



WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Parliamentary Debates

(HANSARD)

THIRTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
FIRST SESSION
1997

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Thursday, 26 June 1997

Legislative Council

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THE PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash) took the Chair at 11.00 pm, and read prayers.

MOTION - CONDOLENCE

Late Hon John McIntosh Thomson, MLC

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [11.03 am] - without notice: I move -

That this House express its deep regret at the death of the Honourable John McIntosh Thomson, a former member of the Legislative Council for the South Province, and places on record its appreciation for his long and meritorious public service, and tenders its profound sympathy to the members of his family in their bereavement.

Last week saw the passing of a former member of the Legislative Council, Hon John McIntosh Thomson. Hon John Thomson was better known as Jack Thomson. He was a member of this House from May 1950 until May 1974, a period of 24 years. Mr Thomson was born in Katanning in 1907. He was the son of Alexander Thomson, who was, interestingly, a very long serving member of the Legislative Assembly; indeed, he was the MLA member for Katanning from 1914 to 1930, a significant period of time in which to serve in the other place. He was then member for South Province from 1931 to 1950. When we add those periods from 1914 to 1950, they represent a very lengthy and significant period of service to both Houses of the Western Australia Parliament. At the conclusion of his time as member for South Province in 1950, Alexander Thomson was succeeded by his son, Jack Thomson, who then held the seat, as I have said, from 1950 to 1974. Collectively, therefore, father and son were in the State Parliament from 1914 until 1974, which is an amazing contribution by a family to the service of the Parliament in Western Australia.

Jack Thomson was born in Katanning, as I have said. He became a member of the Country Party, as it was then, and represented that party in Parliament. He married Catherine Mary Hill, who I am told was an exceptional lady herself and known as Mary. I have heard a number of people talk of her contribution to the community. Jack Thomson was educated at the Katanning State School and then at Guildford Grammar School. He became a master builder and investor. He became very actively involved in community activities in the Albany and the great southern part of Western Australia. As I have said, he was the MLC for South Province from May 1950 until May 1974. He was Deputy Chairman of Committees from 1968 until 1974, and a member of a whole range of committees during his period as a member. He was a member of a joint select committee inquiring into the Kauri Timber Co Ltd Agreement Bill, a member of an honorary royal commission inquiring into the Town Planning and Development Act Amendment Bill and he represented the Western Australian branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association at a parliamentary seminar in Westminster in 1970. He was a well respected and highly regarded local member of Parliament who represented the interests of his electorate diligently and well.

I thought that in the context of this condolence motion today I would have a very quick look at his maiden speech, because often we get to know a lot more about a person from his maiden speech than some of the speeches he makes later on in political life. They tend to change with the circumstances at the time. It is interesting that in his maiden speech he called for two royal commissions to be established. In those days royal commissions had a slightly different meaning for people. Royal commissions were held into a whole range of things. He referred in his speech to a royal commission which had been held into a broad gauge railway between Fremantle and Kalgoorlie. At the time there was obviously some dispute about the route that line would take. During his speech he talked about water supplies in the country, which were obviously a problem then. He referred to a shortage of timber supplies and called for a royal commission into the timber industry. Some of our new members might be inclined to move for a royal commission to have it the other way around. That will be seen in time.

He talked about the aged and chronically ill in regional Western Australia. He also called for a royal commission into the cost of living. Unlike many members these days, he did not know what was the answer to the cost of living problem and he was prepared to admit that. He admitted that in his maiden speech when he called for an inquiry to be held to see what could be done to hold down prices and at the same time ensure that people received a fair and reasonable income. He raised the issue of decentralisation in Western Australia. As I have said, he talked about a broad gauge railway from Fremantle to Kalgoorlie, which has come to fruition. Interestingly, he talked about the tourism industry. In 1950 his comments about tourism may have been a little ahead of their time in view of the attitude people had in those days to the tourism industry. He also talked about bus services in country Western Australia.

His conclusion demonstrates the calibre of the man, when he said, "We live in a State which offers to its people and to all those migrants who are entering into it, great opportunities." It was a time when many migrants were coming to Australia. Having spent some time in Northam, I know that the camp was full of migrants from eastern Europe particularly. The 1950s was a period of great growth in the population of Western Australia. He recognised that and the opportunities available to migrants coming to Western Australia because of what our State had to offer. He went on to say, "This will require faith, perseverance and the will to work." Those words probably describe Hon Jack McIntosh Thomson. I say on behalf of the Government that his service to Parliament is recognised and respected. We offer our thanks for that and, indeed, our thanks to his family for the very long period of service to the Parliament of Western Australia. As a result of his passing, I extend on behalf of the Government its condolences to his family.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [11.10 am]: On behalf of the non-government parties - the Labor Party, the Australian Democrats, and the Greens (WA) - I join with the Government in the expression of sympathy upon the passing of Hon Jack McIntosh Thomson. The Leader of the Government has delivered to the House a research of the life and the contribution of this member, much of which I was about to draw upon in my own comments. Some of the observations and quotes that the leader has delivered to the House stood out as items worth commenting upon and drawing to the attention of the House at this time.

Members may be interested to note that Jack Thomson's father Alexander Thomson was a member until the age of 77 - a great age by our standards. As the leader of the House told the House, Hon Jack Thomson took his father's seat in the Parliament. During his maiden speech Hon Jack Thomson told the House how pleased and proud he was to have followed his father to this House. That is understandable. His father died three years later. Hon Jack Thomson served this place until 21 May 1974. Hon Jack Thomson died at the age of 90 years and one week. His wife died before him. The death notices in *The West Australian* reveal that he was the loved and respected uncle of an extended family. Although not blessed with children of his own, tributes in the newspaper indicate that the family of Ken and Joyce Lynch were closely associated with this former member in the later stages of his life.

During his parliamentary career Hon Jack Thomson was Deputy Chairman of Committees from 1968 to 1974, a member of the Standing Orders Committee from 1952 to 1953 and from 1963 to 1974, and a member of a number of other committees. Importantly, he was the chairman of a select committee inquiring into the school bus contracts and routes in 1957, and a member of the select committee inquiring into the potato industry from 1971 to 1972. They become part of his curriculum vitae of his contribution to the people of Western Australia.

His father started his political life as a Liberal and then joined the Country Party. Hon Jack Thomson joined the Country Party in 1940 and served this Parliament, his party and, through his party, the people of Western Australia with distinction. The quote that the Leader of the House extracted from his maiden speech is worth dwelling on. Hon Jack Thomson spoke on behalf of all Western Australians when he concluded his maiden speech with the following words -

... we shall achieve our rightful place in this, our Commonwealth of Australia.

With the passing of this former member it is appropriate that we pay respect to his extended family and his friends and to pay tribute to the service that this member gave to the people of Western Australia through this Parliament.

HON MURRAY MONTGOMERY (South West) [11.13 am]: As a schoolboy I knew Hon Jack Thomson quite well. It is with a great deal of sadness that I stand to say a few words on behalf of the National Party. As has been stated by the previous speakers Jack joined the Country Party in 1940 when he lived in Katanning. He moved to Albany in 1942 and became involved with the local branch of the party. He was also a member of the Albany Town Council from November 1945 to November 1951. During that time he was elected to this Parliament. As has been stated he followed in his father's footsteps and was a member of this place for 24 years. He was elected to the South East Province, which became the South Province after some changes were made to the Electoral Act.

It is appropriate to say something about his late wife Mary. Mary was a freeman of the Town of Albany. They worked as a team. In Jack's day members travelled by train to Perth. Whenever Jack came to Perth for parliamentary duties Mary would take on the responsibilities of a secretary. Nowadays members have electorate secretaries, but in those times Mary took on this role. There was a great deal of toing and froing between Perth and Albany and the two worked as a team. The communities and charitable organisations of not only Albany but also the South Province have benefited from representations made on their behalf by Jack Thomson. There would be many organisations that owed either their existence or their continuing existence to his representations.

Jack regularly attended agricultural shows around the South Province, which stretched from the lakes area - Lake Grace being the most distant - through Ravensthorpe, down to Albany and west to Denmark. The South Province took in the Katanning area that his father had represented earlier in his career in politics.

Jack believed in his church and attended St John's church in Albany, where he was a warden. He gave a lot of advice and a great deal of money to his church. He was also a freemason, an organisation with which he was proud to be associated. He believed in the ideals of the organisations to which he belonged and he gave his all to those organisations.

As stated by the Leader of the Opposition the friendships that he made in the town were wide and varied. Jack was very friendly with the Aboriginal community. He and his wife did much to assist Aborigines, particularly in his early days in Parliament, and he remained close friends with many members of the Aboriginal community.

The Leader of the Opposition mentioned Dr Ken Lynch. Dr Lynch described Jack Thomson as a good and gentle man with great integrity. That is appropriate coming from somebody outside Parliament. That was also the way the community saw him. I spoke to Dr Lynch only a few days before Jack Thomson died and Dr Lynch indicated to me Jack Thomson's feeling about his involvement in the community. It was unfortunate that his wife had passed on, and all he really wanted in his last few days was to join his wife wherever his maker would take him.

The community has lost a valuable member. Not only did he give a lot to his fellow beings, but he did it quietly and very effectively. I would like the condolences of the National Party to be passed on to those close to him.

HON MURIEL PATTERSON (South West) [11.22 am]: I add my condolences to those already offered to the friends and family of the late Hon Jack Thomson. My memories of this gentleman extend to well over 50 years because Jack and my father, Charles Quartermaine, went to primary school together and Jack Thomson has been a household name as far as I can remember. I remember him as a courteous and kind gentleman, mindful of others. He always had the ability to show his unselfish streak.

If ever an example were needed of how opposites are attracted it surely must be seen in the marriage of Jack and his late wife Mary. Mary was a dynamic extrovert. Their affection for each other was clear to all. When Jack entered politics, so did Mary, so great was her support for him. We used to smile in a kindly sort of way, because whenever Jack gave a speech, Mary was attentive and listened to every word he said, but she was not above whispering when someone else made a speech. That was the lovely way in which she showed her great support for him.

They were involved in many other areas and had a great interest in music, arts, Aboriginal people and also new Australians. In the 1950s, when it was a big change in our nation to see people coming from other countries, they worked hard and long to make them feel welcome. Members who knew them both remember many instances of that during their lifetime. Even as late as 25 April this year, Jack Thomson, frail as he was at 90 years old, still attended the Anzac Day service in Albany.

During their long marriage Jack and Mary did not have children born to them; however, in their mid-life they fostered two Aboriginal children, Harley and Miriam. Those kids were loved dearly and were given a wonderful opportunity of a college education. However, during their teens the children decided to return to their mother. That caused great heartache to Mary and Jack, not because they thought it was wrong that they went back, but because they missed them and they left a vacancy in their own lives. Fortunately they both lived long enough to have the joy of seeing those young people develop into worthy citizens.

Some members may recall that during the last Parliament I spoke of the outstanding work done by Pastor Harley Haywood with his work among Aboriginal and many white people in Balga. Harley has worked with people in the Bronx in America, in Korea and with underprivileged people in many other parts of the world. He has travelled and has had a great influence on many lives. Harley is a quiet, rather unassuming man. I have no doubt that some of that quality rubbed off on him from his association with Jack. He has a sense of dignity and esteem that he is able to pass on to the people he works with in Balga. One of the outstanding things Harley did was to encourage Aboriginal people to build their own community church. That was done without one cent from the Government. The Government offered assistance, but through Harley's leadership it was refused. He said that if people wanted to belong and wanted to have a church that was really and truly theirs, they must work together and build it themselves. My husband, Rol, and I were privileged to be invited to the opening of the church community centre and marvelled at what they had achieved. It was landscaped in a lovely way and it was a true community establishment. Hon Jack Thomson and Mrs Mary Thomson OBE and Freeman of the Town of Albany lived to appreciate and enjoy Harley's achievements and know that their love and care contributed to the building of Harley's character.

I mention this to the House to give some idea of the person Jack was. In my lifetime I have never heard an unkind word said about him. Others have spoken before me about the length of time he was in politics. That period of service is a remarkable achievement. I acknowledge also Dr Ken and Mrs Joyce Lynch, who many years ago adopted Jack and Mary as their children's grandparents. Rol and I moved to Albany at much the same time as Ken and Joyce did and we used to associate with them. Ken and Joyce came from Ireland. They were a family with four children without any relatives in Australia. Over the years they found their great extended family through Jack and Mary.

The good news from my point of view was that although Jack and Mary did not have children, they always lived within a family circle. After Mary died, Jack sorely missed her. I do not feel sad at his passing. I think his time had come. I am happy to say that Hon Jack Thomson will be remembered with great respect by a community in which he was well known to many.

HON W.N. STRETCH (South West) [11.30 am]: I wish to be briefly associated with this motion because to me Jack Thomson, or little Jack as he was best known around the traps, was indeed a very warm, vital and much loved figure, both in his political life and among his friends and the public in Albany and the great southern. He always turned up at every occasion. At happy and sad times and in times of trouble or hardship, Jack would be there with advice offering any help he had at his disposal. As has been said, Jack and Mary were a tremendous team. They travelled and worked together and they almost had a psychic connection. When Jack was busy campaigning, Mary would back him up. She might be miles from him but everyone knew the team work was absolutely paramount and that it worked for the advantage of the people. That is why Jack survived in politics for so long. His interests crossed political boundaries. He was a politician for the good of the electorate and the people, and the example he set should be remembered. After all, when we are elected to this place we represent everybody in the electorate and not just those who befriended us during our campaigns.

When I first met Jack at a community function - I think it was a development committee - it was not a big deal but Jack had the time and interest to foster those matters. I was in my early twenties and Jack came across and greeted me. I had just come from Victoria and he asked why. I said I thought there were more opportunities in Western Australia. He agreed and said that anything was possible in this State for people who are prepared to work. He wished me good luck and offered his help if ever I needed it. That is also something members should remember, and most of them do; that is, Jack took it to a personal and effective degree so that people knew they were represented by not only a member of Parliament but also a friend who would help when needed. People often need help and advice when they are first starting up and, for example, opening up farm land.

Western Australia has lost a great citizen, and Albany in particular has lost a couple of great citizens. Jack and Mary were so deeply involved in the community that it is difficult to separate the memory of them. The vision of the man must go on record, as was pointed out by Hon Norman Moore, Leader of the House. Jack Thomson's maiden speech encompassed such things as tourism and the standard gauge railway line, which gives some idea of his plans for Western Australia. He knew from his travels of the potential of Western Australia, and that with a little help from the Government in the direction of resources development this State would blossom. It is wonderful that he lived such a long and fruitful life and saw many of his dreams come true, because this State has certainly moved along those lines he planned for in those early days.

Jack Thomson was also a person of great political perception. When I first stood for Parliament, I was a candidate in a seat safely held by a member of the Country Party, Hon Win Piesse, who was a very fine person. I did not expect to win. It was a very friendly campaign and two days after the election - Hon Tom Stephens may remember this because he claimed a seat for the Labor Party - it was evident that I would win the seat. My father, who is a man of even fewer words than I, said he was glad and he knew that I would win. I asked how he knew that and he replied that Jack Thomson had told him three weeks earlier that I would win. That was an indication of his awareness of public perceptions and that he had his finger on the pulse around the electorate, even though at the time he was retired from Parliament. The State has indeed lost a great contributor, and I know he will be fondly remembered by all his friends in the community in Albany and around the State. It is fitting that his life and achievements should be recorded in this place. I mourn the loss of a great friend and great citizen.

HON BOB THOMAS (South West) [11.37 am]: The community of Albany and the great southern has lost one of its true leaders, and I am glad we have the opportunity to place that on the record today. I say that with all sincerity, even though I represent the Labor Party which was opposed to the National Country Party. I met John Thomson only in 1989 when I moved from Manjimup to Albany, and at that time he was already more than 80 years old. I observed a man with a quick wit and sharp mind, but a very frail body. One of my first and most enduring impressions of John was that he was a genuine person and very much part of a team. After he had been retired from Parliament for 15 years, it was evident that he and Mary were still part of a team. They did a lot together and were involved in numerous community organisations in Albany even after he had retired from Parliament.

I had a number of lovely conversations with both of them, and I could see John still had a very sharp mind because he was keen to know what was happening in Parliament and around the traps in the electorate. I only ever called him John, and I do not know whether it was a mark of disrespect but he never said it was. I recall one conversation with John and Mary in which he explained that it is so much easier for modern members of Parliament than it was in his time. When he was a member there was no such thing as an electorate officer, and Mary said she carried out that work. John came to Perth on the train and was away all week. Anybody with an electorate query went to John's house and spoke to Mary, and she dealt with government departments in the same way that electorate officers do

today. It was a great tribute to Mary when she was made freeman of Albany several years ago. Hon Muriel Patterson and I spoke in the adjournment debate after Mary died, because it was a sad loss to the community. I, along with many other people, thought Mary was stronger and would survive John but she did not. I have seen John only a couple of times since Mary passed away and I could see that he was lost without his partner and friend. The last time I saw him was at the Anzac Day parade this year, and only then did I realise how old he was. He had deteriorated so much, that I could see it would not be long before he joined Mary, wherever she may be. I reiterate that it is a sad moment for Albany to have lost somebody who was a true leader in the community, and I associate myself with this motion.

THE PRESIDENT (Hon George Cash): I add my condolences to those already extended to the Thomson family. I also advise members that, in accordance with the practice of the House, I will write to the Thomson family, enclosing a copy of both the motion and the comments made with respect to the late Hon Jack McIntosh Thomson.

Question passed, members standing.

PETITION - EUTHANASIA REFERENDUM

Hon N.D. Griffiths presented the following petition bearing the signatures of 297 persons -

To the Honourable the President and members of the Legislative Council in Parliament assembled.

We the undersigned residents of Western Australia respectfully commend to the attention of the House that:

1. Every act of euthanasia carried out with the approval of the State necessarily involves a judgement by the State that the person killed had a life that no longer mattered;
2. Inquiries into the legalisation of so-called "strictly regulated voluntary euthanasia" by the House of Lords Select Committee on Medical Ethics (1994), the New York State Task Force on Life and the Law (1994), the Canadian Special Senate Select Committee on Euthanasia and Assisted Suicide (1995) and the Australian Senate Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee (1996) each concluded that it is impossible to ensure adequate safeguards for voluntary euthanasia and that therefore legalising euthanasia will always create more victims than beneficiaries;
3. A referendum on euthanasia would, if successful, be a substantial step towards legalised euthanasia and therefore any bill for a referendum on euthanasia should be rejected as an attempt to remove the equal protection from intentional killing enjoyed by all Western Australians under existing law.

Your petitioners pray that the House will reject any Bill to legalise euthanasia including any Bill for a referendum for legalised euthanasia.

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

[See paper No 549.]

MOTION - STATUTES (REPEALS AND MINOR AMENDMENTS) BILL

Referral to Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [11.44 am] - without notice: I move -

That Order of the Day No 15, Statutes (Repeals and Minor Amendments) Bill, be discharged and referred to the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision.

This is an omnibus Bill which deals with a number of obsolete pieces of legislation and some which need minor amendments. It is appropriate that, rather than the House spending time on this matter during the Committee of the Whole, the Bill be sent to the Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision Committee for its consideration. I am moving this motion today so that can occur during the recess. When the House resumes for the spring session the committee will be able to report to the House and its report can be dealt with expeditiously. I therefore seek support for the motion.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [11.45 am]: I second the motion and commend it to the House.

