFIC STAR COMMUNICATIONS PTY LTD

Western Australian Component

1535. Mr BROWN to the Minister for Works and Services:

- (1) Under the contract the Government has with ComsWest Pty Ltd and Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd, are ComsWest or Pacific Star Communications obliged to use the services of West Australian telecommunications suppliers, manufacturers, professionals, consultants and experts?
- (2) Has the Government received one or more reports on the degree to which the contractors have complied with these obligations?
- (3) Do the reports indicate the degree to which Western Australian suppliers, manufacturers, professionals, consultants or experts have been used and the costs of their respective services?
- (4) Does the contract require the contractors to report to the Government throughout the term of the agreement on the companies it has used to implement its local content obligations?
- (5) How often has ComsWest reported on this matter?
- (6) What is the date of each report?
- (7) In the contract was there a reference to key personnel?
- (8) Did the contract stipulate, by name, the key personnel concerned?
- (9) Is the Government aware if any of the key personnel have left the employ or service of ComsWest Pty Ltd or Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd?
- (10) How many of the key personnel have left?
- (11) On what date did such people sever their relationship with ComsWest Pty Ltd and/or Pacific Star Communications Pty Ltd?

Mr BOARD replied:

- (1) No; however, they must give fair opportunity for Western Australian suppliers to participate in the provision of goods and services.
- (2) Yes, in the form of applications for approval of goods or services under the contract and in ad hoc reports as requested.

- (3) Yes.
- (4) No.
- (5)-(6) Not applicable.
- (7)-(9) Yes.
- (10) Fifteen key personnel defined in the contract have been replaced since the start of the contract.
- (11) The dates range from July 1995, September 1995, December 1995, February 1996, July 1996, August 1996 to February 1997.

HOSPITALS - MT HENRY

Redevelopment

1537. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Health:

- (1) I refer to the proposals for the redevelopment of the Mt Henry Hospital site and ask, what progress has been made to permit a private owner, a church, to proceed with the building of a new nursing home on the site?
- (2) Has the process been delayed for any reason and, if so, for what reason?
- (3) When are plans expected to be completed?
- (4) Has the Minister's department kept the South Perth City Council informed on the redevelopment?
- (5) Of the total site, what area has been, or is, to be alienated for the nursing home?
- (6) Of the remaining area of land what use will be made of the site?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The most recent correspondence from the City of South Perth advises that at its meeting held on 26 March 1997, council resolved that -

The Western Australian Planning Commission be advised that Council now recommends approval for the development application submitted by Kidd & Povey Architects on behalf of the HDWA (likewise Loughton Patterson Architects on behalf of one of the proponents) for the proposed 60 bed nursing home on the Mt Henry Site, subject to compliance with planning approval and building design conditions.
- (2) The proposals have been subject to the normal approval processes as prescribed by the City of South Perth. However, it should be noted that during this process, Optum Mobile served notice on the HDWA of its intention to erect a mobile phone tower on a portion of the Mt Henry site which has involved the State in a court action to protect the site.
- (3) Contract negotiations with the preferred proponent for the development of a replacement nursing home facility are currently being finalised.
- (4) Yes.
- (5) The area required for the replacement nursing home facility is 1.2 hectares.
- (6) The remaining area of land is intended for residential subdivision and public open space.

LEEWIN SAIL TRAINING SHIP - FUNDING

1538. Mr PENDAL to the Minister for Youth:

- (1) Is the Minister aware that the sail training ship *Leeuwin* is facing financial difficulties following withdrawal of Commonwealth Government funding which previously existed under its contract with the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs?
- (2) Has the State Government been approached about assisting with funding, even of a temporary nature, for the vessel?
- (3) If so, what is the Government's response to such a request?
- (4) If financial assistance is to be provided by the Government, when is this likely to take place?

Mr BOARD replied:

(1)-(2) Yes.

(3) The State Government is committed to taking all action available to it to try to ensure that the *Leeuwin* remains active in Western Australia. A considerable amount of effort has been devoted to working with the *Leeuwin* and key government agencies. There have been meetings and discussions with representatives of the *Leeuwin*, and continuing discussions both individually and jointly with government agencies whose roles are relevant to the activities of the *Leeuwin*. I understand that there have also been some changes to the organisation and the plans of the *Leeuwin* to enable them to adapt to their new circumstances and to ensure that the options they offer are relevant to the potential user organisations. It is clearly important that the continuation of the *Leeuwin* be seen as a responsibility not simply of the Government but also of the Leeuwin Board and organisations in the private sector likely to make use of its services. Discussions are continuing between government organisations and the *Leeuwin* and I am optimistic that a resolution can be found to ensure the continuation of the *Leeuwin* with the support of both government and non-government organisations.