Question put and passed.

MOTION - LABOUR RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT ACT*Appointment of Select Committee*

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [11.46 am]: I move -

That -

- (1) A Select Committee of six members, any three of whom shall constitute a quorum, be appointed to inquire into and report on the Industrial Relations Act 1979, the Minimum Conditions of Employment Act 1993 and the Workplace Agreements Act 1993 - "the legislation" - and any other relevant legislation amendments thereto occasioned by the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act 1997 - "the 1997 amendments" - with particular reference to -
 - (a) whether the legislation has provided or will provide adequate protection and equitable treatment for employees in Western Australia, a fair balance between the interests and relative bargaining powers of employers and employees;
 - (b) whether the departments, agencies, bodies and other institutions established under the legislation or by ministerial decision to implement the legislation -
 - (i) are able to provide services and administer legislation impartially and operate as effective providers of advice, mediation and other services to employers and employees and maintain public confidence in their ability to do so;
 - (ii) are subject or perceived to be subject to any improper or unlawful direction by any Minister in decisions on the allocation of resources or decisions to initiate legal proceedings or investigations for alleged breaches of legislation by any person; and
 - (iii) understand and maintain the proper distinction between the roles of public servants and Ministers consistent with the broad recommendations of the Commission on Government.
 - (c) the implications of the legislation for harmonious industrial relations in Western Australia and for the Western Australian economy;
 - (d) whether the legislation unduly restricts or hinders Western Australians exercising rights of freedom of association and political expression historically exercised in Australia or implicit in the Constitutions of the State or Commonwealth;
 - (e) whether the legislation is consistent with international labour standards and best practices;
 - (f) the impact of the legislation on women, young people, people of non-English speaking background, Aboriginal people and on employees in all regions of the State and its efficacy in preventing and eliminating discrimination against employees;
 - (g) the impact of the legislation on small business and the extent to which the legislation and the institutional arrangements it creates provide adequate support for small business - including small business in all regions of the State - in dealing with industrial matters;
 - (h) the relevance and appropriateness of the provisions of the legislation restricting financial expenditure by employee organisations and whether similar restrictions ought be imposed on employers, employer organisations and other business entities; and
 - (i) whether the legislation ensures that employee organisations have an appropriate and effective right of access to workplaces to ensure employees are aware of and receiving their entitlements and are working in a safe environment.
- (2) The committee have power to send for person, papers and records.
- (3) The proceedings of the committee during the hearing of evidence to be open to accredited news media representatives and the public.
- (4) During the conduct of its inquiry the committee endeavour to raise public awareness of its inquiry and its terms of reference and to facilitate public participation by as far as practicable -
 - (a) taking evidence at places of business and work;

- (b) conducting public seminars on all or any of the issues it is addressing and inviting relevant experts to address those seminars;
 - (c) ensuring that the committee gives employers, employees and other persons resident in the regions of the State full opportunity to present evidence to the committee.
- (5) The committee to report not later than 28 August 1997.

I hope no-one will take offence from this but Hon Jack Thompson has served his party both in life and in death because he has succeeded in preventing my moving this important motion earlier.

Hon Max Evans: It was coincidental.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I am not suggesting it was not. I did not know the man, but he provided an opportunity of an extended debate during motions which has prevented this motion being debated to its resolution.

Hon N.F. Moore: Perhaps someone should have told him before and provided him with a Notice Paper!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: By chance we now have before the House my motion that seeks to have the recently amended labour relations laws of Western Australia considered by a select committee of this Parliament. This motion, by chance, is being moved today, the day set down by the Trades and Labor Council as defiance day.

Hon N.F. Moore: Break the law day.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Members on this side of the House are wearing red "badges of courage" to say we support the ordinary working men and women of Western Australia who want to express their defiance and to protest about the labour laws that have now been put in place by this Government. We all know that this day occurs just six weeks after the passage of legislation through the House we occupied when the Australian Labor Party vehemently argued against the Government's draconian legislation which neither the union movement nor a broad cross-section of the Western Australia community wanted to see enacted.

This twenty-sixth day of June has been selected by the TLC as defiance day.

It is a significant day in the calendar of working men and women around the world, especially those associated with the activities of the union movement and their colleagues in South Africa who, on 26 June, regularly commemorate the pursuit of freedom. The trade union movement both in South Africa and around the world has focused its effort on freedom day, which was associated with the overthrow of draconian laws, not only those to do with apartheid but also industrial laws that had kept the union movement and the work force down. We could draw attention to the similarity between those draconian laws and the labour laws to suppress the work force of Western Australia recently passed by this Parliament.

This motion gives the House an opportunity to examine these laws - perhaps, the most divisive and controversial laws the Parliament has ever enacted - and to review and analyse the impact of the legislation on workers, employers and businesses, as well as on the social and economic fabric of this State. This motion places special emphasis on the needs of people in the regions of this State who already lack effective access to information about their rights in the workplace and their abilities to seek redress. Too regularly they lack the support of departmental officials and structures and the apparatus of government that can protect their interests as workers. Regularly they are so far removed from the union movement and the unions' headquarters that they are not adequately protected by the union structures. This legislation is desperately crying out to be reviewed and it has compounded the problems of those workers.

The industrial relations system has undergone substantial legislative change in the past four years. The Minister for Labour Relations has pursued a vendetta against employees, unions and employee organisations. The Premier and the Cabinet have given this Minister the opportunity to pursue this legislative agenda, irrespective of the interests of the rest of the State. We have seen a backup of legislation which largely is attributable to weak Ministers allowing a non-controversial legislative agenda to be hijacked by this publicity hungry and confrontationist Minister. He has displayed a most voracious appetite.

Hon N.F. Moore: This coming from you is amazing.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: That appetite is not sated by the passage of the labour relations Bills.

Hon N.F. Moore: Talk about power; I have never seen anything like it in my life. You have a very short memory and very selective hearing. I have been here long enough to know what you did in Government. No wonder you are not responding.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: With the Government's acquiescence, the Minister for Labour Relations has raided the public purse to embark upon an expensive advertising campaign to promote the legislation, not to explain it. Regrettably we know only too well that the Government had the opportunity to explain this legislation before the Parliament and chose not to do so. Instead it has chosen to promote the legislation in the community, but not in detail and without accurately presenting how bad the legislation is. As Khrushchev might have said to Stalin, this cult of personality knows no bounds, in regard to this Minister for Labour Relations.

Hon N.F. Moore: You really do go way over the top. Who do you think you are? Where do you think you are speaking? Do you think you are speaking in the United Nations or somewhere? You are wearing a mantle you do not deserve.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Today we see a Government in damage control mode over its appalling record in helping victims of heroin and other drug abuse. Instead of allocating funds to the important processes the State requires, this Government is engaging in full page advertisements, not just in the daily press but throughout the regional press in this State. I was horrified to see that every northern paper that has come to me while I have been in Parliament House this week has a full page advertisement promoting the personality of the Minister for Labour Relations as he tries to promote, not explain, his legislation. Is it any wonder people in the community are concerned about this Government which will not tackle the problems with which they are faced, but rather squanders money on full page advertisements about this legislation?

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: It is absolutely appalling.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Real social problems are neglected by this Government. In the area of labour relations and workplace safety the trust and confidence of members of the public are sadly misplaced if they believe this Government has their interests at heart. Serious questions arise over the credibility and impartiality of the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations in the way it has addressed its statutory responsibility. That became clear during the estimates debates in this place recently.

Many low income workers have approached that department for help to recover underpaid wages from rogue employers. Often those employees are young people, women or those from a migrant background for whom underpayment means hardship for them and their families. It should be a priority for that department to address the needs of these people. Regrettably, their complaints of underpayment or breaches of awards sit well down in the investigative priorities of the department. Instead, consistent with the Government's political agenda, the department gives top priority to investigation of allegations against unions and of discrimination against non-union employees. This is an old Liberal Party obsession and the department enshrines the obsession by requiring its officers to drop everything else and respond to these allegations.

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: They take action after death.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Regrettably, my colleague has pinpointed the exact situation with which we are faced. Is it any wonder that the trade union movement has found it necessary to erect the important monument across the road, on the other side of Harvest Terrace, to the memory of a worker, a union leader, who fell in the line of duty as he endeavoured to protect the working men and women of Western Australia. The department's prosecution manual, in part, states that the assistant director shall allocate allegations for investigation to the investigating officer inspector. All such cases are to be accorded priority and investigations should be instituted within 24 hours.

We would all like to get such a swift response from government departments when our constituents have similar complaints, or complaints of any sort for that matter. Even members of Parliament would be lucky to get the bureaucracy to respond so quickly. We cannot even get those response times when we ask questions in this House. Many of our constituents do not get that priority given to their complaints and must wait months for their proper wages to be paid, while the processes of the department grind on and other processes are unleashed upon the union movement.

Why is this so? The answer comes in the next paragraph of the prosecution policy which states that as the Minister for Labour Relations has a statutory role in the enforcement of breaches of part 6A, the Minister's office is to be informed of the alleged offences as soon as possible. I can well imagine what the publicity preoccupied Minister for Labour Relations has demanded of his department to get that information to him so he can hound people, the subject of these complaints, while ignoring his other responsibilities to protect the working men and women of Western Australia.

This House knows many Ministers have statutory roles at some stage in an enforcement process under some legislation within their portfolios; however, it has always been accepted that it is quite improper - that is, in the broader sense of the term "unconstitutional" - in any parliamentary democracy for a Minister to be involved with or attempt to influence any stage of the conduct of an investigation. That process has gone by the board with this

Minister. The reason for this principle is the need to maintain as far as possible a separation between the Minister's political role and the statutory role the Parliament has entrusted to him to perform according to law. That is the process that goes on in this place and under which the Government operates in Western Australia.

No-one would quarrel with the Minister being acquainted with the broad details of a matter which is being investigated, to which he might have to respond in Parliament if a question is asked, or if people had complained to him about the processes of the investigation. However, it is quite another matter altogether for a Minister to insist on being informed of a mere allegation of a breach of legislation or an investigation that has not even begun and for which no prima facie case of a breach has been made out. It is also important that a Minister not be seen to do any of these things if confidence is to be maintained in the integrity and impartiality of the Public Service.

It is getting quite close to the end of the allocation of one hour for this debate. I hope the Leader of the House will provide me with the opportunity to continue my remarks after that time has elapsed; otherwise, my remarks will be subjected to the guillotine which will come into effect under the standing orders in this place. However, if the Minister would be so kind, I would be delighted to complete my contribution and have the motion dealt with by the House today. In the contentious and controversial area of industrial relations, the need for this separation is even more important.

Hon N.F. Moore: We have heard you for eight hours already, and you still have not got across your message. You can have another 100 hours -

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! If the Leader of the Opposition were to address the Chair, there would be no need for interjections.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I look forward to being able to address the Chair at some considerable length from this point on so that I can put forward all the arguments as to why the Minister should go along with this proposal to support the establishment of a select committee to inquire into the labour relations legislation currently being put into effect across Western Australia.

[Debate adjourned, pursuant to Standing Order No 164.]

COMMITTEE REPORTS - CONSIDERATION

Committee

The Deputy Chairman of Committees (Hon N.D. Griffiths) in the Chair.

HON KIM CHANCE: I move -

That the following reports and discussion papers be noted -

- (a) Standing Committee on Public Administration - Review of Operations 14 March to 12 November 1996 and three Discussion Papers (Presented on 18 June).
- (b) Standing Committee on Public Administration - Scrutiny of out-sourcing and contracting-out in the United Kingdom (Presented on 25 June).

The first report of the Standing Committee on Public Administration is a review of operations for the fourth session of the thirty-fourth Parliament. I will note one or two issues in the report, because it does not require a great deal of discussion. Three reports were tabled in this Parliament during the time covered by this report; that is, report No 38(a), dealing with the restructuring of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies; report No 38, dealing with Golden Egg Farms; and report No 39, dealing with the Interim Report into the University of Western Australia.

The reports tabled by the committee during the year do not cover all the matters inquired into by the committee during that time. In addition to the inquiries into Golden Egg Farms and the University of Western Australia, the committee dealt with a matter that has been concerning it for some time; that is, the outcome of amendments made to the Dairy Industry Act and the functions of the Dairy Industry Authority. It is a matter on which the committee is yet to report, and the Standing Committee on Public Administration has taken over that investigation.

The Golden Egg Farms inquiry and the dairy industry inquiry reports dealt with two components of a much larger issue; that is, the committee's interest in the question of privatisation and contracting out. It is the committee's view that regardless of whether one takes a protagonist or antagonist point of view in relation to privatisation and contracting out, it is necessary to understand fully the dynamics of the issue. The Standing Committee on Government Agencies - the former committee - considered that issue to some extent on the last occasion it travelled

overseas, which I believe was 1991 or 1992. Much of the work done in the United States involved, among other things, looking at the processes in place to guarantee a level and equity of service where services are provided to the public via the private sector. Everyone understands that the private provision of public sector services in the United States has a very long record - as long as the history of the United States itself.

In Australia we are moving towards a higher level of private provision of public services. In terms of our history, which is very much different from that of the United States, we are facing some difficulties in making the progression from public to private provision of these services. That is why I was so pleased that the House was kind enough to allow me to deal with these matters cognately - they are all linked.

I refer members to the committee discussion paper entitled "An Introduction to Out-sourcing - What are the Issues Involved?" There is no great depth in the issues raised; the report simply asks the questions. These questions are occupying the committee and, in time, the members hope to be able to report on how they are expressing themselves in Australia. I will deal later with the last report - the second report of the Standing Committee on Public Administration - which recommends further inquiry in the United Kingdom.

I refer members again to the discussion paper entitled "An Introduction to Out-sourcing - What are the Issues Involved?" The report raises the question of third party rights in law. That involves the rights of persons, also called service consumers, who have been in some way affected by contractual arrangements between government and service providers where those services are relied upon by the public, such as health services.

A question arose in our minds: Are any new rights in law warranted as a result of those changes? For many years we have relied on common law and to some extent statutory law and civil expediency to ensure equity of service. How do we cope in future public administration where a change results from the imperatives I have just mentioned to the private provision of services?

Hon Tom Stephens yesterday referred to what seemed to be a fairly minor change in pathology services in the metropolitan area. However, the public provider of that service, the Centre for Pathology and Medical Research, or PathCentre, gave some warning in its 1996-97 annual report about the impact of these changes on PathCentre's ability to provide services in regional and rural Western Australia. I make no comment positive or negative about that warning in my capacity as chairman of the committee, although it is of interest to the committee that such a concern might be raised. The committee has determined to inquire into not only that issue specifically, but also the general issue of whether modifications have unintended effects elsewhere. In providing more efficient services in one area, do we have downstream effects on other non-target groups? Are people affected by the outcome of such initiatives?

That leads to another issue raised in the discussion paper; namely, the equity of service provision in matters of total or partial privatisation. Part 15, on page 15, of that discussion paper raised the interesting question of whether a service recipient can take action against a provider. Provisions are not found in Australia which allow a party which is not party to the contract itself to take action if affected by the outcome of that contract. To put that a little clearer, when the Government and the service provider agree to provide a service, the service consumer has no rights in law, other than in a couple of clearly expressed areas of statutory law, to take action against any injurious effects as a result of the function of the contract. Part 18 of the report deals with administrative laws which might need to be applied where public services are contracted. Even the question of accountability is raised.

I am sure the Attorney General is listening on the Parliament precinct speakers as he is out of the Chamber on urgent business. The Attorney General and I have frequently crossed swords, particularly when he was the Minister for Health, about private providers of services having something like the accountability and requirement for good conduct found in section 9 of the Public Sector Management Act. I have a clear view on that issue, and the Attorney General has probably an equally valid but diametrically opposed view to mine.

This matter was investigated by an Australian Law Reform Commission, I think, in its report No 40, when it reviewed the Freedom of Information Act. Its conclusion was that any general extension of the freedom of information regime into the private sector was not necessary. That is obviously an organisation of which I take a lot of notice. It seems in making that determination for whatever reason - I hasten to add I have not read that report - it has applied a different standard of accountability to the public and private sectors where those two sectors are providing exactly the same service to exactly the same people. The committee is interested in that aspect, and would like to know more about how those standards of accountability and guarantees of transparency of service can be achieved.

I will not dwell on that matter, and members can read the report in their own time. Section 19 of the report canvasses the possibility of establishing a contracting out Act.

I complete my comments by referring to item 7A and moving to item 7C, which is the culmination of where the committee has reached in its deliberations at this stage. The committee resolved to recommend to the House that it further undertake its study on this issue in the United Kingdom. The UK was chosen by the committee, following

some very serious deliberation, because privatisation and contracting out as a whole of government policy has a considerable history in Britain. It is more than a decade old and covers a very wide range of services, including those services which the committee considered to be particularly relevant to Western Australia; namely, health, education, transport water supplies, and a number of other smaller but no less important issues evident more at a local government rather than national level. Members should bear in mind that some local government authorities in Britain have a budget larger than that of the State of Western Australia. Also, those organisations have responsibility for areas such as welfare that we would normally consider the responsibility of a broader jurisdiction.

The committee deliberated for some time, and considered various locations which may have provided opportunity to make the inquiry with some integrity. We rejected a number of possibilities. We considered at some length, and rejected, the United States as a subject of inquiry. It seemed to me initially that United States could provide us with some valuable information. However, on further reflection the findings of the former Government Agencies Committee from its 1992 travels are still in place and it is not necessary to revisit the issue. The United States has established a comprehensive umbrella or safeguard in terms of the mechanisms in place to provide an oversight and public input to the way that public services are provided. The US situation has not changed and the committee could not find reason to justify returning to that country, although it will certainly be returning to the report of the Government Agencies Committee to further its inquiry.

The United Kingdom held more promise than other countries such as New Zealand, simply because its process of privatisation and contracting out is far more mature. Although the itinerary is not complete, the committee proposes to visit the University of Derby; the North Western Water Authority; the Centre for Public Services, Sheffield; the Public Sector Privatisation Research Unit; the Public Transport Information Unit, and the Local Government Information Unit in London. We have sought assistance of both the current Agent General in London, Hon Clive Griffiths; and the former Agent General, Hon Bill Hassell, who has been very helpful to the committee - as I am certain will be Hon Clive Griffiths. However, at this stage Hon Clive Griffiths is hard at work in France - not attending the test cricket or Wimbledon!

The DEPUTY CHAIRMAN (Hon N.D. Griffiths): Order! The member knows that the question is that the reports and discussion papers be noted.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I have concluded my comments on the discussion papers and reports.

Funding Request - Standing Committee on Public Administration

Hon KIM CHANCE: I move -

That the House recommends that funds be made available for the purposes contained in the Public Administration Committee Report No 2 tabled on 25 June 1997.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is a good thing - if one can put it that way - that the Chamber contemplate these matters. In the past, there was a time when such decisions were made by arrangement between the committees and the administration of the House. Now, when committees wish to travel, the requirement is to bring a proposition to the Chamber so that the Chamber can reflect upon the proposal. I have always argued that travel - regardless of the destination - is a very important part of a member's life as a parliamentarian; that we live in the most isolated part of the world; and it is very important and vital for members of all political persuasions to acquaint themselves with, and consider, the way things are done in other parts of the country and the world. Therefore, my strong view is that we should encourage members and committees to travel regularly.