(4) This will depend on the outcome of current discussions.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

Number and Conditions of Employment

1555. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations; Planning; Heritage:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr KIERATH replied:

The following details are accurate as at 20 June 1997 -

Department of Productivity and Labour Relations:

- (a) 105.
- (b) 86.
- (c) 18.
- (d) 18.
- (e) 1.

Commissioner of Workplace Agreements:

- (a) 21.
- (b) 20.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) 1.
- (e) Nil.

WorkSafe Western Australia:

- (a) 174.
- (b) 91.
- (c) 80.
- (d) 80.
- (e) 3.

WorkCover WA:

- (a) 138.
- (b) 66.
- (c) 72.
- (d)-(e) Nil.

Western Australian Industrial Relations Commission - Department of the Registrar:

- (a) 60.
- (b) 5.
- (c) 55.
- (d)-(e) Nil.

Ministry for Planning:

- (a) 250.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 249.
- (d) 250.
- (e) Nil.

Office of the Minister for Planning (Appeals Office):

- (a) 8.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 8.
- (d) 8.
- (e) Nil.

Heritage Council of Western Australia:

- (a) 16.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 16.
- (d) 16.
- (e) Nil.

East Perth Redevelopment Authority:

- (a) 13.
- (b) 10.
- (c) 2.
- (d) 1.
- (e) Nil.

Subiaco Redevelopment Authority:

- (a) 1.
- (b)-(c) Nil.
- (d) 1.
- (e) Nil.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

Number and Conditions of Employment

1558. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Local Government; Disability Services:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr OMODEI replied:

Department of Local Government:

- (a) 47.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 47.
- (d) 47 - The Public Service award forms the basis of the enterprise agreement.
- (e) Nil.

Disability Services Commission:

- (a) 2 304.
- (b) 82.
- (c) 1 608.
- (d) 332.
- (e) 282.

Fremantle Cemetery Board:

- (a) 26.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 26.
- (d)-(e) Nil.

Metropolitan Cemeteries Board:

- (a) 78 - including people on leave without pay, fixed term contracts and part time.
- (b) 3.
- (c) 75.
- (d) 75 - in conjunction with enterprise bargaining agreement.
- (e) Nil.

Keep Australia Beautiful Council -

- (a) 7.
- (b)-(c) Nil.
- (d) 7.
- (e) Nil.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

Number and Conditions of Employment

1559. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Health:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Headcount data is sourced from the December 1996 Minimum Obligatory Information Requirements and covers the Government Health Industry, excluding Royal Perth Hospital for whom an estimate has been provided.

Health Department of WA:

	GHI excluding RPH	Estimate of RPH	Estimated Totals
(a)	27 711	5 982	33 693
(b)	708	569	1 277
(c)	26 953	5 367	32 370
(d)	50*	46	46
(e)	0	0	0

*Approximately 50 employees are transferring to an enterprise agreement.

Healthway:

- (a) 14.
- (b) 14.
- (c)-(d) Nil.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

Number and Conditions of Employment

1560. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Finance:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr COURT replied:

The Minister for Finance has provided the following reply -

State Revenue Department:

- (a) 225.
- (b) 6.
- (c) 219.
- (d)-(e) Nil.

Valuer General's Office:

- (a) 196.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 100 per cent.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) 5.

State Government Insurance Commission:

- (a) 298.
- (b) 133.
- (c) 164.
- (d) With the exception of the managing director, all employees have their terms and conditions regulated by an enterprise or workplace agreement and not an industrial award.
- (e) 1. The managing director is employed on a fixed term contract as provided for under section 11, State Government Insurance Commission Act 1986.

Government Employees Superannuation Board:

- (a) 149.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 148.
- (d) 147.
- (e) 1.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

Number and Conditions of Employment

1561. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Works; Services; Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs; Youth:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr BOARD replied:

(a)	CAMS	491.
	SSC	28.
	OYA	10.
	OMI	8.
(b)	CAMS	371.
	SSC	27.
	OYA	6.
	OMI	7.
(c)	CAMS	49.
	SSC	0.
	OYA	2.
	OMI	0.
(d)	CAMS	71.
	SSC	0.
	OYA	2.
	OMI	1.
(e)	CAMS	0.
	SSC	1.
	OYA	0.
	OMI	0.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - EMPLOYEES

Number and Conditions of Employment

1562. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister representing the Minister for Racing and Gaming:

For all departments and agencies within the Minister's portfolios, what are -

- (a) the total number of employees;
- (b) the number of these employees who were employed on a workplace agreement;
- (c) the number of these employees who were employed on an enterprise agreement;
- (d) the number of these employees who were employed under an industrial award; and
- (e) the number of these employees who were employed under some form of contract not included in the above?