It should be almost compulsory, in some cases, because I have come across a few narrow minded views in this Chamber, and a little travel might expand those horizons and views to enable people to arrive at a better thought out position.

I have a small problem with this proposal in that I received it only yesterday. Although the report outlines the intent of the trip, it does not provide the detail that would be helpful in making a quick decision. This is a result of the fact that this place - if all goes according to plan - will adjourn this afternoon or this evening until some time in August, and perhaps because of that time frame it has not been possible for the committee to arrive at a detailed itinerary that would be more appropriate than the one provided in the report.

I am also aware that another motion on the Notice Paper, which I anticipate will be debated today, seeks the establishment of a fifth standing committee of the Legislative Council. I will continue to argue against that establishment because it will place a burden of some \$70 000 to \$100 000 on the budget of the Legislative Council. I do not have a problem with standing committees. I simply draw attention to the fact that the decision to be made today - assuming the House agrees to the establishment of the Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development - will add significantly to the budget of the Legislative Council.

Today we are being asked to approve an overseas trip, which no doubt is fully justified; and later today we will be asked to find more money to set up another select committee. It is interesting that the old adage that money does not grow on trees is used by some people, in certain circumstances, to support an argument; however, they take a different view at another time when they want to spend some money. If one can criticise the Government for wasting money, one does; but if one wants to spend money, one suggests that a cheque can be written.

I will support this proposal, but before the committee travels I would like to see a more detailed itinerary, a detailed outline of the people and organisations the committee plans to meet, and some indication of the reason the committee needs to meet those people. I recall a trip taken by the committee's predecessor, the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. In those days we were accused of dreadful things. It cost me a fair bit of money afterwards through taking matters to the courts. The matter went to the High Court, with Hon Tom Stephens and others, and ended in a landmark High Court ruling about defamation.

Hon Kim Chance: That is probably why it has not travelled since!

Hon N.F. MOORE: If one were to accept the High Court judgment on that case, one would probably never travel again or even be a member of Parliament. It means that anyone is open game to anyone who wants to defame him at any time. Virtually a person has no defence. In my view, the public figure defence argument put forward in that judgment was very unhelpful in trying to encourage people to take on parliamentary life and in preserving the integrity of the individual who believes his integrity is of some value. I hope that the High Court, which is looking at the Theophanous case again, and Hon Tom Stephens and others, might reverse the judgment so that members of Parliament have some protection from newspaper reporters and editors who seek to defame them, for reasons best known to themselves.

Hon Mark Nevill: Sport!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Perhaps it is sport; I cannot think of any other reason that they carry on in that way.

I am aware of what can be said about travel by members of Parliament and committees, and I have significant resentment about the way that matter is treated by the media from time to time. It is important, as was the case on that occasion, that a detailed itinerary and outline of the activities of this committee be made available to the House; if I make any criticism of this report, it is that the detail is not as specific as I would prefer.

On the basis that the committee will provide to me - not that I can make any difference once the House has made its decision - prior to its departure a more detailed analysis of the purposes of the journey, and of the organisations and individuals with whom it will meet and some indication of why it will meet with them, I will feel more satisfied about supporting this motion.

To the extent that I can speak on behalf of the Government, because we have not had a chance to talk about this matter collectively as it came to the House only yesterday, we will support this motion. However, I look forward to receiving from Hon Kim Chance a more detailed analysis of the trip.

Hon NORM KELLY: I applaud the committee for the details that it has provided about its trip to the United Kingdom and its estimated cost. The Leader of the House made some veiled references to what I have said in this House in the past few days.

Hon N.F. Moore: I did not make any veiled references to what you said.

Hon NORM KELLY: There is often a lot of conjecture about politicians who travel overseas. It is valuable for all members of Parliament to travel at certain times because it enables us to be more informed about the decisions that we need to make. However, it is important that before such trips are taken the public is made as aware as possible of the reasons for and the costs of such trips. If that happened more often, there would be greater public support for and confidence in the reasons that members of Parliament take trips. I express the Democrats' support for what the committee has done in this report.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I also support the motion and welcome the Leader of the House's support, albeit qualified, for the motion. I have as much reason as do the Leader of the House, Hon Tom Stephens and several other members in this Chamber to resent the treatment by the media of the trip undertaken by the then Standing Committee on Government Agencies in 1992.

I endorse the comments made by various members about travel. It is terrific that many Ministers will travel to different jurisdictions in the world and in the Eastern States during the next few months in order to enable them to better perform their duties. The President and the Clerks will attend a conference of Presiding Officers and Clerks, an annual event which this year will be held in Nauru. Other members of this Chamber will travel on their imprest accounts in order to broaden their knowledge, and that is valuable.

The Leader of the House is correct in assuming that we must consider this motion today, because this is the last day that the Parliament will assemble prior to the committee's undertaking this trip. I am the only member who bridges what has happened in this committee over the past four to five years. I have been a member of the former Standing Committee on Government Agencies and now Standing Committee on Public Administration for the past six or seven years, and I have had the pleasure of chairing that committee for the past four years. Therefore, I have witnessed the evolution of that committee from about 1989 to today.

The committee has undergone a generational change. That change was initiated to a large extent by the Leader of the House, who was at that time the Chairman of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies. The President, Hon George Cash, was also a member, as were Hon Tom Stephens, Hon John Halden and various other members.

That committee is now the Standing Committee on Public Administration, and its roles have been analysed, honed and revamped a little over the past few years to reflect the current situation with parliamentary scrutiny of public administration.

The 1992 trip was, incidentally, the last time that committee travelled anywhere, with the exception of a visit to Geraldton, Albany and Bunbury on the Hairdressers Registration Repeal Bill, which I do not think we can count as being very exciting. I can vouch that these trips are not junkets, which is the current term used by journalists, who seem to take great delight in slamming these sorts of activities.

The committee's 1992 trip to the Eastern States, New Zealand and the United States was too hone its examination of the central core activities of government. It identified that the elected Government has the responsibility and the right, through policy, to decide what will be its core activities. It also has the right to determine how it will deliver its services to the community. Whether that should be done by the Government directly or by some other mechanism was the focus of the committee's activities.

The world is experiencing a change in the delivery of public administration, and Western Australia is no exception. In recent years, public resources have been moved from various government agencies to corporatised entities, and through privatisation to private ownership and, therefore, private delivery. Government services have also been delivered through outsourcing and contracting. It is a valid concern of a public administration committee to look at how outsourcing is delivered in Western Australia.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I strongly recommend that before you go on that trip you look at the report on public transport, which has been analysed by the Auditor General, because it would be great to have that on board.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: I have not read that report, but it has been pointed out to me that it identifies a 20 per cent cost saving in the delivery of services. That is a tremendous result. I think that at the time I as chairman of the committee commended the Minister for Transport for bringing to this Parliament some legislation to reflect the parameters of the committee's thirty-sixth report on government agencies. The essential finding of the report is that it is the Government's role to make sure the services are delivered - not necessarily to deliver them, but to clearly identify how they will be delivered and administered.

Hon E.J. Charlton: In other words, to retain the controls and standards but not necessarily to be responsible for its implementation.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The Minister is right. A term that continually came to the fore throughout the committee's deliberations was "community service obligations". A Government of any political persuasion has a clear responsibility to determine what are its responsibilities to the community; firstly, to identify what are its community service obligations and, secondly, to fund them through the budget process in a very transparent way so that they can be delivered either directly by government entities or indirectly by private entities.

The thirty-sixth report examined the legal and administrative framework of public administration. It is heavy reading, but I commend it to members of this Chamber. It is written in legalistic jargon, but it sets out the blueprint for what the committee is seeking to achieve in its travels. The Leader of the House was the chairman of the committee when the report was formulated.

It is equally valid for the Standing Committee on Public Administration to now turn its focus to how these services are delivered via the public administration system. It must ask whether outsourcing is cost efficient and whether the services are being delivered in an equitable and efficient way. It must ask whether the delivery of services is cost effective; whether the quality of service is sustained or even improved; and, most importantly, whether the mechanisms are in place for the scrutiny and enforcement of the community service obligations identified by Government.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That is absolutely critical.

Hon BARRY HOUSE: The committee has a role to play in the Parliament's determining what is the best method. There is a school of thought that the contract alone will service that obligation. I lean towards that school of thought; however, in a peripheral way we have seen examples of where the scrutiny of a contract has not been tight enough to ensure that the services are delivered.

It is necessary to obtain some longitudinal data on outsourcing and contracting. This State is not able to establish that. We have a history in this area of only three or four years. Some data is starting to emerge and the report tabled today is the first positive piece of data.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Have you considered what New Zealand has done?

Hon BARRY HOUSE: Yes, the committee thought New Zealand had probably been done to death as an administrative test tube. The committee is aware that many services have been outsourced in the United Kingdom over the last decade. It will have the opportunity to trace what has happened in the delivery of health, education and water services in the United Kingdom. It is encouraging that the committee has the Chamber's support to undertake this analysis. I am disappointed that the whole committee will not be going overseas, but I know that those who are going have the support of the two members who are unable to go. They have expressed their support in the committee and today in this Chamber. I support the motion.

Hon B.M. SCOTT: Most of what I believe needs to be said has been said about this proposal to travel. One point which is very relevant is that the committee is planning to look at regional centres in England with a view to ascertaining how the outsourcing has affected the major areas of public delivery in health, education and transport services. It is very relevant to the Western Australia situation.

I take on board the concerns of members who represent, or are familiar with, rural Western Australia that in the process of outsourcing there may be, at the end of the line, some negative impacts for rural and remote communities. In this State, where there are remote communities, those essential services must be considered carefully. One of the purposes of the exercise will be to consider the impact of outsourcing on regional communities. England has remote communities, but not in the same sense of the meaning of the word as it applies to Western Australia. It will of be of interest to the committee to look at how the counties have managed their resources and outsourced the major services of government and at the social and economic effects on those communities.

Every member in this Chamber who represents a rural or remote Western Australian community shares my concern that the demise of country regions in this State has huge consequences for the State and the nation. Having grown up in the country I believe that small country communities are microcosms of larger communities. As the communities dissipate and people leave the land the Government has a responsibility to look further ahead than one or two years and question whether the economic and social costs of its policy will be of benefit to all Western Australians.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I thank the Leader of the House and members for their indication of support for the motion. I will respond to the quite valid comments that were made by the Leader of the House about the committee's giving short notice of this report to members. I regret that, but we were caught in a situation where a decision had to be made. The Legislative Council is due to rise today; therefore, elements that should be in the report have not been included in it. We will be providing that information prior to travelling. We are at an advanced stage of preparation of the full itinerary and it will be made available when it is finalised. I believe the proper process is for the committee to make it available to the President and he will then exercise his discretion in providing the information to the Leader of the House. Our first priority is to provide that information to the President.

I also need to comment briefly on why only three committee members will be travelling. The whole of the committee fully supports the purpose and intent of the travel. It is with regret that two members are not available due to prior commitments.

I thank members for their support and endorse the process that causes an application like this to come before the House. In response to the issue raised by interjection by the Minister for Transport, I welcome the Auditor General's report into competition reform of Transperth bus services. It is this kind of thing that the committee will be examining further in the processes of public administration in Western Australia.

Question (request for funding) put and passed.

Debate (that reports be noted) Resumed

Hon MARK NEVILL: I move -

That the twentieth report of the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations in relation to the Estimates of Expenditure 1997-98 be noted.

There were a number of changes to the Budget this year. A number of reports were incorporated into two volumes of the Budget Statements. Last year, the consolidated fund estimates, capital works estimates and the Program Statements were in separate budget papers. We moved from that system this year to Budget Statements. This year we were also issued with an A4 size Budget Overview and the forward estimates were incorporated into what was previously the Economic and Financial Overview. The committee's report has changed in format to the report in which matters relating to one issue were scattered throughout the report. They have been drawn together under each portfolio area.

The committee changed the format this year from four days to three because of the swearing in of new members on the Tuesday and next year it will cut down the length of some of the sessions this year from two and a half hours to one and three quarter hours. It also examined 13 agencies this year. They are outlined in the report. A few issues are highlighted at the beginning of each section with a summary of the matters discussed during the hearings.

Some members missed out on examining the agencies they requested. If anyone is keen on pursuing an issue, the committee can examine agencies on an ongoing basis; it does not have to wait until next year. The participation of members during the estimates hearings was excellent. Virtually every member of the House was involved in the debate. The supply of some of the answers to questions on notice has been slow. However, generally it has been good. In the lead-up to the budget process, Hon Allan Carstairs retired and Hon George Cash was elected President. The committee welcomed Hon Murray Criddle and Hon Simon O'Brien as members.

I thank Mr Peter Williams, the advisory research officer, Ms Kelly Campbell, the committee clerk, and the Auditor General's Office for their assistance, particularly Mr Allan Pereira, who assisted during the committee hearings. Members will find the report quite informative and, importantly, very readable. I think the budget process this year has been solid.

Hon BOB THOMAS: When members read this year's report they will see that it is quite different from the first report that was presented to this House. The first report of the committee was presented in 1991. There has been a real evolution in the way the report has been presented and the way we deal with the estimates. I am the only person on the committee now who has been there since its inception. When it was first set up, Hon Max Evans was chairman, and it included Hon Eric Charlton, Hon Sam Piantadosi and me. I cannot remember who the fifth member was.

Hon Murray Montgomery: Hon Eric Charlton was the first chairman.

Hon BOB THOMAS: I am sorry; that is how long ago it was. I cannot recall who the fifth person was in 1991. Historically, Budgets included amounts paid to departments in the previous year with an incremental increase. We then moved to an indicative arrangement, with the Treasury Department indicating the amount to be provided. It then moved to accrual accounting. We have now moved away from those to a budget outcomes process. Whereas Budgets were introduced into the House before 30 June this year and last year, in the past they were introduced in August and the committee's report was dealt with before the House's rising for the summer recess.

This report is an indication of how much the process has evolved. It is the best report we have presented and I congratulate the committee research officer, Peter Williams, and Kelly Campbell for the innovations in the report. Members will be able to pick up the report and peruse each subject dealt with in the committee hearings. They will also be able to refer to the *Hansard* easily to check on issues in which they are interested rather than having to read the whole of the *Hansard* report for an agency. I commend the staff for its innovation and commend the report to the House.

Question put and passed.

Resolutions reported and the report adopted.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 to 2.00 pm

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (No 2)

Second Reading

Resumed from 12 June.

HON KIM CHANCE (Agricultural) [2.00 pm]: An appropriation Bill is normally an occasion for a broad-ranging debate. As a result of the volume of business before the House today I have been encouraged by the Leader of the Opposition, not to mention the Leader of the House, to confine my comments to a narrower debate. I want to raise one or two issues directly concerned with the appropriations issue, at least in so far as the budget and the estimates processes are concerned. I will deviate a little from my own normal practice and the practice of members speaking on appropriation Bills.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: Will you speak to the estimates?

Hon KIM CHANCE: No, but I will speak briefly about appropriations. Along with my colleagues I support the Bill. I will speak briefly about the way in which the budget papers were presented this year. I am very pleased that the Minister for Finance is with us. One or two of my comments will not be all that complimentary. To begin with, I understand and appreciate the accounting reforms which the Minister for Finance in particular has introduced into the management of the State's finances.

Hon Max Evans: If they are all right, I will take credit for them; if they are not, I will not.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I thought I would add a sweetener. The reforms are complimentary to the Minister for Finance. In the longer term we will be provided with a better and more accountable means of accurately assessing the performance of the State's finances in all their parts. However, the manner in which the public and the Parliament have to assess the State's fiscal performance -

Hon Max Evans: Yes, it involves the books of the State.

Hon KIM CHANCE: That is done through the three volumes of budget papers, which we have had so far. They do not provide me as a member of Parliament, and I am certain do not provide members of the public, with the extent of knowledge necessary to make anything like an assessment. The budget papers themselves are so short of detail that in the agricultural session of the Estimates Committee, I was moved to quote the comments of Mr Phil Chidzey, the Chief Executive Officer of the Western Australian Farmers Federation. He felt he was unable to make a meaningful assessment of the allocations made in the Budget to those areas of particular relevance to the Western Australian Farmers Federation because of the way in which the accounts are laid out. I noted when speaking to the subject during the Estimates Committee that I could only support Mr Phil Chidzey's view because similarly I was unable to make the reasonable assessment.

I also raised the issue during the Fisheries estimates session and asked a question of the Minister, which has since been responded to, by way of a question on notice from the Estimates Committee. I asked why in one account was a one line item designated as "other" when it contained such an obviously broad scope of issues, to the extent it comprised a significant portion of the total amount in the account. If my memory serves me correctly, there was some \$5.58m in that account, which was not a terribly large amount because Fisheries is not a big department. It seems unnecessarily obscure, if that is a fair way of saying it. When I received the answer from the Minister for Fisheries as a result of the question on notice procedure, I found that a very large part of that line item of "other" was in fact distributed allocations made under the fisheries adjustment scheme, which is the compensatory scheme. The amount involved was of the order of \$1.75m of that \$5.58m. I quote those figures off the top of my head, but they were of that order. A line item should be treated entirely separately from advertising, commerce and power costs and the general miscellaneous items which should make up a line item which might fairly be called "other" for the sake of brevity. The fisheries adjustment scheme is a use of trust fund moneys and must always be dealt with separately.

I ask the Treasurer to take note of some of the comments that members made during the Estimates Committee procedures. We must have a lot more detail. I encourage Treasury officers to have a look at the way in which the commonwealth accounts are reported in its Budget. It seems that despite the enormous scale of the Commonwealth's accounts they are not over-lengthy in sheer volume but provide an excellent and very transparent process of accounting. The presentation of our accounts contains an element of waste. I pointed this out in the fisheries session: Three accounts were almost identical to each other and each occupied a page of the accounts of Fisheries. That seems totally wasteful and unnecessary. The only difference was the addition of a one line item from time to time. We get these repetitive entries which wastes pages and then when we look for detail we cannot find it.

The answer that was provided to my question on that line item was not a lengthy enumeration of different issues, and some of it could reasonably have been amalgamated. However, it would not have added a great deal to that volume of the Budget Statements to have spelt that out in more detail.

My colleagues and I are finding it extremely difficult to deal with the changes in reporting procedures and standards which affect each successive set of budget papers in such a manner as to make any one set of budget papers useless in correlating individual items of expenditure or revenue with other years.

Hon Max Evans: I agree.

Hon KIM CHANCE: That is frustrating for members, although at least we have the Estimates Committees during which we can discuss the issues with Ministers and departmental officers.

Hon Max Evans: The Treasury officer is listening to this and if he does not change it he might have to find another job!

Hon KIM CHANCE: It is difficult for members. However, it is immensely complicated and frustrating for members of the public to make any sense out of it, because they do not have the luxury of the estimates week that we have. Mr Chidgzey of the Western Australian Farmers Federation, a union officer or a health service officer - it does not matter; anybody who may have an interest in trying to determine the direction and state of the Budget - would have great difficulty in the way the Budget is currently presented.

I will not go into these issues in great detail as I have dealt with them in this House previously. However, I need to mention them here and now because this is the last day of the winter session and it will be some weeks before we resume. The first issue is the state of the northern demersal fishery. I note for the record that after many years of waiting for a formal management plan the industry has recently been informed by the Minister for Fisheries that it must endure yet another two years of interim management. I have discussed this with the Minister and the Fisheries Department. To say that I am disturbed and the people involved in the fishery are worried would be a massive understatement. They are distraught. After facing years and years of frustration trying to get a formal management plan in place to provide them with the certainty that all businessmen need to get on and invest in their industry and to get some development under way which might add value to their product, they are told that they have to face yet another two years of uncertainty in which investment is unsustainable.