Mr COWAN replied:

The Minister for Racing and Gaming has provided the following reply -

Office of Racing, Gaming and Liquor:

- (a) 100.
- (b) 96.
- (c) 2 (secondees).
- (d) Nil.
- (e) 2.

Totalisator Agency Board:

- (a) 67 full time
9 part time
198 casual
274 total
- (b) 53 full time
6 part time
59 total
- (c) 198 casual
- (d) 14 full time
3 part time
17 total

(e) Nil.

WA Greyhound Racing Association:

- (a) (i) 47 permanent part time.
(ii) 232 casuals.
- (b) Nil.
- (c) 36 enterprise agreement.
10 certified agreement.
- (d) 232.
- (e) 1.

Burswood Park Board:

- (a) 5.
- (b) 5.
- (c)-(e) Nil.

Lotteries Commission:

- (a) (i) 120 full time.
(ii) 20 part time employees.
- (b) 111 - 79.3 per cent.
- (c) 29 - 20.7 per cent.
- (d) All employees were employed under an industrial award.
- (e) None.

HOSPITALS - FREMANTLE

Cardiac Services Unit - Installation

1587. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

Why is a third cardiac unit being installed at Fremantle Hospital when it is understood that the other two at Royal Perth and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospitals are underutilised?

Mr PRINCE replied:

There is no evidence that the existing cardiac units at Royal Perth Hospital and Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital are underutilised as they both meet contracted activity levels. The provision of cardiac services for 1997-98 at the three cardiac units is a reconfiguration of the current level of services and will provide more equitable access for patients.

HEALTH - SEXUAL HEALTH MONITORING BODY

Establishment

1588. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

What progress is there towards a sexual health monitoring body for Western Australia to look at STD, HIV and other blood born communicable diseases?

Mr PRINCE replied:

Letters have been forwarded to organisations requesting them to nominate individuals to be appointed to this committee. This process will be completed as soon as possible.

HEALTH - TELEMEDICINE

Funding

1589. Ms McHALE to the Minister for Health:

- (1) How much money is being invested into telemedicine in 1997-98?

- (2) What safeguards are in place to ensure that telemedicine does not replace the personal delivery of health services to a patient by a doctor?

Mr PRINCE replied:

- (1) The 1997-98 budget for telehealth is still to be determined.
- (2) The issue of safeguards to ensure that telemedicine does not replace personal health service is important for the dimensioning, implementation and evaluation of appropriate health service delivery using this new technology. This is often a very common first type of concern as awareness grows that a new technology could potentially change existing practices. However, what has been found from international research and experience is that these concerns do not come to fruition if a telehealth system meets identified needs.

It is clear that telehealth is safe, effective and efficacious. International experience has shown that patients appreciate the benefits from the new technology and many prefer seeing a specialist by teleconsultation rather than having to travel to an impersonal large tertiary care setting where they may feel isolated from family and friends. Health professionals usually have no complaints and concur that the communication process actually is enhanced for everyone involved, especially when the patient interacts with both health professionals simultaneously. The research has shown that a new kind of consultation occurs with telehealth, one that seems acceptable to patients and health providers who have actually used it.

The success of telehealth is that it must be based on clinical and community needs and not the technology. The needs of all the proposed users of the system, in particular rural communities who can most benefit from the system, must be understood.

The first steps within the State strategic plan, "Telehealth for the year 2000, Western Australia. A strategic plan" are proceeding at the same time:

- development of clinical telehealth applications after extensive consultation and assessment, which involves potential users in the decision-making and planning process as part of the change management needed for success of the new systems, and
- building a suitable, integrated, economic telecommunications and network infrastructure to support telehealth.

TRANSPORT - BUS

No 509 - Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

1595. Mr KOBELKE to the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Did Mr John Margio report carbon monoxide poisoning relating to an incident on 24 February 1995 while he was employed as a MetroBus driver?
- (2) Had he been driving MetroBus No 509 at the time and immediately prior to the incident?
- (3) Was it established that Mr Margio had sustained a high level of carbon monoxide ingestion with consequent medical symptoms?
- (4) Have any other drivers of bus No 509 reported suspected carbon monoxide poisoning?
- (5) If yes, then how many other drivers were there and what were the dates of the reports from these other drivers?

Mr KIERATH replied:

- (1)-(2) Yes.
- (3) No, but Mr Margio has medical symptoms consistent with carbon monoxide poisoning.
- (4)-(5) Not directly to WorkSafe Western Australia. However, during an investigation by a scientific officer of WorkSafe Western Australia in September 1995 it was established that two other MetroBus employees had symptoms similar to Mr John Margio.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE**WATER AND RIVERS COMMISSION - LEASE***Leschenault Quays Shopping Centre***493. Dr GALLOP to the**

In relation to the Water and Rivers Commission's lease negotiated by the Government Property Office at the Prosser owned Leschenault Quays shopping centre in Bunbury, I ask -

- (1) Will the Premier confirm that the two year lease signed in May last year, and worth \$116 000, did not go to tender?
- (2) If yes, what other properties in Bunbury besides the Prosser owned Leschenault Quays centre did the Government Property Office look at?
- (3) As the Minister responsible for the Government Property Office, what role did the Premier play in the negotiation and approval of the lease?

Mr COURT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Government has agreed to a two year lease of premises at Leschenault Quays, Bunbury for the Water and Rivers Commission at a gross rent of \$58 000 per annum. The agreed lease documentation is currently with the lessor for execution. The State Supply Commission advised the Government Property Office that it was not required to call for tenders for the provision of this leased accommodation.
- (2) The Water and Rivers Commission, with the assistance of local real estate agents, conducted its own search for suitable accommodation in Bunbury. I will enlarge on that aspect in a minute. The Water and Rivers Commission selected Leschenault Quays as the most suitable and cost-effective option.
- (3) As the accommodation is less than 500 square metres, the Chief Executive Officer of the Government Property Office has delegated powers to approve the lease. This approval was obtained in February 1996. The Government Property Office has negotiated an acceptable lease on behalf of the Water and Rivers Commission at a rental approximately \$5 000 per annum below the Valuer General's assessment of the market rental for the accommodation. As the Minister responsible for the Government Property Office, I had no role in negotiating or approving the lease.

The Water and Rivers Commission, with the assistance of a local real estate agent, conducted its own search for accommodation in Bunbury. In addition to Leschenault Quays, two other sites were considered by the commission; namely, an ex-furniture showroom in Blair Street and vacant accommodation in Bunbury Tower. The Blair Street property was discounted due to high leasing development costs, and the Bunbury Tower was considered not suitable for the commission's field operations, which include the provision of chemical laboratory facilities and specialist cleaning areas. It would not have been able to get its boats up to the tenth floor! The commission went through all the proper processes, and nothing is untoward in relation to that leasing.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT - CITY OF WANNEROO*Boundaries***494. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Local Government:**

The Minister made a brief ministerial statement on Thursday of last week concerning, among other things, the proposed alteration to the boundary of the City of Wanneroo. Has the Minister received any support from the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the City of Wanneroo concerning the boundaries for a new city of Joondalup?

Mr OMODEI replied:

When I made the announcement last week I took advice from both the City of Stirling and the City of Wanneroo. Both the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor of the City of Wanneroo were most cooperative and gave helpful advice in relation to the formal proposal I put to the Parliament. Likewise, I met officers of the City of Stirling on two or three occasions. I had discussions with the mayor, the chief executive officer and the chief administrative financial officer of the bodies before I made a final decision, and I was pleased with the significant level of cooperation from those

people. Obviously, they had concerns about rumours circulating in the community regarding rates increasing by 700 per cent, and a range of other issues. By meeting them and having concise discussions, we were able to put those matters to rest. I was very impressed with the professionalism of both cities.

Ms MacTiernan: It is a pity you did not do that consultation with the old City of Perth.

Mr OMODEI: Who in the old City of Perth, now in the Towns of Victoria Park, Cambridge or Vincent, want to go back to the old structure? No-one wants that, and the member knows it. The cooperation I received from the local members, and you, Mr Speaker, assisted me in deciding on the formal proposal to the advisory board.

TOURISM - ELLE RACING

Brand WA Signage

495. Mr BROWN to the Premier:

I refer to the reported comments of John Harvey that the inclusion of the Brand WA signage on the Elle yacht was not part of the original contract with Elle Racing. I also refer the Premier to the WA Tourist Commission's media release of 6 November 1996, which said that the yacht would carry the Brand WA signage.

- (1) Who is telling the truth about this matter?
- (2) Will the Premier also confirm that Elle Macpherson will make eight promotional appearances for Western Australia in the lead-up to, and during, the Whitbread round the world yacht race as promised last December?