I have been through the reasons offered by the Minister for Fisheries, his office and the Fisheries Department. I am singularly unimpressed with the reasons that have been given. I understand there is potential for litigation to sort out what is, I admit, a difficult problem. I am not understating the problem, and that litigation must be faced. I do not see the scope for the litigation being settled in the context of the interim plan.

We have made some foolish mistakes in the management of that fishery. I hope that over the winter break members on both sides of this House may take a little time to inform themselves as to what is happening in that fishery centred in Broome. I would particularly appreciate members from the Mining and Pastoral Region making the effort to inform themselves and doing what I have not been able to do despite my best efforts; that is, getting the Minister for Fisheries to grasp the nettle in this fishery and formalise a plan so that people can develop it in the way that any businessman should have a reasonable opportunity to do.

The situation with the south coast purse seine managed fishery is such that I am quite happy that we have a break from Parliament and the parliamentary process. I hope that, in that seven weeks' break, the difficult problem with the pilchard industry on the south coast might be satisfactorily resolved. A decision has been made for an interim management plan. I am not critical of that in this instance. However, the decision has little scientific justification. Importantly, it is opposed by the statutory management advisory committee which was established under the Act to guide the Minister in the operation of that fishery, the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council and, not insignificantly, by virtually every one of the 33 licensed fishermen working in that area. The management plan which has been introduced is based on Fisheries Paper No 99. The plan which flows from paper No 99 has now been rejected by every fisherman who attended the advisory committee meeting in that area. It is essential that over these next seven weeks the Minister for Fisheries has a good hard look at the advice he has been given. I hope that he will reassess his options; in this case there are viable options. Over the next seven weeks the Minister will be able to learn in more detail what those options are and I hope he will adopt them.

I am not unhappy that we have this seven week break for everyone to cool down and sort themselves out. I am certain that the Minister is keen to find a resolution. So far he has chosen the wrong option. I am not critical of him for that. I hope he will find the correct option over the next seven weeks.

Hon B.K. Donaldson: The coalition will be visiting those two areas that the member has talked about.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I thank the member for telling me that. I am pleased to hear that. I hope Hon Bruce Donaldson will be able to assist the Minister. I am also sure that a number of local members including Hon Muriel Patterson, Hon Murray Montgomery and Hon Bob Thomas intend to speak to participants in the fishery over that period. For that reason I am not unhappy that we have not been able to deal with the two disallowance motions.

Hon M.J. Criddle: We have had full briefings on those issues.

Hon KIM CHANCE: I am sure that the member has. However, events are moving quickly which set the Minister's direction further apart from the preferred position of the fishery. As recently as Saturday of last week a major meeting of the participants in that fishery was attended by 18 or 19 licensed fishermen. That meeting unanimously rejected the proposed plan and as a result a resolution was drafted. That went out to every licensed fisherman in the area, including all of those who had not attended that meeting. A total of 33 licensed fishermen work in that industry on the south coast. On my last information, which was Tuesday of this week, 30 of the 33 had signed that declaration which rejects the management plan. It was anticipated that two of the three would sign, although only one of those fishermen had so far been able to be contacted. It appears that at least 30 of the 33 have rejected the plan.

That is wholesale rejection. There may be other information that may change those operators' minds. However, it was such an overwhelming indication of opinion that the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council is prepared to take up the fishermen's case. WAFIC works in a different way from most industry organisations that lead in one direction then retract if they make a mistake. WAFIC waits until the whole industry is united behind a single point before it takes any action. However, it informed me this week that, subject to the agreement of the full council, it is prepared to take a position. I do not want to go any further than that; I know coalition members are working hard to find a resolution. I am pleased to acknowledge that, just as I am pleased to acknowledge that I am sure the Minister will try hard to find a resolution. I am happy there is a seven week period in which it can be sorted out.

HON KEN TRAVERS (North Metropolitan) [2.20 pm]: This afternoon I will speak about an issue I raised in my inaugural speech a couple of weeks ago that this Parliament should address in the context of this Budget; that is, government expenditure on political advertising. In the past financial year the Government spent \$33.6m on advertising, which apparently puts it in the league of Coca-Cola. We now have a Government with a Coca-Cola and Big Mac-style advertising budget. In these modern times, when benchmarking appears to be one of the big words of the day, it is interesting to note what has been spent on advertising by Governments in other States.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Not political advertising.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I will get to that. I will address three areas this afternoon. I will raise those in a minute, but I will first present the background to members. In Western Australia last year in the order of \$17.70 for every Western Australian was spent by the Government on advertising, compared with the Federal Government, which spent \$2.77 per capita; the New South Wales Government, which spent \$8.30; and the Victorian Government, which spent \$10.60. In these days of benchmarking it seems we are well out of kilter with the rest of the country. I accept there is a legitimate role for the Government to advertise certain issues and inform the public about changes; for example, new programs such as the keep left rule. However, the three areas I am particularly concerned about, and about which I will talk this afternoon, involve the waste and improper use of advertising by government - the use of inappropriate forms of media to get the message across; goodwill or general government political promotions immediately prior to an election; and straight out propaganda aimed at changing public opinion.

I will address first the inappropriate use of forms of media. On Wednesday, 18 June I asked a question in this House of the Minister representing the Minister for Water Resources about the recent infill sewerage campaign. This is the second time an infill sewerage advertising campaign has been run in this State. We saw the adverts with the Premier flying around in a helicopter prior to the election, which I will come to when I talk about goodwill promotions prior to elections. I asked what was the total cost of the infill sewerage campaign and how many households could be connected to the sewerage system, but were not. I wanted to get an idea of what the market was and at whom the television advertisements were aimed.

Hon Max Evans: Twenty five per cent of state housing had no infill sewerage.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Twenty five thousand homes are eligible to be connected but are not yet connected.

Hon Max Evans: It is a lot more than that.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: The target market at this point is 25 000 homes. I asked also what was the estimated penetration of that target group by the television commercials; what alternative methods were considered by the Water Corporation for communicating the message to the target group; what were the estimated costs of those alternative methods of communication; and why television was chosen over other alternative methods of communicating with the target group. I felt these were fair questions to find out whether the Government had examined all available options to ensure it used the correct form of advertising to get its message across to the target group.

The response was that the cost was \$169 831 and the target group was 25 000 homes. The Government claimed that 97 per cent of the target audience received a campaign message and that every person who saw the commercials saw them, on average, nine times over the six week campaign. When I spoke to friends in the advertising business they had a good laugh about that. They doubted whether even Coca-Cola would claim a penetration rate like that. I telephoned a couple of my friends who live in the target area and who need to be connected to the infill sewerage program but who have not been connected yet. I asked whether they saw the advertisements on television. They said "No". I got 100 per cent noes in my sample. I realise it was a very small sample, but I did not have the money the Government has to spend on advertising. The only other alternative considered by the Government that could achieve similar penetration was the daily newspaper. The Government said -

The newspaper option was not considered further, nor was its cost determined, because to achieve the same penetration as the television commercials, a greatly extended campaign would have been necessary.

Hon Max Evans: With your experience, will you advise us what we should have done?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I am about to come to that, Minister. I always like to offer a positive alternative. I thought most members in both this House and the other place would have a good idea of the best way to get to a target group of 25 000 people in clearly marked areas, whose names and addresses can be obtained. I will tell the Minister the best way to do that. The Government could start by sending them all a personally addressed letter accompanied by a pamphlet explaining the issues and why they should connect to the infill sewerage program. I am sure most members in this place will have a good idea of the cost of distributing information in that format to 25 000 people. I made some inquiries about this matter and the figures related were between 80¢ and \$1.20, depending on the nature of the insert - whether it was a flash glossy, as is the wont of this Government, or whether it was a more simple pamphlet. Let us say that for around \$1 the Government could send a personally addressed letter to homes that are not yet connected to the infill sewerage program along with a nice leaflet explaining the issues that were addressed in the television commercial, probably in a little more depth than a 30 second television commercial could do. With \$170 000 to spend on 25 000 homes, it works out to be about \$7 a household. Under my proposal, \$1 would have been spent so far on sending them a direct mail letter.

What is the next step the Government should take? It is simple. It should employ a company that conducts telephoning canvassing to ask those people whether they received the letter and whether they have connected to infill sewerage, and, if not, why not.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: Call on Chilla.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Yes, the Government could send back some money. The Government could develop a database so that when those telephone calls were made, the concerns or issues raised by people about the scheme and the reasons they had not connected to the scheme could be taken down and the Government could follow-up with another letter addressing those matters. The cost of doing that would be between \$2 and \$3. The cost of my plan so far is \$4 a household to reach the target group. More importantly, there would be an interaction with those people; it would ensure they received the message; and their concerns would be reported to the Government so that it could then address those concerns. That would be a far better way to get those 25 000 people connected to the infill sewerage scheme. One can only ask why that strategy was never examined by the Government of the day and why it went down the path of spending \$170 000 on television advertising. I reiterate: That is after a television commercial showing the Premier flying around in a helicopter and telling us about the wonderful government program for infill sewerage.

Hon Max Evans: I will tell you how good it is. It is marvellous.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: It is good, but I thought the Minister for Finance would be interested in saving money. I thought his brief was to save money. I am giving a good example of how money could have been saved.

The PRESIDENT: Order! If Hon Ken Travers will address his comments to the Chair, there will be fewer interjections.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Between \$70 000 and \$80 000 could have been saved by the Government, which equates to another half a kilometre of infill sewerage. The cost is approximately \$170 a metre. Alternatively, between 15 000 and 20 000 families could have been spared the increase in charges from the last state Budget, when the rates for residential properties were increased by approximately \$4.85. That could have helped those in the lower socio-economic groups who need help. I am helping a constituent at the moment who is in a particularly difficult situation with water rates. It would have been nice if the money wasted on that television campaign could have been used for that purpose. I first wanted to talk today about the use of inappropriate forms of advertising and the lack of accountability by the Government in examining what other options were available to get its message across by using the appropriate medium. The Government could have used some of the free media to get its message across, and I note a number of articles were written on that issue.

Hon N.F. Moore: Which free media?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Putting out press releases through *The West Australian*.

Hon N.F. Moore: It sounds more like the "Labor Voice".

Hon KEN TRAVERS: *The West Australian* and the *Sunday Times* have run articles encouraging people to convert to infill sewerage.

Hon N.F. Moore: If they talked about the good things, the Government would not be required to use other media.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: Perhaps the Minister could advise why the Government has so many media advisers, if it is not getting value for money. Is that what he said?

Hon N.F. Moore: No I did not say that at all.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: What is the point of the Government being the largest media organisation in Western Australia in its employment of journalists?

Hon Max Evans: There were a lot more in Burke's day.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I am advised the Government Media Office is increasing in size, contrary to the Government's commitment prior to the last election. I return to the use of goodwill advertising immediately before an election, which is politically inspired. There have been debates in this House previously on that issue, and I will quote members' comments in 1992 about the role of political goodwill advertising.

I heard a story from a fairly good source about an advertising campaign manipulated before the last state election to ensure it appeared on the Tuesday immediately before the calling of the election. I did the appropriate thing and asked questions in the Estimates Committee and in this House to confirm the story. My question in the Estimates Committee was about the wraparounds in community newspapers in November last year about the proposal for a regional park at Gngalara. I asked when a decision was made to run the advertisement and by whom; whether the wraparounds were originally booked to be run one week prior to the week in which they were run; and if so, why was a decision made to change the date of the advertisement and by whom. The reply was that the executive director made a decision to seek public comment on the Gngalara park proposal in about September 1996; preparation of a public information document was then commenced; however, publication did not take place until finalisation of preliminary planning, preparation of maps and other material. Before I tell the story I note that other questions asked during the Estimates Committee indicated about \$100 000 was spent by the Department of Conservation and Land Management on preparing the Gngalara park consultative committee. I have not been able to find out how much the wraparound on the community newspapers cost, but I suggest a significant proportion was spent on that.

Hon B.K. Donaldson: Do you want to go back to 1992?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I am happy to go back to 1992 because I believe all members should be judged on what they say and do in this place. I am a new member and I am happy to be judged in five years about what I said in this place and whether I lived up to it. I will also comment on what other members have said in this place and whether they lived up to it when they were elected to government. I am happy to be judged on those standards, and I hope members on the other side of the House are also.

The story recounted to me is a fascinating tale. Perhaps members of the Cabinet have better information. The election was due to be called and the Government had narrowed down the date to 30 November or 7 December.

Hon Max Evans: It was not hard to work that out with school holidays coming up.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I am glad the Minister confirmed that they seemed to be the logical dates. The day of no return for an election on 30 November passed, and that left only one suitable date. Finally, someone in the Government realised that the Christmas pageant, which is attended by thousands of families in Western Australia, would be held on 7 December. The Government made a wise decision not to run the state election on the day of the Christmas pageant. It should be congratulated on that decision. The Government then had a problem because it did not want to wait until 1997 for an election. I do not know whether it was being Machiavellian and feared members on this side of the House would not allow its labour relations legislation to be passed. Whatever the reason, the Government wanted the election to be held in 1996 and that left only 14 December on which to hold it. That created a problem for the Government because it had already booked the advertisements in the community newspapers to run on Tuesday 5 November, but it wanted those advertisements to appear on the Tuesday immediately before the calling of the election. The advertisements appeared in the community newspapers in the northern and southern suburbs of Perth, and referred to the wonderful things the Government would do in the proposed Gngalara national park. It did not have the money to do it, but it wanted to tell the people it would be done to put them on a high just before calling the election. Therefore, it had to change the booking date so that the advertisements appeared on Tuesday, 12 November rather than Tuesday, 5 November. It is a clear example of the Government using the resources of government for party political purposes. I find that a most improper use of government expenditure. I note that members opposite have gone silent; perhaps they respect your call for order, Mr President.

Hon Max Evans: We are not allowed to respond to rubbish.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: It is interesting that the advertisement caused confusion in the northern suburbs because it was also planned to run a major advertising campaign using wraparounds on 12 November relating to the change in sponsorship of the Challenge Stadium. I would be interested to know whether there was any communication with

the people in Challenge Bank about whether they were happy to have their wraparound incorporated with another wraparound for CALM. I have not been able to find that out.

A range of other publicity campaigns were run immediately prior to the last state election. I am sure all members recall the massive salinity campaign. It has now been exposed that the money promised by the Government has not been delivered. Salinity is a major environmental problem facing Western Australia and the promises made immediately before the last election was called are worth zip to the people in rural Western Australia. A number of advertisements and campaigns were run around the Premier's Drug Action Committee which, again, were very much politicised during that time.

Yesterday I attended a briefing on the location of the new Police Academy. The Police Service showed us a photograph of an architectural drawing of the proposed academy. Interestingly, that was not the first time I saw that photograph. I saw it on the front page of the *Wanneroo Times* prior to the election with comments by the local candidate about how Joondalup was a possible location. I am told by my friends in the East Metropolitan Region they also saw the photograph in Midland. It too was a likely location. I am not opposing its being built in Joondalup. Again, someone in the Government service made available -

Hon Norm Kelly interjected.

Hon KEN TRAVERS: I agree, but that is not the point I am making this afternoon.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: How did coalition members have it and not Opposition members?

Hon KEN TRAVERS: That is the point I am making. How did Liberal candidates have stories that gave the impression their local areas were in the running for the new Police Academy and a photograph to go on the front page of the local Joondalup newspaper? In a speech on 16 September 1992, Hon Peter Foss said -

The practical point must be recognised that since well before August the Government has been in election mode and has been using the resources of the Government for election purposes. To tie the Bill merely to the issue of the writs is to shut the stable door after the horse has bolted. By that time, the major campaigning and advertising has been undertaken, glossy brochures have been produced . . .

He goes on about community breakfasts and other tools. That was in relation to a Bill introduced to prevent the Government from advertising immediately prior to elections. Hon Peter Foss also said during that speech -

It is a serious problem that despite the fact we know this State is short of cash this Government is spending an awful lot of money on what are plainly political promotions. I accept that there may be appropriate times to put out glossy brochures, and there may be appropriate times to hold huge public consultations on what the money should be spent on and to have breakfasts to consult with the local communities. However, we do not have enough money for police, hospitals, education or social services in this State. We do not have sufficient money for the things we need. It is patently clear from the rash of glossy brochures which have been published recently that it is not legitimate Government expenditure; it is the Government paying for all its advertising material, pamphlets and holding election community meetings out of the public purse.

Those comments on the Government's role were made when members opposite were in opposition. They have failed to honour those commitments to the people of Western Australia. I agree with the comments by Hon Peter Foss that at certain times Governments have a legitimate role in certain promotions, but often they overstep the mark.

The third area in which government money is spent inappropriately on advertising is on propaganda. A campaign is currently being run everywhere we look - community newspapers, *The West Australian*, the *Sunday Times*, television. Government advertisements are telling us how wonderful are the new industrial relations laws. Why does the Government need to do that? The Government's polling indicated it was on the nose with the community and that it did not like the changes. The Government is now trying to change public opinion through a very expensive media advertising campaign. It is a totally improper use of funds and is straight out government propaganda to influence public opinion. That opinion is perceived according to government polling, which again it spends a fortune on. The Opposition will probably get a briefing on it in a couple of months. However, the Government has already reacted to the results of its polling to win back public favour on a range of laws.

I commend the people outside the Parliament today showing this Government that they are defiant and will remain defiant of its new laws. They are making their stand in a good humoured and good natured manner. Their message is that they do not accept its industrial laws; they are bad laws. Inherent in that message would be the view that they do not accept the spending of \$500 000 or thereabouts to convince the public that they are good laws.

Much better use could be made of the money spent on the areas to which I referred by providing better education and transport facilities.

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [2.47 pm]: One of the three matters which I want to address today was sparked by a comment made by Hon Ken Travers regarding advertising. Prior to the last election campaign the Department of Conservation and Land Management distributed a wrap-around via the suburban newspapers. Interestingly, the advertisement referred to a regional park to be established in 20 years' time. As most people will know, that area is largely covered by a pine plantation. It covers the Gnangara water mound and according to recent recommendations it should not be considered for urban consolidation.

Hon J.A. Cowdell interjected.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The Government was spouting about something that might happen in 20 years' time. That was an extraordinary use of taxpayers' funds. At the time an accompanying segment in the advertisement -

Hon J.A. Cowdell: Was a nice photograph of the Minister.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: I was not thinking of the photograph of the Minister. A section was provided in the advertisement where people could write to CALM offering suggestions for what could be done with that park. I immediately penned off a name for the park. The "Gnangara Pork Barrel Park" would be the most suitable name. I hope it will be taken on board.

I was annoyed about CALM's announcement because a little further north at Guilderton an area is developed on one side of the Moore River. On the other side the local government and the community have been careful to conserve the natural state of the river foreshore and adjoining bushland. It is amazing that it is proposed to turn an ex-pine plantation into a park on which tonnes of herbicide have been poured even though it is over a water mound. In addition it will be very difficult to convert the area to native bushland because the existence of a pine plantation for many years has resulted in the soil becoming acidic.

The development of that park will not constitute proper spending of state funds when a pristine area already exists near Guilderton and its community is fighting to retain it as a key feature of an area close to Perth.

It is the only riverside area close to Perth that has any substantial natural vegetation alongside it. It is very popular with people from all over this State, particularly those in the metropolitan area, as a place to get away from it all. It should remain in its present condition, rather than being turned into a huge development which will accommodate many more people than the existing population. It will be cut off from services and jobs, and will be totally inappropriate to cater to sustainable population. It is a developer's pipedream. I understand at this moment it is with the Minister for Planning because the plan has been rejected by the local government authority in that area. I hope the Government will look at this development seriously, if it wants to make some environmental progress at this time. Quite frankly, the member for Kingsley has been doing a very good job since she has been the Minister for the Environment in turning around the Government's environmental record. We are seeing definite improvements. This is a key area in which a step forward could be made in looking at preserving ecological values in this State, rather than continuing with the pork-barrelling exercise we saw prior to the election and mentioned by Hon Ken Travers.

That leads me to another point. I have already referred to inappropriate development and there being no jobs within the area. Last night when I was driving home from Parliament House I heard some comments on the radio about a study being conducted at Monash University. I noticed in today's *The West Australian* reference is made to that study. Some extraordinary findings have been made by the Monash University Centre for Population Urban Research and an article in *The West Australian* today states -

The research shows 41 per cent of Australia's children are in families which are welfare dependent or defined as the working poor.

It goes on to look at trends in some Western Australian suburbs. It shows that Subiaco has 18 per cent of children living in welfare dependent or working poor families, while in some parts of Fremantle the figure is 46 per cent, in Belmont the figure is 55 per cent and in Bassendean and Kwinana the figure is 56 per cent. This is an extraordinary situation: About half the families are living in poverty. It is a sad indictment, given this country's great wealth. All members in this House should be very concerned at the findings of this study. The article goes on to state -

The coordinator of the centre and one of the report's authors, Bob Birrell, said the research showed a growing need for state help and warned that user-pays systems - adopted in areas such as education - could place big strains on some families.

"We do have a major problem on our hands here and certainly we would not want to be hacking away at those benefits at this stage, given the scale of dependence," he said.

"What happens to school systems when more than half the kids are in families that need additional family payments?"

That is a great concern. Quite often children in those families are getting less backup at home. Those families are living in extreme poverty and the children end up in trouble at school. If those families cannot pay for the programs in the education or any other area, it will cause a great deal of hardship. The article went on to say -

Overall, 32 per cent of the Australian adult population is defined as welfare dependent and about 41 per cent of children under 15 - double the proportion 10 years ago - live in low-income families needing extra payments.

I thought we were supposed to be moving forward in this society, not backwards. Obviously we do not have a country with no wealth, but one in which there is no equity. We are losing the lucky country tag, which has been replaced by the lucky for some tag. Governments must look very seriously at changing their programs which take more away from those who are less well off so that they can aid those who are better off in the community. I urge the Government to look closely at this report and to start thinking about what its priorities should be.

Kwinana has one of the highest levels of unemployment and poverty. A great deal of concern has been expressed at many meetings I have attended regarding the Friars report which, for those members who are not aware, is looking at the expansion of the industrial strip in Kwinana, particularly Wattleup and Hope Valley in my electorate, as well as the development of a new port on the adjacent coast. The Cockburn City Council and other councils in the area are getting increasingly concerned about this proposal. For a start, industry will move closer to populations.

Everybody in this House should recognise that when Kwinana was set up as an industrial area, it was located in the wrong place, given the prevailing winds. In fact, a worse place could probably not have been selected for an industrial area. Having done that, we now want to exacerbate the problem by expanding the Kwinana strip. The Government seems to be very complacent and says that industry is cleaning up its act. However, the recent smog study identified that although the private car was the principal villain in terms of air pollution in the metropolitan area, with about 50 per cent of sulphur dioxide and the nitrous oxides, the Kwinana strip is responsible for about 44 per cent of the nitrous oxides. It poses a very serious threat to the health of people in Perth.

It seems outrageous to me that we are not only looking at exacerbating that problem, but also doing it in such a way that the people living in Wattleup and Hope Valley are being squeezed out of those areas under a policy which does not carefully delineate which area will be taken up for industry and which will not, a process through which it is intended gradually to buy out people who live in those areas. In other areas of Western Australia it has already been proved that when this process occurs, the land values are pushed down because people do not want to live next door to factories. Gradually the land values go down. A mass buy-up of the area for industrial purposes by developers will follow, with a vast amount of money being made at the expense of those whose homes have lost their value. I hope the Government looks very seriously at the concerns of the people living in the area who, firstly, want to remain there and, secondly, if they are squeezed out, should be properly compensated for doing so.

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Finance) [2.58 pm]: In the old days the Budget was passed before the end of June and this debate continued normally until two or three o'clock in the morning between 15 December and 23 December. Now this debate is being held during regular hours.

Hon Cheryl Davenport: All for the better.

Hon MAX EVANS: I agree. We have made a change to bring in the Budget before 30 June, rather than before the House recesses just before Christmas. Although the House sat very long hours, the speeches in the early hours of the morning were kept quite short.

Hon Kim Chance spoke about information in the reports from consolidated revenue. When I first became a member in 1985-86, the first reports I saw were the small booklets of the second or third report of the Auditor General. They contained figures for the Department of Conservation and Land Management with salaries and contingencies of \$48m required to service the year. One was given only one line. Conservation and environment had a budget of only \$5.2m, with salaries of \$3.1m and subtotals for administration and other services. A little more detail was provided. However, Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs had a budget of only \$870 000 and the reporting went over eight lines. Salaries were \$559 000, and other staffing costs and communications were outlined. The Art Gallery had a budget of \$3.5m, which was reported in one line.

Hon Joe Berinson expanded the reporting in the Program Statements, but the information was presented in the one line per department presentation for about 50 or 60 years prior to that change. We had the consolidated revenue fund for some years, which included all agencies. We had two books: The CRF and the capital expenditure fund - the housekeeping account and the mortgage account. CRF was recurrent revenue against recurrent expenditure, with the surplus when one was measured against the other. The capital expenditure was a separate bank account.

The first thing I wanted to do when we came into government was to have one bank account so one knew the net position of capital and recurrent expenditure against recurrent income. In the first year we brought in a summary sheet of revenue and expenditure with cash financial management. In that way one could see the difference between capital expenditure and recurrent expenditure and the net proceeds.

Hon Joe Berinson released the Program Statements in two thick booklets, and this Government introduced the Budget Statements, which combined the two previous books. I note Hon Kim Chance's comments. The man at Treasury likes his job, and he will make the changes the member wants. Other members should express valid comments on these statements. Members are usually the only people who use them. We receive questionnaires from marketing people; in fact, I received one the other day from the Estimates Committee.

Hon Kim Chance: And the Auditor General.

Hon MAX EVANS: If members have real comments, rather than answering questionnaires, please let me know. I had to fight for years with Treasury and Hon Joe Berinson about the use of the term "contingencies", because the allocation was not contingencies as the money was to be spent.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: We now deal with motions in legislation.

Hon MAX EVANS: It is in the wording. Eventually I took contingencies out of the system.

Hon Kim Chance: I am not entirely negative; you were not showing the light to its full potential.

Hon MAX EVANS: Members should let the Government know if they have any similar comments. We want members of the House to understand the statements. I introduced the Estimates Committee debate in this House so over time people have developed a better understanding of the figures presented and a better rapport with the chief executive officers. It has worked out quite well.

Hon Kim Chance: The public need it as well; it is important.

Hon MAX EVANS: When discussing this wonderful thing called advertising, members should be careful about how figures are used. I worked out roughly our advertising bill. Hon Ken Travers said that the cost was about \$17 per capita of the WA population. However, the Western Australian Lotteries Commission and the TAB are agencies of government, and in Victoria, Tattsлото and TABCORP are not agencies of government. These are the two biggest spending areas in government advertising as the WA Lotteries Commission spends well over \$3.5m per annum. The member was not measuring like with like.

Also recently quite a lot of money has been spent on road safety from SGIC funds. The insurance commission has a vested interest in reducing road accidents, and it has a large budget for advertising. The third party group in Victoria spends a great deal in that area, and I would not be surprised if it is included in government advertising. Our programs come under government advertising because SGIC pays the money to the Road Safety Council, and the Victorian body spends the money itself on road safety; therefore, it is not CF expenditure.

If the \$5m or \$6m spent by those bodies were taken off Hon Ken Travers' figures, the \$17 cost per capita would be reduced to \$12. If I had more time I am sure I could reduce it further. That calculation is off the top of my head without the figures being available. Please measure like with like; otherwise, the facts can be distorted. One can make a bloody good story out of nothing.

I do not know the approach adopted in the past with the WA Water Authority's advertising. I was worried that 25 per cent of houses in Western Australia previously had no infill sewerage, and the previous Government was spending \$16m a year on this program - Hon Kim Chance can confirm that amount as he was at the authority at the time. This Government raised the spending to \$65m in the first year and progressively to \$80m. Therefore, over the last four years the Government spent \$300m-odd on infill sewerage, compared with \$64m in the four years prior to this Government coming to office. Many people are reluctant to pay the joining fee. However, infill sewerage protects underground water, and if one does not endure the pain of the fee, the water problem is not addressed. My friends in the Greens and the Democrats would not be happy about that situation.

Hon Ken Travers: I am giving an alternative as to how we could have achieved the 25 per cent target by now.

Hon MAX EVANS: I am surprised that that approach was not followed before. I will not go into the matter now. The Labor Party never dealt with infill sewerage, and it did so few houses every year that the program was irrelevant. This Government had a problem. I cannot agree with the member's claim of a cost of \$170 a metre. If the member can contract the work at that rate, I would give him the job as it would cost much more than that.

Hon Ken Travers: That is what I was told.

Hon MAX EVANS: I thank members opposite for their support for the Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No 2), which deals with capital expenditure; it is an important Bill. I have been pleased to bring in the Budget before the end of June so that we can deal with capital expenditure. Previously, all capital expenditure, whether it was for schools or elsewhere, could not be dealt with before the Budget passed on 23 December. Therefore, almost six months passed before that consideration. A lot of underexpenditure occurred in the old days, which was a fabulous way to balance the books: One promised \$100m and spent only \$50m, so the \$50m could be claimed again the next year. The carry-over of underexpenditure worked out very well over the years.

Hon Ken Travers: Was that John Dawkins?

Hon MAX EVANS: No; it was Hon Joe Berinson. We had to pay the \$85m Teacher Credit Society loss, and I asked Hon Joe Berinson how he suddenly found the money in his budget to pay it out. He said, "It is under-expenditure of capital expenditure." I said, "Fabulous; was that saved money?" He said, "No, if we do not do the project this year, we will do it next year." I had never heard the government jargon of under-expenditure before that occasion. That is the problem with the Government's doing slots of 12 months at a time.

Previously, the Government did not put out a spreadsheet of income and expenditure over 10 years as it considered only one year. I now put out a spread sheet to look at management issues.

I do not decry what was said about advertising, and maybe they spent too much money. However, the whole structure of the Water Authority has gone. We broke down many of the original large contracts into smaller contracts. Plumbers would not tender for previous contracts because of the risks associated with the big ones. It is going fairly well. I will not buy into Hon Jim Scott's comments now. I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time, proceeded through remaining stages without debate and passed.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 10 June.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [3.10 pm]: The Opposition supports the Bill in principle and in detail.

HON HELEN HODGSON (North Metropolitan) [3.11 pm]: The Democrats have considered the Bill. It is an effective way to ensure that the local government representatives on the board have an association with local government. The legislation is correcting an anomaly. We support the Bill.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [3.12 pm]: I thank members for their support of the Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Third Reading

Leave granted to proceed forthwith to the third reading.

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House), and passed.

MOTION - SELECT COMMITTEE TO REVIEW THE STANDING COMMITTEE SYSTEM

Appointment

Resumed from 11 June.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [3.13 pm]: The Opposition supports the motion.

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [3.14 pm]: I support the motion. Our talks regarding select committees and the possibility of members being seconded to select committees have been positive. They are good ideas and can greatly assist the committee process in this House.

HON HELEN HODGSON (North Metropolitan) [3.15 pm]: The Democrats support the motion. A number of matters must be reviewed in view of the change in numbers in this place. It is appropriate for a review to be undertaken to consider the areas that may need finetuning.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [3.16 pm]: I thank members for their enthusiastic support of the motion. This is not the only motion relating to the committee system that should be moved and passed at this time. As I said on a previous occasion, I recognise that the House will ultimately want to make changes ahead of any review committee. For the benefit of members who read the local newspaper, the Government did not consider the fact that some of its Ministers sought to travel during the winter recess when deciding whether to agree with the Opposition's proposition regarding changes to the committee system. As I explained to a journalist - and have explained to the Leader of the Opposition, from time to time - when a party has the majority of votes in this House that party needs to ensure that members are present in the House. If a party has fewer than half the votes, it does not matter whether it is one fewer vote or six fewer votes; it makes no difference to the final result.

I explained to the journalist that we did not consider the effect of sitting through the winter break on Ministers' travel. It was not even part of our thinking. Had we been sitting during winter, most Ministers would have forgone travel to be here - because this is where they believe they should be. That is our point of view. I was rather irritated by the tone of the article because it suggested somehow travel was more important than the committee system. It certainly is not. I will continue to argue against the Opposition's request, but I acknowledge there is no point in stonewalling week after week. It achieves no purpose for anyone.

In a sense I accept the inevitability of some changes ahead of the review. I hope the review does its job well, and considers the issues that have been raised, particularly those by Hon Jim Scott regarding members being seconded from one committee to another or being part of a standing committee and dealing with the subject of a select committee rather than setting up a separate committee.

Many issues need to be considered. I will be encouraging the community to voice its opinion to this review committee about the changes being made now. I will encourage the public to make known its views about the Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development to the review committee. Everyone knows about the review committee, because normally we set up a select committee without a review being undertaken. I will ensure that everyone knows what the standing committee wants to do. I will encourage people to tell the review committee if they want a standing committee to be set up.

I thank members again for their support for the appointment of a review committee. I hope it is a successful committee, that it carries out a thorough review of the committee system and provides some worthwhile recommendations.

Question put and passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Establishment

Resumed from 24 June.

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [3.16 pm]: I wish to outline the reasons for the Government's opposition to this motion and why we will divide on the question. The establishment of a standing committee is unnecessary, for a number of reasons. Those reasons in no way reflect a view about ecologically sustainable development. They relate to the process through which we must go to set up the committee, ahead of any review. I believe there is a requirement for this House to review the committee system before any significant changes are made to it. That system has evolved over time, against the vigorous opposition of the Labor Party. I will continue to remind people of that fact, because I still find it extraordinary that members opposite can sit there with straight faces, having done a complete turnaround on a significant issue. Now they are in Opposition they have changed their view on how this House operates and the committee system -

Hon Kim Chance: You are talking about a history about which we are not aware - we were not there!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I would be happy to spend a couple of hours going through that history! Now that I have been invited to, I think I should!

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The Leader of the House is addressing the Chair. There is no need for those interjections.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I was contemplating whether I could beat Hon Tom Stephens' eight hours. On the history of this issue, I probably could! I could speak for five hours on the Standing Committee on Government Agencies alone! I suspect that the members who were present at that time would know that I am speaking the truth.

I am astounded by the change in the Labor Party's attitude towards the committee system. However, I am delighted that those members have changed their mind. At least on this side of the House we have been consistent about our attitude to the committee system, both in government and in opposition, we supported the committee system.

Hon Bob Thomas: You just want the numbers!

Hon N.F. MOORE: No, we have consistently supported the committee system. I could do what members opposite are doing; I could say that now we do not have the numbers, we oppose the committee system and should get rid of it. I could argue that way. However, I would not succeed. I have every intention of maintaining my consistent attitude. I hope that in due course when the numbers change - as they inevitably will - members opposite do not change their minds again.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: I admire your capacity to maintain a straight face.

Hon N.F. MOORE: We should not agree to the motion at this stage because the matter should be reviewed - as we have done on every other occasion when a new committee was to be established.

Secondly, I am concerned about the message that this committee may send to people who want to invest in industries at which some members of the Greens, in particular, may want to look closely; that is, the timber, agricultural, pastoral, mining and other industries which involve some interaction with the environment. Western Australia requires as much investment as it can get in those industries to ensure that our economy continues to grow and that we continue to provide jobs for our children and export earnings for the State. Any message that may indicate to the investing public that in the future the Legislative Council will impede investment - I may be misinterpreting the message; we will soon find out - is not a message that we should send out at any time, particularly not when the unemployment level in this State is still too high.

I am concerned also, after listening to the speeches made by those members who proposed this committee, that some members do not understand the difference between the Government and the Parliament. Because some members of this Chamber would like to be in government but are not in government, they are seeking to use the Legislative Council as a vehicle to allow them to be part of the government process rather than part of the parliamentary process.

It is important that during the break members deliberate upon that matter. The election has been held, the Government has been re-elected overwhelmingly, and the Government has the right to govern Western Australia. Members of minor parties do not have the right to govern Western Australia from the Legislative Council. Therefore, when they contemplate what they will do with committees, they should bear in mind that their role is not to be part of government but to be part of the parliamentary process of scrutinising what the Government does. I look forward to seeing those members demonstrate that they understand that dichotomy when they deliberate upon matters that will be put to that committee by the Government.

Recently we debated a state agreement Act and such Acts may be under some threat from this committee. Members should bear in mind that if the Parliament did use its numbers to make it difficult for Governments to enter into state agreement Acts, Governments would not enter into state agreement Acts but would enter into agreements which did not come before the Parliament and which the Parliament had no opportunity to scrutinise.

The final point I make in opposing this motion is that this committee will have a relatively constrained or narrow focus, because although its definition has grown from the original concept of an environment committee and it will now have a broader base, it will be about ecologically sustainable development. Most standing committees that have been set up in the past have had a generic focus and have looked at government across the board rather than targeted a specific government activity or policy. A number of members of this House, including me, would love to have a standing committee on a particular area. I suspect that Hon Tom Stephens would love to have a standing committee on Aboriginal affairs, which is an interest of his. I have long had an interest in education and I would love to have a standing committee of the Legislative Council on education.

The arguments for setting up standing committees to deal with the diverse interests of all members are equally good as the arguments for this committee. I am concerned that this motion will create a precedent by setting up a standing committee to deal with the interests of some members when we have sought to avoid that in the past. I would not be surprised if Hon Tom Stephens did move some time down the track for a standing committee on Aboriginal affairs.

Hon Ljiljana Ravlich: What would be wrong with that? It would be great!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Just imagine when the 34 members in this Chamber all wanted to have their say!

Hon Kim Chance: A standing committee on fisheries!

Hon N.F. MOORE: Yes, or on industrial relations or chopping down trees. We could go around the room and have a committee for every member. That would be a really efficient way to do business!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: If I were in government I would probably organise that.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I am thinking about it; I am not altogether stupid! I acknowledge that with the new standing committee that I am told will be established because of the numbers opposite - we have yet to find out because the bells have not rung, and members will have to say aye or no, in case they have forgotten -

Hon Bob Thomas: Did one of your members miss a division last week?

Hon N.F. MOORE: I have no idea. It does not make any difference to us, as members opposite will learn; and they will also learn about pairs in due course.