Mr COURT replied:

- (1)-(2) Elle Macpherson has certainly been meeting her obligations in relation to the promotion of Western Australia. I thought that members opposite would support promoting the State. Regarding the detail, I am not the responsible Minister; the member keeps asking me questions on this matter, and if he gave me notice I could give the answers. I do not know that detail.

Dr Gallop: Mr Harvey could put a bathtub in this race and you would still have to pay \$400 000!

Mr COURT: If Mr Harvey does not deliver on his part of the contract, he does not get paid.

SEWERAGE - BEENYUP WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

Offensive Odours

496. Mr JOHNSON to the Minister for Water Resources:

Is the Minister aware of the offensive odours emanating from the Beenyup wastewater treatment plant in Craigie, and what action is being taken to eliminate these odours?

Dr HAMES replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Unquestionably, a significant odour emanates from the Beenyup wastewater treatment plant, which is similar to past problems at the Subiaco wastewater treatment plant. The Water Corporation is doing its best to do something about the odour. It has conducted a scientific odour investigation using the latest techniques of dynamic olfactometry and Ausplume modelling, whatever that is. The corporation is currently spending about \$1m a year on trying to control the odours emanating from Beenyup. It is a very difficult problem. It has been able to reduce the buffer zone to about 600 metres from the plant. It has highlighted the need to ensure an adequate buffer zone is provided in all future planning around wastewater treatment plants. There will always be an odour problem around wastewater treatment plants, and we must ensure that housing areas are not developed close to those sites. We have produced a new industry buffer policy to ensure that these problems - such as the Atlas tip site, close to which the Labor Government allowed housing to be built - are addressed. This Government is doing that.

CORRUPTION - ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Act - Breaches

497. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Last week the Minister claimed in the media that the Premier and the Commissioner of Police had not breached section 54 of the Anti-Corruption Commission Act by revealing that certain matters were being investigated by the ACC. He then revealed that he had sought advice on the matter from Deidre Willmott.

- (1) Is Ms Willmott employed by the Premier?
- (2) Is Ms Willmott also an active member of the Liberal Party?

Mr DAY replied:

(1)-(2) That is a scurrilous question. It unfairly attracts attention to a government officer -
Dr Gallop: You did that!

Mr DAY: That was in response to an earlier question. Ms Willmott is a professional and competent government officer. Last week I neglected to say - not deliberately but because it was not at the forefront of my mind - that the officer from whom I received the information had consulted crown counsel in the Crown Solicitor's Office. The information presented to her was then passed to me. There was no question about the legal advice. It was totally impartial and professional, both from the officer whom I consulted and from the Crown Solicitor's Office.

CORRUPTION - ANTI-CORRUPTION COMMISSION

Act - Breaches

498. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

Is the Minister prepared to table the legal advice or will he commit to referring the matter to the Director of Public Prosecutions for a proper investigation of whether the Act was breached?

Mr DAY replied:

I do not intend tabling legal advice. That advice was obtained verbally, in any event.

Several members interjected.

The SPEAKER: Order! That is the worst outburst we have ever had. Members may like to reflect on that!

Mr DAY: I have never claimed that I received written legal advice. It is a figment of the Leader of the Opposition's imagination. It is not necessary for me to refer anything to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Dr Gallop: Why did you seek advice on the issue if there was no problem?

Mr DAY: The advice I sought related to a query I had with the media. The matter has been dealt with appropriately.

COURTS - HIGH

Judges - Western Australian Replacements

499. Mr BAKER to the Parliamentary Secretary representing the Attorney General:

In view of, firstly, the impending retirements of High Court Judges Toohey and Dawson and Chief Justice Brennan, and, secondly, the fact that the balance of the High Court Bench all hail from New South Wales, will the Attorney General strongly lobby his federal counterpart to ensure that at least one of the three High Court replacements comes from Western Australia?

The SPEAKER: Order! I am advised that the Minister for Health represents the Attorney General in this House; therefore, unfortunately, I will not give the Parliamentary Secretary the call because the Minister for Health is not here.

WESTERN POWER - UNIFORM TARIFF POLICY

Reinstatement

500. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Energy:

I refer to the proposal by Western Power to increase charges for some commercial customers not connected to the State's power grid. I refer also to the guarantee by the Minister for Regional Development and National Party leader, to the Esperance Chamber of Commerce and Industry in February, that an agreement to reinstate the uniform tariff policy would be in place by June.

- (1) Has the uniform tariff policy been reinstated?
- (2) If not, why not?

Mr BARNETT replied:

The Deputy Premier can answer questions on his own behalf.