It is a fact of life that we should seek to avoid having too many committees in this House, which will ensure that none of them works effectively. That would be the case if we were to set up all the committees that members wanted to have. I would prefer the role of this committee to be given to one of the existing standing committees, which could have its terms of reference amended to take into account the issues raised in this motion.

This committee will take \$100 000 dollars from the Legislative Council's budget, at a rough estimate -

Hon Bob Thomas: You said earlier that it would cost \$70 000.

Hon N.F. MOORE: I do not know. A new staff member will cost about \$50 000.

Several members interjected.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It is interesting that Hon John Halden is arguing in that way, because I am paraphrasing what Hon Joe Berinson said in this place about eight years ago.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: He said it better!

Hon N.F. MOORE: He may well have done, but he was no more successful than I will be. No-one can claim to equal Hon Joe Berinson when it comes to speaking in this Chamber. He was the epitome of the absolute politician; and I never knew what he believed at the end of the day.

Hon Tom Stephens: He was an excellent person.

Hon N.F. MOORE: This committee will be another burden on the Legislative Council's budget. It will mean that the Legislative Council will need to look at how it spends its funds on the basis of this extra demand upon it. We will need to look at that from the point of view of the Government's contribution to the Parliament over time. It may affect the number of select committees; how quickly we can renovate this Chamber, which desperately needs it; and a number of other things that members want to do and regard as being more important than this committee. I would rather refurbish this Chamber this year and have this committee next year. When members have sat here for about a year and cannot walk after a long sitting -

Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich: You have sitting here for 20 years and you are still walking very well!

Hon N.F. MOORE: I find it very difficult to walk. This Chamber is in a dreadful state of repair, as the member will recognise in due course. We need new seats, if nothing else.

The Government does not support this motion, and we will do whatever we can to ensure that the public knows what it is about and that when the review committee takes evidence, people who are opposed to this committee and industries which may feel under some threat can make their views well and truly known to the committee, although regrettably not ahead of the House making a decision. I oppose the motion.

HON GIZ WATSON (North Metropolitan) [3.30 pm]: I support this motion and will respond briefly to Hon Norman Moore's comments. I sincerely believe that there is broad community support for the establishment of this committee to review the ecological sustainability of a range of activities within the State. I challenge the implication by the Leader of the House that the people who support it are in the minority. The support comes from people with whom I have worked in industry, fishing groups and a range of community interests which could not be described as green groups. The establishment of this committee will ensure a forum for review and discussion. It will in no way take the business out of the hands of the Government.

It is important for the committee to have the ability to address issues of sustainability in the marine environment, which is an area in which I have worked for the last four years. The issue of sustainable fisheries has received

prominence in the Press in recent weeks, particularly the snapper fishery at Shark Bay and the pilchard fisheries on the south coast. Hon Kim Chance also mentioned the Kimberley fishery. Members cannot ignore the fact that a number of fisheries along the west coast are encountering serious problems with the management of these resources. One thing about fisheries management is that the problems come to light suddenly. Often, the problems need addressing quickly. I look forward to some of the fisheries being investigated to determine their ecological sustainability. Western Australians take pride in their coastline and the ocean. Recreational fishing is enjoyed by at least 80 per cent of the population. It is important that all the activities in the marine environment be ecologically sustainable.

I look forward to the committee examining all the activities in the marine environment, including shipping and the potential for shipping accidents along the coast. This State does not have a foolproof shipping industry. Several inquiries, including an inquiry by the Auditor General, indicate that there is a potential for shipping accidents along the coast. The likelihood of an oil spill from a shipping accident is exceedingly high. A lot more can be done to improve the standard of shipping and the method of fishing along the coastline.

I refer also to the disposal of waste, both sewerage and other waste, into the ocean. The length of time that the environment can sustain this action is open to question. Currently, we are moving the problem of waste from the land and disposing of it into the ocean. I would be delighted if this committee were to address this issue.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [3.34 pm]: In the lead-up to the last state election the Labor Party made a commitment that it would support the formation of an environment committee. That is the reason for a motion on the Notice Paper calling for the House to establish such a committee.

I hope it is possible to bring this matter to resolution before the afternoon tea break. If members do that we will be able to enjoy a cup of tea with each other.

The Labor Party sees itself as having the balance of power on this committee. It treats that role very seriously. The Leader of the House should not laugh, because that is a fact. I am sure the Democrats and the Greens (WA) understand what I am saying. The dire predictions made by the Leader of the House are not appropriate in respect of any of the non-government parties. The Labor Party has chosen from its ranks a member in whom it has great confidence to be appointed to that committee and I refer to Hon Ljiljanna Ravlich. I know she will work very hard with the other members of the committee. The committee will do a good job for this House and for the people of Western Australia.

I had prepared a long speech on the question of committees, but I will not deliver it. A lot of what the Leader of the Government said about the committee system is absolutely true. The Labor Party has done an about-face on its stance on committees. The main reason for the Labor Party's change is that the Commission on Government and the royal commission have spoken. The Labor Party stands behind their recommendations. It will ensure that this House has an obligation to fulfill those recommendations through the committee system.

I hope that this matter will be brought to resolution, that the committee will be established and that the processes which are put in train will be of benefit to this Parliament and to the people of Western Australia. I commend the motion to the House.

HON J.A. COWDELL (South West) [3.37 pm]: I reiterate the comments of the Leader of the Opposition that the Labor Party supports the formation of this committee on the basis of its pledge to the people at the last election. Members may be aware that earlier this year the Wilderness Society went to considerable lengths to act as facilitator between the major political parties to come to a multipartisan stance on this issue so that this matter could be supported by all parties in this House. The society prepared papers - I pay tribute to the work it did - highlighting the work of similarly structured committees in the Commonwealth and other States. It outlined the inquiries that those Parliaments had found very useful and why it would be commendable for this Parliament to follow a similar path.

Following discussions, the Wilderness Society wrote to me as follows about the study it had undertaken -

It should hopefully provide an additional insight into where Western Australia stands with reference to committee systems, and give some useful models of environment committees that could be adapted to the WA political situation. Copies have also been sent to the Conservation Council, Greens (WA), the Democrats and Judy Edwards.

As discussed at our last meeting, the Wilderness Society now feels that the process of establishing any environmental committee is now fully within the political arena, and as facilitator, we feel it is time to step back and leave the detail to the three progressive political parties.

I understand that was on the basis that the governing parties were not willing to entertain or hear the case put by the Wilderness Society. The Labor Party and other parties listened and it is on that basis that this motion for an ecologically sustainable committee is before the House. The Australian Labor Party supports the establishment of that committee.

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [3.40 pm]: I thank members for their contributions in this debate and their support for the motion. I also thank Hon Norman Moore for honouring his promise to allow this matter to be resolved before the House adjourns for the winter recess.

Interestingly, in his comments opposing the setting up of this committee, Hon Norman Moore repeatedly referred to the attitude of the Labor Government in 1990, which is seven years ago. It is worth thinking about the change in attitude in the community to the importance of ecological sustainability in any development in the world over the past 15 years.

The state planning strategy document put out by the Western Australian Planning Commission refers to sustainable development as being a very serious issue; so much so, that it is the second heading in the executive summary at the beginning of the document. It states -

Our future depends on how we harvest and carefully manage our resources. Acceptance of the principles of sustainability required that we do not squander our finite resources and we seek a balance between economic, social and environmental objectives.

This is a departmental document, prepared under a Liberal-National coalition. Those comments are very reasonable. Furthermore it states -

Hon John Halden: What is its impact on business if that is the Government's position?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hansard is having difficulty hearing Hon Jim Scott.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: It goes on to talk about the impact on business. It states -

The pursuit of the environmental strategies will contribute to a more sustainable future. The strategies are designed to increasingly use energy sources which have minimal impact on the environment, prevent further loss in biodiversity, ensure that air, water and soil quality is protected and where necessary improved, reduce consumption of materials and promote recycling, promote management and protection of resources, protect landscape, open space and public access, enhance the quality of life for all Western Australians and protect the State's cultural heritage.

The document also refers to the definition of ecologically sustainable development by the World Commission on Environment and Development in its document entitled "Our common future". The definition is as follows -

. . . development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

My colleagues and I in the Greens (WA) party are very concerned that development in this State does not impact on the ability of future generations to live in the manner to which we are accustomed today.

Hon Norman Moore said that a fringe group wants this Parliament to set up a committee to examine ecological sustainability. However, the document states -

Government, both national and international, must take a lead in developing clear policy responses to the long-term impact of development on the environment. It is now well understood that growth and development will have an impact on the environment. Strong public concern about the environment will be a significant feature of life through to 2029. A shift in values towards ecological sensitivity and sustainable development will have a big impact on future land use planning.

The PRESIDENT: Order! Hansard is having difficulty hearing. It is not fair to those who are trying to take down what is being said.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: It continues -

The planning system will be expected to balance the competing land use pressures being placed on natural resources.

Clearly, this is a mainstream issue which goes across a very wide field.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

[Questions without notice taken.]

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The state planning strategy put forward a strong argument for a development process that is ecologically sustainable, and indicated it was an advantage to the community in terms of both the improved ecological conditions in which we live and the economic benefits for the future. Hon Norman Moore said he hoped this committee would not send a message to those who spend money on industry that they should not invest in this State. That is a very negative way of approaching this committee because the future economic development of this State lies in solving the problems caused by over-population, pollution, the production of waste and so on. The green technologies that must be developed are driving economies today, and the Vice-President of the United States has estimated that green technologies have provided greater impetus for development than anything that occurred during the industrial revolution. The green technologies provide more work and wealth than was produced during that period. It is not a negative approach, but rather a matter of seizing an opportunity and making sure the community lives in a manner that would be acceptable to those who first came to this country.

Hon Norman Moore also said the Government had been elected with a bigger majority in the other place and had a right to govern. Equally, the Government did not obtain a majority in this place and its members have a right to keep the Government accountable. That accountability is related not only to the fiscal responsibility of the Government, but also its social and economic responsibility. We should preserve those ecological features in this State for future generations, in the same way Hon Norman Moore would like people's bank balances to be built up.

Hon N.F. Moore: I said you were not elected to be the Government.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: The Minister missed what I said, otherwise he would not have made that comment.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! When members on the front benches interject, and I am talking about both sides of the House, it is very difficult for Hansard to hear Hon Jim Scott who is situated further away from the Hansard reporters. I ask members to be fair to Hansard.

Hon J.A. SCOTT: I point out once again to Hon Norman Moore, who has concerns, that this committee will be set up not to drive people away but to build for the future, and to look at the possibilities and not the negatives. I believe it will achieve great things for this Parliament and Western Australia. I conclude by quoting Chief Seattle, who was famous, among other things, for saying that only when the last tree has been cut down, only after the last river has been poisoned, only after the last fish has been caught, and only then will the people find that money cannot be eaten.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

Hon Kim Chance
Hon J.A. Cowdell
Hon Cheryl Davenport
Hon E.R.J. Dermer
Hon N.D. Griffiths
Hon John Halden

Hon Tom Helm
Hon Helen Hodgson
Hon Norm Kelly
Hon Mark Nevill
Hon Ljiljana Ravlich
Hon J.A. Scott

Hon Christine Sharp
Hon Tom Stephens
Hon Ken Travers
Hon Giz Watson
Hon Bob Thomas (*Teller*)

Noes (16)

Hon E.J. Charlton
Hon M.J. Criddle
Hon B.K. Donaldson
Hon Max Evans
Hon Peter Foss
Hon Ray Halligan

Hon Barry House
Hon Murray Montgomery
Hon N.F. Moore
Hon M.D. Nixon
Hon Simon O'Brien

Hon B.M. Scott
Hon Greg Smith
Hon W.N. Stretch
Hon Derrick Tomlinson
Hon Muriel Patterson (*Teller*)

Question thus passed.

CASINO (BURSWOOD ISLAND) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading**Classification*

Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House) reported that the Bills Committee had given the Bill a B classification.

Point of Order

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I thought the Leader of the Government had an agreement with us that the House would deal with the motion to establish the membership of some committees before we dealt with the casino Bill.

Hon N.F. Moore: We will do that when we have finished.

Adjournment of Debate

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I move -

That the debate be adjourned to a later stage of this day's sitting.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (17)

Hon Kim Chance
Hon J.A. Cowdell
Hon Cheryl Davenport
Hon E.R.J. Dermer
Hon N.D. Griffiths
Hon John Halden

Hon Tom Helm
Hon Helen Hodgson
Hon Norm Kelly
Hon Mark Nevill
Hon Ljiljana Ravlich
Hon J.A. Scott

Hon Christine Sharp
Hon Tom Stephens
Hon Ken Travers
Hon Giz Watson
Hon Bob Thomas (*Teller*)

Noes (16)

Hon E.J. Charlton
Hon M.J. Criddle
Hon B.K. Donaldson
Hon Max Evans
Hon Peter Foss
Hon Ray Halligan

Hon Barry House
Hon Murray Montgomery
Hon N.F. Moore
Hon M.D. Nixon
Hon Simon O'Brien

Hon B.M. Scott
Hon Greg Smith
Hon W.N. Stretch
Hon Derrick Tomlinson
Hon Muriel Patterson (*Teller*)

Question thus passed.

[Continued on p 4617.]

MOTION - ORDER OF BUSINESS

26 June 1997

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [5.43 pm]: I move -

That Order of the Day No 23 be now taken.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [5.44 pm]: I urge the Leader of the House not to do what he is doing.

Hon N.F. Moore: If you sat down and did as I asked it would all be finished. You have wasted five minutes already.

Points of Order

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I ask the Leader of the House to give us the opportunity of completing the agreement. Otherwise we will be facing a special adjournment and be back here next week.

The PRESIDENT: Order! There is no point of order.

Hon JOHN HALDEN: There clearly seems to be some difficulty in the Chamber with communication. I am not sure we should embark on a course that will become very difficult for all of us. Perhaps, Mr President, you should leave the Chair until the ringing of the bells. Those people involved in this problem can sort it out behind the Chair in one or two minutes. It will be far better than the process we are about to follow where we are opposing and dividing on orders of the day and wasting God knows how much time.

The PRESIDENT: I understand the point of order. However, the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition clearly have made some arrangement of which I have no knowledge. I am not prepared to leave the Chair at this stage until the ringing of the bells. I point out to members that it is Thursday. The standing orders provide that at 5 o'clock I must interrupt whatever debate is in progress and I will then leave the Chair until next Tuesday at 3.30 in the afternoon. I put that to members so they understand the routine that will occur. I thank Hon John Halden

for his suggestion. It seems to me that other matters must be dealt with before 5 o'clock or we will be faced with that scenario. Technically, there is no point of order. At the moment I am calling Order of the Day No 23.

Orders of the Day be now Read

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [4.48 pm]: I move -

That orders of the day be now read.

The note the Leader of the House sent me advises that he proposed to move that the House sit beyond 5.00 pm to complete Orders of the Day Nos 12 and 23 as well as to appoint committee members and read in two Bills and nothing else.

Hon N.F. Moore: That is exactly what I was doing.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The agreement was that at completion of the Government agenda we would complete the establishment of the standing committees of the House.

Hon N.F. Moore: So, what is the problem?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Government has now completed its agenda.

Hon N.F. Moore: Are you saying you will not pass those other two? You are wasting every minute.

The PRESIDENT: The Leader of the Opposition has moved that the orders of the day be now read. If that is carried the effect will be that we will return to Order of the Day No 1. I therefore put the question.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Minister should not do this to us.

Hon N.F. Moore: Sit down you silly man; you are destroying everything. You have no idea what is going on.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I know exactly what is going on. The Leader has an agreement with us.

Hon N.F. Moore: I will talk until 5.00 pm and the -

Hon TOM STEPHENS: The Leader said -

Hon E.J. Charlton: You just read it out.

Hon N.F. Moore: It will all be done by 6.00 pm if you sit down and let us do it.

The PRESIDENT: I am required to put the motion.

HON TOM STEPHENS: I take the verbal assurances given across the House that we are not about to be duded. The Minister told me in discussions that he did not want to operate on the basis of assurances given around this House. He has also told me that in future he will take every advantage he can, because he believes that is what we have done to him. I do not accept that. The agreement we had was this: The Government had a legislative agenda and at the conclusion of it, the committees would be put in place. The agenda is not to debate two Bills. That is additional and subsequent upon the establishment of the standing committees.

Hon E.J. Charlton: And agreed to.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I will take the assurance from the Leader of the House. I hope other members feel I am now doing the right thing. To do that, I seek leave to withdraw the motion I have just moved in the hope that we are not about to be duded.

Leave granted.

Debate Resumed

The PRESIDENT: Order! I will now call on Order of the Day No 23; however, before I do so, I just say again that if members want to sit beyond 5.00 pm a Minister must move that the House do sit beyond 5.00 pm.

Point of Order

Hon N.F. MOORE: Mr President, am I able to move in that way, given the question before the House is that Order of the Day No 23 be now taken?

The PRESIDENT: The Leader of the House is also able to seek leave to withdraw that motion, for the purpose of moving another motion.

Debate Resumed

By leave, Hon Norman Moore (Leader of the House) withdrew his motion.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE - BEYOND 5.00 PM

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [4.51 pm]: I move -

That the House sit beyond 5.00 pm for the purpose of completing Orders of the Day Nos 12 and 23; to appoint members of the select committees; to discharge some orders of the day; and to appoint members to all committees that have been formed today.

That is what I said in my note earlier today to Hon Tom Stephens.

Question put and passed.

CASINO (BURSWOOD ISLAND) AGREEMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

HON TOM HELM (Mining and Pastoral) [4.52 pm]: I am advised that the Australian Labor Party supports this Bill. We may want to raise some issues in Committee.

HON NORM KELLY (East Metropolitan) [4.53 pm]: The Australian Democrats also support this Bill. I will seek clarification on a number of issues in Committee.

HON J.A. SCOTT (South Metropolitan) [4.53 pm]: I, too, support the Bill. The measures contained in it will be a great improvement and will ensure that maximum benefit will be returned to the people of Western Australia.

HON MAX EVANS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Racing and Gaming) [4.54 pm]: I thank the three parties for their support and I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Hon J.A. Cowdell) in the Chair; Hon Max Evans (Minister for Racing and Gaming) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 7 put and passed.

Clause 8: Schedule 4 inserted -

Hon NORM KELLY: I seek a point of clarification relating to amended clause 36. It relates to a minor correction to contract details. Paragraph (a) refers to the addresses of the trustees. The trustee is changing from Western Australian Trustees Limited to Perpetual Trustees WA Ltd and its office will be based in Sydney. At the beginning of the schedule Perpetual Trustees WA Ltd is shown with a Perth address. Will the management of the trustees be in Sydney or Perth?

Hon MAX EVANS: About four or five years ago Perpetual Trustees took over WA Trustees. That has been consolidated back to Perpetual Trustees in Sydney. As soon as the corporatisation comes through, which is subject to this legislation going through and the unit holders of Burswood Property Trust agreeing to convert their units to shares, Perpetual Trustees will no longer exist. That will occur within a couple of months, at the most, or it could be even less than that. There is still an office in Perth for Perpetual Trustees, but the main office is in Sydney. However, as soon as the corporatisation has been completed, we no longer want Perpetual Trustees involved. We are giving approval for the Burswood Property Trust to own all of the units. These changes are being made because previously no one entity could own more than 5 per cent of the shares.

Hon NORM KELLY: I refer to schedule B about the ownership provisions of the new corporation. It states, in part, that the Minister may by notice exempt any existing or future holding of shares by a specified person from the provisions of this paragraph for a period specified in the notice. I seek some clarification of the length of term for which the Minister would expect to give these notices.

Hon MAX EVANS: Any exemptions that I may grant as Minister for Racing and Gaming to the 40 per cent limit in clause 1(a) of the mandatory articles and the 10 per cent limit in paragraph (b) of the mandatory articles is

conditional on the unit holders of the Burswood Property Trust approving, firstly, the corporatisation of the trust; and, secondly, the share placement to Metroplex Berhad or its Australian subsidiaries of a stake of up to 18 per cent in the newly issued and paid up capital of the Burswood company to be created as part of the corporatisation of the Burswood Property Trust. I might add that the Government has made it mandatory for these provisions to be put into the articles.

If I am requested to exempt Metroplex and/or its Australian subsidiaries from the 10 per cent limit on the voting shares of the issued share capital of the new Burswood company, I am prepared to grant an exemption for Metroplex and/or its subsidiaries to hold up to 20 per cent of the voting shares of the new Burswood company for a period to 30 June 2015.

Metroplex initially asked for a period in excess of 20 years, but I am prepared to approve an exemption until only 30 June 2015, as this is the expiry date of the Casino Operation Management Agreement which Metroplex would have acquired under the heads of agreement it entered into with Victoria Company Limited in December of last year.

In relation to an exemption to allow foreign persons to hold more than 40 per cent of the voting shares of the issued share capital of the Burswood company, in my ministerial statement on 8 April I advised the House that to the extent necessary to allow Metroplex to take up a 20 per cent shareholding in the Burswood public company, the Government would allow foreign persons to be entitled to hold in excess of 40 per cent of the voting shares in the Burswood company.

According to the latest advice of the registered foreign unit holders in the Burswood Property Trust, less than 23 per cent of the units in the trust are registered in the name of foreign persons. This, I am advised, includes 0.6 per cent held by interests in Metroplex. If this percentage prevails when Metroplex seeks approval to hold 20 per cent of the voting shares of the issued share capital of the Burswood company, I would need to approve foreign persons holding approximately 42.4 per cent; that is, 23 per cent plus 19.4 per cent of the voting shares in the issued share capital of the Burswood company.

The 42.4 per cent would be set as the maximum foreign holding in the Burswood company. The exemption will also require the Burswood company not to register any shares in the name of foreign persons even if as a result the 42.4 per cent would not be exceeded. Over time, as Australian persons acquire shares from foreign persons, the foreign persons holding voting shares in the Burswood company would return to the 40 per cent limit. In other words, if, for example, Australian interests acquired shares from foreign persons which brought the foreign ownership down to 41.5 per cent, this would be the new limit imposed on the foreign ownership in the Burswood company. Therefore, only 1.5 per cent would be exempt from provisions of mandatory article 1(a).

Hon NORM KELLY: If any foreign holdings are to be sold, will the Minister allow them to be sold to other foreign investors while the foreign holdings are above the 40 per cent limit?

Hon MAX EVANS: We will say no to such requests until we get back to the 40 per cent level. The member must realise that the previous Government might have gone above that level for different reasons, such as another major player coming into the equation, but we will be ratcheting the level back. No foreigner will be selling to a foreigner while we are still above the 40 per cent limit.

Clause put and passed.

Title put and passed

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon Max Evans (Minister for Racing and Gaming), and transmitted to the Assembly.

SELECT COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER THE RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS FROM THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE WESTERN AUSTRALIA POLICE SERVICE

Establishment

HON N.D. GRIFFITHS (East Metropolitan) [5.05 pm]: I move -

That -

- (1) A select committee is appointed.

- (2) The committee is to review all evidence, transcripts, and documents (the “records”) obtained by, or provided to, a Select Committee on the WA Police Service (the “Police Committee”) in relation to its term of reference (3) now in the possession or under the control of the Clerk and determine which parts of the records -
 - (a) may be released to the Anti-Corruption Commission;
 - (b) may be released after obtaining the express written consent of witnesses to whom those parts relate;
 - (c) should not be released.
- (3) Without limiting the committee’s discretion in making a determination under paragraph (2), the committee is to have regard to -
 - (a) any order or undertaking of the Police Committee governing the publication of a witness’ identity, occupation or activities, or the content of that person’s evidence;
 - (b) records that contain unproven or untested allegations of criminal or improper conduct or dealing against persons named in the records.
- (4) Records released to the Anti-Corruption Commission under paragraph (2) are released to, and are to be dealt with by, that commission subject to all applicable powers, privileges, rights and immunities of the Legislative Council. Any question arising under this paragraph shall be submitted to, and determined by, the President.
- (5) The committee shall complete its determinations and report to the House not later than Wednesday, 20 August 1997.

I move the motion in the knowledge that three members of the former Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service still serve in this House. The two members of that committee who have retired are Hon Reg Davies and Hon Phil Lockyer. Hon Derrick Tomlinson, Hon Murray Montgomery and I continue to serve in the Legislative Council.

The appropriate course of action, if the House is so minded, is to pass the motion I have moved to provide the appropriate mechanism to deal with information relating to the Anti-Corruption Commission. Shortly after that vote, the House can consider the proposition that the members to comprise the committee shall be the former members of the Select Committee on the Western Australia Police Service who remain in this place.

This should occur for two reasons: First, I hope it will save time as it will be a much more efficient operation; arguably, the members involved have some understanding of the lengthy matters upon which the committee deliberated over many years. Second, and perhaps more importantly, some of the matters referred to are matters of confidence. In dealing with the general public who have provided material to the select committee of this House, it is important to maintain confidence, both in terms of form and substance. This will enhance a proper and accurate perception of fair play on behalf of the House.

HON DERRICK TOMLINSON (East Metropolitan) [5.18 pm]: In seconding the motion, I concur wholeheartedly with the sentiments of Hon Nick Griffiths. We have a desire to keep faith with the people who gave evidence to the select committee in the full expectation that they were divulging information to members of Parliament, not expecting that it would be revealed necessarily to the Executive. Also, some people came unwillingly before us and certain undertakings were given and consideration made regarding the identity of those persons and the information they delivered to the committee. The proposed committee is the appropriate body to handle this matter.

The three members of the former police committee who remain members of the Legislative Council are the appropriate people to make judgments and advise the Legislative Council on the release of information to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

Question put and passed.

Appointment of Committee Members

On motion by Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House), resolved -

That Hon N.D. Griffiths, Hon Murray Montgomery and Hon Derrick Tomlinson be members of the committee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY*Discharged*

On motion without notice by Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House), resolved -

That Orders of the Day Nos 1, 21, 22, 34, 40 and 46 be discharged from the Notice Paper.

COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE*Membership*

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [5.11 pm]: I move -

That -

- (1)
 - (a) the Standing Committee on Estimates and Financial Operations consist of Hon Simon O'Brien, Hon Muriel Patterson, Hon Mark Nevill, Hon Bob Thomas and Hon E.R.J. Dermer;
 - (b) the Standing Committee on Public Administration consist of Hon M.J. Criddle, Hon B.M. Scott, Hon Barry House, Hon Kim Chance, Hon Cheryl Davenport and Hon Helen Hodgson;
 - (c) the Standing Committee on Legislation consist of Hon B.K. Donaldson, Hon Derrick Tomlinson, Hon W.N. Stretch, Hon J.A. Cowdell and Hon Giz Watson;
 - (d) the Standing Committee on Constitutional Affairs and Statutes Revision consist of Hon M.D. Nixon, Hon Ray Halligan and Hon Tom Helm;
 - (e) the Standing Committee on Ecologically Sustainable Development consist of Hon Greg Smith, Hon M.J. Criddle, Hon Christine Sharp, Hon Norm Kelly and Hon Ljiljana Ravlich;
 - (f) the Legislative Council members of the Joint Standing Committee on Delegated Legislation consist of Hon Simon O'Brien, Hon B.M. Scott, Hon N.D. Griffiths and Hon J.A. Scott;
 - (g) the Legislative Council members of the Joint Standing Committee on the Anti-Corruption Commission consist of Hon Derrick Tomlinson, Hon Murray Montgomery, Hon J.A. Cowdell and Hon N.D. Griffiths; and
 - (h) the Select Committee to Review the Legislative Council Standing Committee System consist of Hon Derrick Tomlinson, Hon Barry House, Hon M.J. Criddle, Hon Tom Stephens, Hon Helen Hodgson and Hon J.A. Scott.
- (2) All previous appointments inconsistent with paragraph (1) are hereby consequentially revoked.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [5.12 pm]: I second the motion. The Opposition supports the motion.

Question put and passed.

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

BILLS (2) - ASSEMBLY'S MESSAGES

Messages from the Assembly received and read notifying that it had agreed to the amendments made by the Council to the following Bills -

1. State Trading Concerns Amendment Bill
2. Curriculum Council Bill

WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL*Receipt and First Reading*

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by Hon N.F. Moore (Leader of the House), read a first time.

Second Reading

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [5.14 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Water Legislation Amendment Bill deals with two separate aspects of water supply management in Western Australia. Parts 2 to 4 seek to strengthen the provisions relating to water theft from the public water supply system while part 5 clarifies the by-law making powers relating to water restrictions. Part 6 deals with the consequential changes needed to the Water Services Coordination Act 1995 as a result of the amendments contained in the Bill.

Water theft is a major problem for the Water Corporation, costing an estimated \$2m annually in lost water sales. A study undertaken in 1994 revealed that water theft from public supply systems occurs primarily in the metropolitan area, the irrigation districts of the mid-west and to a lesser extent in other parts of the State. The cost arising from these losses is absorbed in water charges and represents a direct burden on the rest of the community, which consumes water legitimately from the Water Corporation's supply systems. Farmers who fraudulently use water also enjoy an unfair advantage over other farmers and distort the price of farm produce in the State. Furthermore, there is a serious risk of contamination to water supplies arising from the use of unauthorised fittings and interference with the corporation's services. The management of scarce water resources in irrigation areas could be seriously jeopardised if this activity continued unchecked.

The successful prosecution of offenders has been severely constrained in the past due to limitations inherent in existing legislation. The act of interfering with Water Corporation services and fittings is an event that is rarely witnessed since the offender naturally seeks to avoid detection. In the absence of direct evidence, a confession remains the only viable option for a successful prosecution. However, this is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain and the only basis to sustain a prosecution is circumstantial evidence, which has proved unsatisfactory as it is insufficient for the purpose of obtaining a conviction.

Other Australian public utilities have resolved this problem by obviating the need to rely on confessional evidence. This has been achieved by providing for prosecutions to proceed on the basis of prima facie evidence and without the need to obtain a confession. Additionally, a "deeming clause" has been provided under which it is presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that any unlawful use or taking of water - or energy - was caused by the owner or occupier of the land.

The Water Legislation Amendment Bill provides for such a deeming clause to be included in the appropriate state legislation to enable prosecutions to proceed on the basis of prima facie evidence. This will ensure that the Water Corporation is provided with the effective means to deal with this problem. It is proposed to include the deeming clause in the following Acts: Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act 1909; Country Areas Water Supply Act 1947 and Rights in Water and Irrigation Act 1914.

The Bill also revises the monetary penalties and prison sentences applicable to such offences and aligns these with levels applicable in other States. Currently the maximum penalty in Western Australia is \$2 000, which compares with fines of up to \$20 000 in New South Wales. Higher penalties are also provided in cases where the offence is committed by a body corporate in view of the potential for larger amounts of water to be used than in the case of an ordinary residential customer.

The process for recovering costs incurred by the utility in connection with the loss of water and for prosecuting offenders is also simplified in the Bill.

Part 5 of the Bill deals with the issue of water restrictions. At present the power to impose restrictions in the metropolitan area is contained in section 146(5) of the Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage and Drainage Act which provides for by-laws to protect and prevent and remedy the waste, misuse, undue consumption, fouling or contamination of water contained in or supplied from the water works or otherwise under the control of the corporation. It is arguable that the use of water, contrary to restrictions, constitutes waste or misuse or that restrictions imposed for the purpose of reducing use are within the spirit of this section.

The position in the country is also unsatisfactory. Although the Country Areas Water Supply Act contains by-law making powers it does not specifically include a provision relating to water restrictions.

The proposed amendment to section 34 of the Water Agencies (Powers) Act 1984 will provide the Minister with unambiguous authority to make by-laws to prohibit, impose restrictions on or otherwise regulate the use of water throughout the State or specified parts of the State. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Ken Travers.

ACTS AMENDMENT (LEGAL COSTS) BILL

Introduction and First Reading

Bill introduced, on motion by Hon Peter Foss (Attorney General), and read a first time.

Second Reading

HON PETER FOSS (East Metropolitan - Attorney General) [5.18 pm]: I move -

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Bill responds to the decision of the Full Court of the Supreme Court of Western Australia in *Klahn v Talbot* - unreported, 12 September 1996 - where the successful appellant had been awarded costs under the Official Prosecutions (Defendants' Costs) Act 1973, even though he appeared in person and had not engaged a lawyer.

The Crown had appealed to the Full Court on the basis that the costs scale referred to in that Act provided for an award of costs only in respect of legal services provided in those particular proceedings. However, an amendment to the Act in 1977 had repealed the provision authorising the Governor to make a costs scale. Therefore, the Full Court held that the scale could not validly apply and that the provisions of the Act simply conferred a discretion upon the court to make an order for costs for whatever amount it thought appropriate. Further, questions were also raised by two members of the Full Court as to the power of the Legal Costs Committee established under the Legal Practitioners Act 1893 to determine the scale of costs, even if the scale could have been validly made.

The Bill restores the ability of the Legal Costs Committee to create the costs scale for the purposes of section 5(5) of the Official Prosecutions (Defendants' Costs) Act 1973 and confirms the power of the Legal Costs Committee to determine a scale for the purposes of any other Act that refers to fees, costs, expenses, etc, being fixed by determinations of the Legal Costs Committee.

The Bill will also make it clear that the committee does have the power to prescribe for the reimbursement of all expenses properly incurred by a legal practitioner on behalf of a client or directly by a legal practitioner's client. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon E.R.J. Dermer.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - SPECIAL

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [5.20 pm]: I move -

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

I want to take a moment to explain a set of circumstances that arose early this afternoon and indicate that I had agreed with the non-government parties that we would proceed to appoint all members to all committees this week. That was a commitment that I had given and that I have honoured. The order of business today was outlined in the note that I sent to the Leader of the Opposition which said that I would be seeking to sit beyond 5.00 pm as a precautionary measure in case the House took longer than I had predicted. I indicated what I proposed to do this afternoon, which included the appointment of committees. There was never any intention to dud anybody, as the Leader of the Opposition might have indicated. My commitment was that we would conclude the setting up of the committees and the appointment of members to those committees. I had no intention at any time of renegeing on that agreement. Members will notice that we have done that and we have completed the legislative program that the Opposition agreed to deal with. It is regrettable that the Leader of the Opposition felt that in some way I was seeking to dud him, to use his words. That has never been my intention and it will not be my intention in the future.

HON TOM STEPHENS (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the Opposition) [5.21 pm]: I express the appreciation of all members on this side that we now have in place the standing committee system that we were seeking, or at least an approximation of that. I express my appreciation also that the Leader of the House has put in place the arrangements that he had undertaken to put in place. It appears that there was some misunderstanding about the sequence of those events. I regret that we were on the alert for any prospects that might have led to the situation going another way.

Hon N.F. Moore: Had I given you an hour of question time today, you would not be in that position. I would have been happy to do that today.

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I understand that. The Leader of the House mentioned that to me previously, and it simply increased my apprehension about the possibilities that were available to the Leader of the House by virtue of the length to which members on this side of the House were going in support of these proposals.

Hon N.F. Moore: Do you support the selective extension of question time?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: On some occasions I am more supportive of the extension of these things than on others. We have reached the end of what has been for many of us a tough six months since the last state election. That applies to many members in this Chamber. Some members are fresher than others because they have been here for only a few weeks.

Hon Mark Nevill: Some members want to sit next week!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: I am not one of those. I appreciate the effort that members have made to pursue their roles in the Parliament. From time to time that takes us in different directions and puts us in conflict with one another. That is exhausting for us all, but that is part of the process of serving our constituencies in the way we believe those constituencies are best served.

I thank all those people in this House who make our lives easier than they may otherwise be. It has been a tough period for me. Previous Leaders of the Opposition have said regularly how tough the job is. I used to think it looked like such a breezy and easy job! I had no idea how tough it can be to occupy this seat. I appreciate the support that so many people have given me.

Hon Barry House: Is this a farewell speech?

Hon TOM STEPHENS: It may be! In the ups and downs of politics, who knows? I do not expect that to be the case, but that is the way of politics.

Hon Derrick Tomlinson: You have heard of the famous book!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: That is right.

I thank you, Mr President, for your help during this period. I hope that we all have a decent break to work in our electorates and perform our other duties beyond this Chamber, and that we can return to this Chamber after that seven weeks of immersion into the Western Australian community and continue to improve on the arrangements that are now in place in this House. I am committed to that process. I can understand why that is difficult for the Leader of the House. I believe it will be smoother sailing for us all from now on -

Hon Mark Nevill: As soon as we can lay our hands on the rudder!

Hon Ken Travers: Hon Tom Stephens is buying drinks afterwards!

Hon TOM STEPHENS: Perhaps with this good humour we will be able to return from this recess with a renewed determination to take a cooperative and collaborative approach to serving the interests of the Western Australian community, based on trust and confidence in each other, despite the fact that we are opponents across the Chamber on a range of issues. I look forward to those opportunities as they emerge.

Question put and passed.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON N.F. MOORE (Mining and Pastoral - Leader of the House) [5.26 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

Adjournment Debate - Women's Service Guild

HON CHERYL DAVENPORT (South Metropolitan) [5.26 pm]: I wish to pay tribute to a Western Australian institution that today disbanded as an organisation. I am speaking about the Women's Service Guild of Western Australia Inc, which this morning held its closing ceremony after 88 years of service to this State. I was proud to be invited to attend that ceremony as the Opposition spokesperson on women's interests. I am sorry that the Government did not see fit to send a parliamentary representative; the representative of the Premier was a departmental person.

It is important that after nine decades of service by the Women's Service Guild, we acknowledge the women who have served that organisation well. Before the closure of this organisation, it launched a book of its history entitled

Women on the Warpath, Feminists of the First Wave, written by Dianne Davidson, whom I have known for a number of years and who has written a very comprehensive publication. The introduction of the book states -

In 1928 a visiting Victorian feminist hailed tiny, isolated Perth as 'the Mecca of the Women's Movement in Australia', and the source of 'streams of inspiration and knowledge to the rest of the continent'.

This tribute, unimaginable today, was prompted by the work of the Women's Service Guilds, a remarkable organisation born in 1909 as part of the first wave of feminism in Australia. At its zenith in the 1920s and 1930s it was a powerful force for social reform, and stood in the forefront of the many activist women's groups which existed at that time throughout the country.

The Women's Service Guild was one of the organisations that was instrumental in the establishment of King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women, of kindergarten education in this State, of the Girl Guides Association, and of the home for older women, which was then at Mt Henry Hospital, which closed its doors recently. It was responsible for the establishment of organisations such as the Civil Rehabilitation Council of Western Australia, the Prisoners Aid Society, the Society for the Preservation of Nature, which in the early days was concerned with keeping the Swan River foreshore in good condition for future generations, and also for the establishment of the pioneer women's memorial in Kings Park.