- (1)-(2) The uniform tariff is being maintained. It is the same rate of charge for electricity for householders and small businesses throughout the State. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks it is a proper principle that Western Australian taxpayers and energy consumers should provide large cross-subsidies - for example, to gold mining companies; and that pensioners, householders and small businesses in Perth should pay for large energy consumers who are not doing the right thing about energy conservation -

Mr Graham interjected.

Mr BARNETT: That is a different issue. The uniform tariff was part of our policy in 1993, and it was repeated during the last election: The policy is that for residential customers and small business it remain intact. It is part of our longstanding policy.

WESTERN POWER - UNIFORM TARIFF POLICY

Large Consumers

501. Dr GALLOP to the Minister for Energy:

Has the Minister reversed Western Power's policy, announced last year, to charge other than uniform tariffs for big customers outside the main power grid?

Mr BARNETT replied:

Last year Western Power released some details of proposed prices. They have not been implemented. The only increases have been to pass on to large consumers - that is, those consumers using more than 200 000 kilowatts -

Dr Gallop: Guarantees were given by the Deputy Premier!

Mr BARNETT: The member asks the questions, and I answer them! That is the routine. The only increase passed on was the increase in the federal fuel excise from 7¢ to 33¢ a litre, which raised energy generation costs by 8¢ a kilowatt hour. That is the only increase which was passed on as a result of a federal impost, to large consumers -

Dr Gallop interjected.

Mr BARNETT: I will not answer a question if I am not given the opportunity!

POLICE - STATION

Hillarys - Fire and Ambulance Services

502. Mrs HODSON-THOMAS to the Minister for Emergency Services:

- (1) Will the new police complex at Hillarys include accommodation for fire and ambulance services?
- (2) If there are no plans for fire and ambulance services to be included in the complex, is the Minister planning to locate the emergency services at any other location on the coastal strip between Trigg and Hillarys?

Mr DAY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Currently we have no plans to include fire and ambulance services in the police complex at Hillarys.
- (2) The Fire and Rescue Service is seeking to relocate its north region administration office from Malaga to a more suitable location to enable it to better serve its customers. Discussions will take place with St John Ambulance and government agencies, including the Police Service, to identify any potential collocation opportunities within the region. However, no decision has been made about relocating to any specific site.

EDUCATION - LOCAL AREA PLANNING

Consultation

503. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of a widespread view among parents that the deadline for consultation on his local area planning proposals for schools should be extended beyond 4 July, and that many parents have not been able to obtain copies of the proposals?

- (2) How does the Minister justify his claim that the Education Department is generous to consult at all on proposals which will lead to school closures and amalgamations?
- (3) What is the urgency with regard to this issue, and why will the Minister not extend the deadline?

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) The changes that were announced some time ago with regard to local area planning are about reducing the number of district offices from 29 to 16; increasing the decision making and authority of district directors and principals; and redeploying human and financial resources from central office to district offices and closer to schools, children and the education process in the classroom. Local area planning has not even commenced. We put out for public discussion the broad principles of what we intend to be a management system within education.

Mr Ripper: Parents everywhere are saying they want more time to respond.

Mr BARNETT: Parents can respond whenever they want, because it is an evolutionary process. The Western Australian Council of State School Organisations wrote to me and the department and said it wanted until December to think about it. It can think about it forever if it likes and it can continue to have input, because it is a genuinely consultative process about education. Last year when we changed the school starting age, I received a similar request for more time to consider the matter. I gave all those groups more time and they still could not form a position. Consultation on local area planning has not finished; it has not even started. I will not put on hold reform and improvement in education so that people will have six months to think about it. This Government is about getting on and doing things across a range of portfolios, including Education.

POLICE - ACADEMY

Land - Free of Contamination

504. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister for Police:

Following expressions of concern from the Midland business community, I ask: Is it normal practice for all Department of Contract and Management Services' expressions of interest - I refer in particular to the police academy document about the land that is required for the new police academy - to require that the land must be "free of any subsoil contaminants or adverse conditions"?

Mr DAY replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Western Australia Police Service has been advised by the Department of Contract and Management Services that a condition requiring that soil on a particular site be free of contamination is a normal specification when calling for expressions of interest in the provision of land. The inclusion of such a requirement does not preclude rectification of a contaminated site prior to its use for another purpose. In other words, it is always possible for such an area of land to be cleaned up before it is used for some other purpose.

HOUSING - KEYSTART LOANS LTD

Mortgages - Legal Fees

505. Ms MacTIERNAN to the Minister for Housing:

In November or December 1996, Keystart sought tenders for the legal work on Keystart mortgages.

- (1) Will the Minister confirm that the lowest tenderer, McCusker and Harmer, submitted a price of \$130 per mortgage?
- (2) Will the Minister explain why that firm was then awarded the contract at \$165 per mortgage?
- (3) Will the Minister explain why struggling Keystart borrowers are now required to pay \$190 in legal fees, an increase of \$60 on the tendered price?
- (4) Will the Minister assure the House that Keystart, in increasing the tender price by almost 50 per cent, has not breached Department of Contract and Management Services tender guidelines?

Dr HAMES replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(4) The third part of the question caused some problems because the question of which we were given some notice said that Keystart borrowers are required to pay \$19 in legal fees, rather than \$190 in legal fees as the member said when she asked the question. However, we were able to work out what the member was getting at. No, we will not confirm that the lowest tendered price was \$130 per mortgage. In fact, the tendered price was the same as the contracted price - \$165 per mortgage. The member may be confused with the fact that the tender price for valuations of properties through the Keystart program is \$130. I state categorically that the contracted price was \$165 per settlement, and that is what has been agreed to.

LYMBURNER PRIMARY SCHOOL - ADMINISTRATION UPGRADE

Completion

506. Mr JOHNSON to the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister confirm that the administration upgrade for Lyburner Primary School in my electorate will be completed in time for the school's twenty-fifth anniversary and as part of the school's celebration?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I cannot answer that question at this stage.

Several members interjected.

Mr BARNETT: Unlike the Opposition, we do not play with capital funding to suit political objectives.

Mr Ripper: You are grumpy today!

Mr BARNETT: I am conscious that Lyburner Primary School will soon celebrate its twenty-fifth anniversary. Lyburner Primary School has been identified within the district as a high priority for an administration upgrade. A number of schools around the State have similarly been identified. During term 3, following an assessment by the department, I will announce the schools that have been listed as requiring an upgrade, and I assure the member that if Lyburner Primary School and other schools are on that list, that work will be commenced quickly and concluded during the 1998 school year.

POLICE - CAPE BOUVARD ESTATE

Sponsorship by Developers

507. Mrs ROBERTS to the Minister for Police:

At a public meeting on 5 June 1997 and in reported comments in *The West Australian* on 10 June, Inspector Murray Lewis said that to have an entrance off Downey Drive into the Cape Bouvard development would be a nightmare and that the residents were lucky that there had not been any fatal accidents on Downey Drive already. He recommended that the estate's entrance be off McCabe Street.

- (1) Is the Minister concerned by Cape Bouvard spokesman Mr Colin Russell's comments in response that, "We have been involved in sponsoring the police helicopters for years. You don't make those sorts of statements lightly"?
- (2) Would the Minister be concerned if police sponsors thought they could buy favours?
- (3) Why has no less than the Assistant Commissioner of Police now weighed in and rejected Inspector Lewis' claims and supported the developers?
- (4) Is the Minister prepared to table all police correspondence on this matter, including the detailed plans on which the police completely changed their views?

Mr DAY replied:

- (1)-(4) I have no specific knowledge about this subject. This is the kind of question of which some notice should be given so that the appropriate answer can be provided. I will seek information from the Commissioner of Police about this issue.

Of course I would be concerned if people were able to buy favours because of their sponsorship of any activity with which the police were associated. I have no reason to believe that is the case; to the contrary, the evidence is that the police are acting totally impartially in this matter, as in every other matter.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES - JOONDALUP FAMILY CENTRE

Management

508. Mr BAKER to the Minister for Education:

Does the Department of Education propose to take responsibility for the management of the Joondalup Family Centre in Jolstra Crescent, Joondalup, when the State Government's preprimary school program is introduced?

Mr BARNETT replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. Family centres, such as the Joondalup Family Centre, are managed generally by local management groups and usually receive funding through Family and Children's Services. The change that will take place from the beginning of 1999 is that responsibility for kindergarten programs for four year olds will be transferred from Family and Children's Services to the Education Department.

Those programs will continue to be run within family centres, and while the Education Department will take responsibility for the education program in the kindergarten year, it will not take over responsibility for running family centres. That responsibility will remain with the local management groups and be supported by Family and Children's Services.

YOUTH - BONGS OR WATER PIPES

Sale

509. Mr McGINTY to the Minister for Youth:

Last week the Minister's colleague the member for Vasse called for smoking implements known as bongos to be banned from sale because they encouraged young people to smoke cannabis. As the Minister responsible for youth affairs, does the Minister agree with the member's claims, and does he propose to take any action to give effect to that view? Does the Minister's department have any evidence to suggest that the sale of bongos or water pipes encourages cannabis consumption?

Mr BOARD replied:

Since the Parliament resumed I have been wondering when I would be asked this question. The question gives me the opportunity to put the facts on the record. I was a director of the Agung Trading Company which I bought into in 1981. I sold out of the company six years before I entered Parliament. The reason I bought into the company was primarily to become involved in the manufacture and distribution of clothing.

At one time the company operated up to 16 shops. It is true that smoking paraphernalia was sold at a number of its shops. I regret that I bought into a company which sold such paraphernalia. At the time I was ignorant that there was a connection between the selling of smoking paraphernalia and the possibility of its leading to people's involvement in hard drugs. I regret my involvement.

Ms MacTiernan: Are you aware for what the implements are used?

Mr BOARD: I was not aware of that when I bought into the company.

Ms MacTiernan: When did you realise what they were used for?

Mr BOARD: Some time after I became involved in the company. From that point of view, I regret my involvement in the company. I did sell my share of the company, but while I was there I was involved in the clothing side of the company. I regret that I was a director of a company which was involved in the sale of those products.

In answer to the question, I do not support it. I support totally the Government's anti-drugs stance. I support fully the Minister for Family and Children's Services' strategy which she introduced today and I will become heavily involved in it.

Mr McGinty: What about making it illegal to sell bongos?

Mr BOARD: It is an issue the committee could look at. The Minister and the task force could also look at it and if they go in that direction, I will support them.

POLICE - ACADEMY

*Site Selection Panel***510. Mrs van de KLASHORST to the Minister for Police:**

Following expressions of concern by the Midland business community will the Minister advise of the compilation of the Department of Contract and Management Services' new Police Academy site selection panel? The Midland business community wishes to ensure that it will be completely unbiased.

Mrs Roberts: Will the academy be in Midland?

Mr DAY replied:

The member for Midland will have to put her question to the member for Joondalup and get his opinion on it.

The establishment of a new Police Academy is a Western Australia Police Service project. The Department of Contract and Management Services is managing the request for expressions of interest on behalf of the Police Service. The selection panel will be determined through consultation between the Police Service and CAMS. It has been suggested that it is inappropriate for police to be members of the selection panel. It is appropriate for the Police Service to be represented on the selection panel to determine the location of the new academy.

The selection panel will comprise two representatives of the Police Service, two representatives of CAMS, one representative of the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet and one representative of Treasury. The selection process will be overseen by an external probity auditor commissioned for the duration of the procurement phase of the academy project. The role of the probity auditor will be to ensure that appropriate processes are fully adhered to and that no party is given an unfair advantage or is discriminated against.

It is entirely appropriate and it would be improper if the Police Service was not represented on the selection panel.

EDUCATION - DEPARTMENT

*Restructuring - Power Struggles***511. Mr RIPPER to the Minister for Education:**

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the power struggles in his portfolio surrounding the appointments of new chief executive officers to the Department of Education Services and the Curriculum Council involving Peter Browne, Jerry Skivinis, Diane Kerr and Cheryl Vardon?
- (2) What action is the Minister taking to ensure his bureaucrats concentrate their efforts on serving the community rather on the advancement of their personal interests?
- (3) How will he ensure this is not the first of many such struggles to erupt as the Education Department is restructured.

Mr BARNETT replied:

- (1)-(3) I feel I could almost mislead the Parliament by saying I thank the member for some notice of this question. I doubt that I have heard such a silly question asked in this Parliament.

Mr Ripper: You should hear the rumours.

Mr BARNETT: There may well be rumours. Positions are being advertised for people to head the Curriculum Council and the Department of Education Services. They are important positions. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition referred to a number of people in the Department of Education; namely, Cheryl Vardon, Peter Browne, Jerry Skivinis and Diane Kerr. Those people are well known to many members on both sides of this House. I have the highest respect for their professional ability and their dedication to education and to serving the Government of the day. They have demonstrated that in successive years and in successive Administrations. There is competition for positions and I am delighted about that. I would hate it if there were no competition. By asking a miserable, tacky question the member casts doubt upon very highly qualified, professional and dedicated public servants of this State. I resent that. All the people he referred to are fine people. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition is wrong. In this year vocational education training has come into play and the Curriculum Council has been established, there has been local area planning and the Green Bill to replace the Education Act has been released. If the Deputy Leader of the Opposition thinks that is symptomatic of an education system not moving forward, he really is a dill.