Its philosophical position was dedicated towards improving the quality of life of Western Australian women and children over those years. It was dedicated in particular to ensuring that women received equal pay for work of equal value. Theoretically, that has now been achieved. Unfortunately, we are once again falling behind and that is largely due to the move from a centralised wage fixing system to a deregulated labour market. It is something about which all members should be vigilant.

The Western Australian Women's Service Guild has had as members many prominent women. Members may remember some of them and I refer to Bessie Rischbieth, Jean Beadie, Irene Greenwood and Florence Hummerston and former members of Parliament, Edith Cowan, Dame Florence Cardell-Oliver, Ruby Hutchinson, the first woman member of the Legislative Council, and Wendy Fatin who was the federal member for Canning and then Brand from 1983 to 1993.

One of the older women said at the closing ceremony this morning that many daughters followed their mothers as contributing members of the Women's Service Guild. Its motto was "By love we served".

At today's final meeting a very important announcement was made. The Women's Service Guild will continue to be remembered by a scholarship for which the trust organisation will be Murdoch University. It is ground breaking as people can apply to study at any Western Australian university. The trust foundation has \$600 000 provided by the guild from property sales. A three year doctoral scholarship is to be awarded at \$21 000 a year, which I understand is at the higher end of scholarships. The scholarship will provide for a doctoral research in medicine and associated fields for the benefit of women and children. It is essentially to look at the prevention of disease and, obviously, that will take into account breast cancer and the reasons women contract such cancer, and immunisation.

I place on record the congratulations of all members for the many years of service to the community by an organisation which has had as activists many wonderful women who have served the community of Western Australia.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.32 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

WHEELCHAIRS - POWERED

Users - Training

373. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

Will the Minister's department provide training and vision tests for powered wheelchair users?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

A physically disabled person who utilises a motorised wheelchair that is designed not to travel at a speed exceeding 7 kilometres per hour is not required to licence the wheelchair or to be the holder of a driver's licence. Persons travelling in these wheelchairs are defined as pedestrians under the Road Traffic Code 1975. If the motorised wheelchair is required to be licensed, then a motor driver's licence may be issued to the person free of charge. Prior to the issue of a driver's licence for a motorised wheelchair an applicant would be required to undergo and pass an eyesight test. The Department of Transport is not considering any changes to the current requirements.

ROADS - CURTIN AVENUE, COTTESLOE

Extension

380. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are there any plans to widen or alter Curtin Avenue, Cottesloe?
- (2) Will any further land resumption be required to do this?
- (3) If yes, what are the estimated costs of these resumptions?
- (4) What amounts of traffic are predicted to use Curtin Avenue and Servetus Street?
- (5) Has an origin destination study been undertaken to this plan, and will the Minister table a copy?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)-(5) The concept to widen Curtin Avenue is included in the metropolitan region scheme under the auspices of the Ministry for Planning and therefore the member should direct his question to the Minister for Planning.

ROADS - ROE HIGHWAY

Extension

381. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) When is the extension of Roe Highway, west of the Kwinana Freeway planned to commence?
- (2) When will it connect with the Fremantle Eastern Bypass?
- (3) At what location will the Roe Highway connect with the Fremantle Eastern Bypass
- (4) How much traffic is the Roe Highway expected to channel onto the Fremantle Eastern Bypass going north, and the Cockburn Road extension to the south?
- (5) How much traffic is the Roe Highway expected to bring into Fremantle?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)-(2) There is no program for either connection at this time.
- (3) In the vicinity of Rockingham Road. The specific location is yet to be determined and any decision will be subject to community consultation.
- (4)-(5) This information is not available. A traffic study is planned before the community consultation commences.

ROADS - COCKBURN ROAD

Extension

382. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Will the proposed Cockburn Road extension to the Fremantle Eastern Bypass pass through land that is covered by the terms contained in the Alumina Refinery Agreements (Alcoa) Act?
- (2) If not, will this proposed extension extend the distance of the journey?
- (3) If so, by how much?
- (4) If the distance of the journey will be extended, what will be the increase in costs compared to the costs if the road does not have to be diverted?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)-(2) No.
- (3)-(4) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - SCHOOLS

Cleaning

404. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many contracts have been awarded for cleaning in public schools since February 1993?
- (2) Who has been awarded this or these contracts?
- (3) What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?
- (4) What -
 - (a) savings; or
 - (b) additional costs,
 have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by Government?
- (5) What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by Government?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) 97 school cleaning contracts.
- (2)-(3) See tabled paper.
- (4) In the 1996 school year, there was a saving of \$3 802 377.
- (5) In the cleaning services contract, there is a three level dispute resolution process. The first level is administered by the school Principal, with levels two and three administered by officers of the Education Department. Random inspections of school cleaning standards are carried out by Departmental staff throughout the year. In addition, from the beginning of the 1997 school year, the cleaning contractors and the Education Department have implemented a Quality Assurance System for all contract cleaned schools. Contractors are required to submit monthly reports to the Department. School principals are invited to participate in the monthly inspection and sign the reports.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - SCHOOLS

Lawnmowing

405. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many contracts have been awarded for lawnmowing in public schools since February 1993?
- (2) Who has been awarded this or these contracts?
- (3) What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?

- (4) What -
- (a) savings; or
 - (b) additional costs,
- have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by Government?
- (5) What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by Government?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) 28 lawn mowing contracts have been let since February 1993.
- (2)-(3) See tabled paper.
- (4) (a)-(b) Lawn mowing at schools in major country areas has been undertaken by contractors for many years. The cost savings with the privatising of the metropolitan lawn mowing cannot be determined, due to the expanded scope of works. This increase includes aeration of the building surrounds, seven additional cuts per annum for building surrounds, one additional cut per annum to the oval, six cuts to the semicultivated areas per annum and the mowing of embankments and other turf areas not previously mowed by the Western Australian Building Management Authority.
- (5) The department has a two tiered approach to performance and contract management.
- Endorsement by the school Principal for each service.
 - Client satisfaction survey which is carried out annually.

In addition, in the lawn maintenance contract, there is a three level dispute resolution process. The first level is administered by the school principal, with levels two and three administered by officers of the Education Department. Random inspections of school mowing standards are also carried out by departmental staff throughout the year.

GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - SCHOOLS

Management of Equipment Leasing

406. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:
- (1) How many contracts have been awarded for management of the leasing of equipment contract in public schools since February 1993?
- (2) Who has been awarded this or these contracts?
- (3) What were the respective value or values of this or these contracts?
- (4) What -
- (a) savings; or
 - (b) additional costs,
- have resulted from the provision of each of these services by private contractors instead of by Government?
- (5) What mechanisms are in place to monitor the performance of private contractors instead of by Government?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) Only one contract has been awarded.
- (2) The Common Pond Pty Ltd.
- (3) \$144 per agreement (whole of life which includes Contract Administration) or approximately \$45,000 per annum.
- (4) (a)-(b) The service was not previously provided.
- (5) Contract & Supply Services Section of the Education Department approves all agreements and payments. The contractor undertakes day to day operational activities associated with the management of the contract. Schools which have a grievance can lodge a complaint with the Coordinator of Contract and Supply Services at Head Office. Should the grievance not be resolved to the satisfaction of the department, it has the option to terminate the contract and re-let to another contractor.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - PROGRAMS FOR ABORIGINES

Funding

420. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What programs are conducted in the Minister for Education's portfolio, and related agencies, to assist and advance the welfare of Aboriginal persons?
- (2) What are the details of these programs?
- (3) What funds are made available to these programs?
- (4) What is the source of those funds?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(4) See tabled paper, Aboriginal Programs in Education.

LABOUR RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL - ADVERTISING

Cost

462. Hon PAUL SULC to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How much money has the Government spent advertising the "benefits" of the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Bill (1997)?
- (2) What costs were incurred during pre-production of the -
 - (a) newspaper advertisements;
 - (b) television advertisements; and
 - (c) radio advertisements?
- (3) Who received the contract for preparation of the -
 - (a) newspaper advertisements;
 - (b) television advertisements; and
 - (c) radio advertisements?
- (4) What remuneration did they receive, or is pledged for them to receive, for this contract?
- (5) What is the total budgeted cost for this campaign?
- (6) What is the total budgeted cost for the -
 - (a) newspaper advertisements;
 - (b) television advertisements; and
 - (c) radio advertisements?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Approximately \$241,331 has been spent to date on the media for the information campaign about the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Bill (1997) and the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act (1997).
- (2)
 - (a) Approximately \$7,002
 - (b) Approximately \$36,874
 - (c) Approximately \$2,500
- (3) Benchmark Advertising
- (4) Refer to (2).
- (5) Total costs have not been determined.
- (6) Total costs have not been determined.

EDUCATION - NON-GOVERNMENT

Catholic - Funding

481. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) What level of funding was provided to Catholic Education by the State Government in the years -
 - (a) 1993/94;
 - (b) 1994/95;
 - (c) 1995/96; and
 - (d) 1996/97?
- (2) What is the projected amount of funding for 1997/98?
- (3) Does the Minister for Education intend to increase the resources available from the State Government to Catholic Education in Western Australia?
- (4) If not, why not?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- | (1) | Recurrent Funding | Low Interest Loan Funds | |
|-----|-------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| (a) | 1993/94 | \$46.4 million | \$8.8 million |
| (b) | 1994/95 | \$51.1 million | \$11.0 million |
| (c) | 1995/96 | \$54.1 million | \$14.2 million |
| (d) | 1996/97 | \$60.2 million (estimate) | \$22.5 million
(estimate) |
- (2) Projected funding in 1997/98 includes \$67.6 million in recurrent funding and \$15.0 million in low interest loan funds.
 - (3)-(4) Funding to Catholic schools increases each year commensurate with increases in Catholic school enrolments, opening of new Catholic schools, specific budget increases for all non-government schools, and automatic increases due to increases in the government school cost benchmark on which non-government school per capita grants are based.

EDUCATION - TERTIARY ENTRANCE EXAM

Politics and Legal Studies

483. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) How many students have enrolled in the new TEE Politics and Legal Studies course?
- (2) What schools offer TEE Politics and Legal Studies?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1) In 1996, 553 students were enrolled in 29 schools at Year 11 only. In 1997, the estimated enrolments are -

Year 11	893 students in 38 schools.
Year 12	727 students in 31 schools.
- (2) The following schools offer Political and Legal Studies in Year 11 or Year 12, or both -
 - All Saints' College
 - Applecross Senior High School
 - Aquinas College
 - Busselton Senior High School
 - Canning College
 - Carine Senior High School
 - Christ Church Grammar School
 - Churchlands Senior High School
 - Cyril Jackson Senior Campus
 - Duncraig Senior High School
 - Eastern Goldfields Senior High School
 - Eastern Hills Senior High School
 - Greenwood Senior High School
 - Guildford Grammar School
 - Hale School
 - Hampton Senior High School

Hollywood Senior High School
 John Wollaston Anglican School
 John XXIII College
 Kelmscott Senior High School
 Kent Street Senior High School
 Mercedes College
 Methodist Ladies' College
 Mirrabooka Senior High School
 Morley Senior High School
 Mt Lawley Senior High School
 Narrogin Senior High School
 North Lake Senior Campus
 Ocean Reef Senior High School
 Penrhos College
 Perth College
 Presbyterian Ladies' College
 Rossmoyne Senior High School
 Sacred Heart College
 Safety Bay Senior High School
 Seton Catholic College
 St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls
 Thornlie Senior High School
 Wesley College
 Woodvale Senior High School

ROADS - BRUCE ROCK-DOODLAKINE ROAD

Grain Transport

488. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the detrimental impact that the transportation of grain by heavy-haulage vehicles along the Bruce Rock-Doodlakine Road is having on the condition of this road and the safety of other road users?
- (2) Is it appropriate that grain is transported in this manner along a narrow country road when it could be transferred by an available rail link through Bruce Rock, Ainsworth and Corrigin?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)-(2) This year's record harvest of almost 10 million tonnes exceeded the expected harvest of 8.4 million tonnes by around 1.6 million tonnes or 20%. To maximise returns to grain growers by selling grain at premium prices, it was planned for almost 1.5 million tonnes of grain to be shipped from Western Australian ports during the month of March. The 1.5 million tonnes program was aimed at 50% above the previous record shipment of one million tonnes for a single month. The combination of a record harvest and an unprecedented shipping program resulted in a land transport task larger than Westrail's normal available train capacity. Westrail responded by hiring additional resources to increase its train capacity.

To further optimise the tonnages moved by rail, Westrail is concentrating its operation of trains on lines where maximum train loads can be achieved and where Co-operative Bulk Handling Pty Ltd loading facilities are the most efficient for rail transport. The additional resources plus the optimisation program has resulted in the weekly capacity of rail transport increasing from around 170 000 tonnes to around 220 000 tonnes.

Rail transport has been supplemented by road transport to take some grain direct to port, but more particularly, to relocate grain to locations where train tonnages and loading rates are the most efficient, maximising the use of rail transport.

The unprecedented shipping program is being driven by the Australian Wheat Board and was jointly planned by the Australian Wheat Board, Co-operative Bulk Handling Pty Ltd and Westrail, and is aimed at achieving maximum returns to the grain growers of Western Australia. Australian Wheat Board estimates indicate that this initiative will realise an additional \$6 million to grain growers.

As part of the extraordinary transport requirements grain was transported by road to Doodlakine from Shackleton, Yarding and Ainsworth via the Bruce Rock to Doodlakine Road. It was imperative that the grain be moved quickly and without using "long vehicles" the number of trips would have doubled and the duration of the task increased, causing greater inconvenience and reduction in safety to road users. In addition, as the use of long vehicles reduces the number of trips over the pavement surface, the amount of damage to roads is minimised. This movement of grain finished in late April.

On April 4, I announced a major restructuring of the peak grain handling and freight system planning body dealing with the movement of grain from the farm gate to port. The ultimate objective is to maximise net farm gate returns to growers and to do this it was necessary to widen scope of the original Grain Freight Steering Committee and to look at changes required over the next 5 to 25 years. The new body is known as the Grain Logistics Committee, incorporating a steering committee and a review committee comprised of representatives from the WA Farmers' Federation, Pastoralists and Graziers' Association, Co-operative Bulk Handling, Australian Wheat Board, Grain Pool of Western Australia, Westrail and the road transport industry. In order to ensure maximum efficiency and therefore maximum return to growers, a long-term planning approach, including road construction and programmed maintenance will be undertaken. Consultation with local government will be integral to the planning approach.

COLLEGES OF TAFE - COUNCILS

Female Representation

500. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:
- (1) Is it the policy of the Minister for Employment and Training that there be 50 per cent female representation on college councils?
 - (2) Is this official government policy?
 - (3) If yes, when did this become official government policy, and why?
 - (4) What action will be taken against colleges that do not comply?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

- (1)-(4) It is government policy to continue to encourage more women on government boards and committees. Colleges were requested to ensure that nominations for council membership reflected both this policy and the gender balance of their local communities. I refer the member to the coalition policy document "Women: Meeting the Challenge" of 24 November 1996.

ENVIRONMENT - TYRE RECYCLING

511. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for the Environment:
- (1) Has the Government put any arrangements in place for tyre recycling in Western Australia?
 - (2) If yes, what are they?
 - (3) How many used tyres were recycled in Western Australia in 1996?
 - (4) How many used tyres were dumped in landfill sites in Western Australia in 1996?
 - (5) How many tyre dumps are operating in the metropolitan area and where are they located?
 - (6) Are these tyre dumps licensed?
 - (7) If not, why not?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

- (1) Yes.
- (2) On 12 November 1996 amendments to the Environmental Protection Regulations were gazetted to provide preference for retreading and recycling of used tyres and a mechanism to phase out the landfilling of used tyres in the metropolitan area and adjacent shires.
- (3) Very few, but there are indications that retreading of tyres has increased since changes to the Regulations governing the use of retreads.
- (4) No official figures are available for 1996 but approximately 640,000 used passenger vehicle tyre equivalents were landfilled in 1995.
- (5) One. The Eclipse Resources Class I landfill is located at Lots 1&2 Flynn Drive Wanneroo. Another tyre disposal facility is located at Chris Hill Quarry just beyond the metropolitan area in the Shire of Toodyay.

- (6) Both of these facilities are approved under the used tyre regulations introduced in 1991 under the Environmental Protection Act. Licensing of the Flynn Drive facility as an inert landfill under the new licensing system should be completed by 30 June 1997. It is not proposed to licence Chris Hill Quarry as a landfill because tyre disposal at this facility will cease this year.
- (7) Not applicable.

GOVERNMENT ADVERTISING - INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS LEGISLATION

Cost

516. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) What is the estimated cost of the Government's advertising and public relations campaign from January 1, 1997 in support of its industrial relations legislation and how much of this cost is attributable to -
- (a) newspaper advertising;
 - (b) television advertising;
 - (c) radio advertising; and
 - (d) production or consultants contracts?
- (2) What is the anticipated cost of the Government's advertising and public relations campaigns since May 15, 1997 in support of its industrial relations legislation and how much of that relates to -
- (a) newspaper advertising;
 - (b) television advertising;
 - (c) radio advertising;
 - (d) production or consultants contracts; and
 - (e) the use of the Internet?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) (a) Approximately \$94,000 has been spent to the end of May 1997. Further costs are yet to be determined.
- (b) Approximately \$100,000 has been spent to the end of May 1997. Further costs are yet to be determined.
- (c) Nil.
- (d) Approximately \$26,000.
- (2) (a) Approximately \$14,000 was spent between 15 May 1997 and 31 May 1997. Bookings exist for a further \$47,000 during June 1997. The full extent of bookings up to 30 June 1997 is yet to be determined.
- (b)-(c) Yet to be determined.
- (d) Approximately \$4,600.
- (e) Nil.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - LEGISLATION

Proceedings

521. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

I note that in the last Annual Report the Department of Labour Relations indicated it is responsible for the Conspiracy and Protection of Property Act 1900 and the Workmen's Wages Act of 1898 -

- (1) Have any proceedings been instituted by the department under either of these Acts?
- (2) Is it proposed to introduce any?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(2) No.

INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS - ABORIGINAL EMPLOYEES

Information on Rights

522. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) Are there any programs directed at meeting the needs of Aboriginal people for information about their rights as employees?
- (2) If so, have Aboriginal groups been consulted?
- (3) If so, which ones?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Aboriginals are provided with information on rights, obligations and choices as other employees through the Fair Workplaces program. The DOPLAR regional offices at Kalgoorlie and Karratha, in particular, provide such information to many aboriginals. These officers provide information to aboriginal organisations and communities as well as participating on courses for aboriginal employees run through educational institutions such as Kalgoorlie College.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.

MAIN ROADS WESTERN AUSTRALIA - REVEGETATION

Contracts

523. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for Transport:

Further to the Minister's answer to question on notice 222 of 1997, what was the rate or what amount was paid to each of the contractors referred to and how was the amount calculated?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

Contract 199/96

Contracted Amount	\$224 494.00
Payments to Date	\$127 483.80

Contract 207/96

Contracted Amount	\$272 454.00
Payments to Date	\$249 174.10

Contract 265/96

Contracted Amount	\$326 010.55
Payments to Date	\$240 328.00

Contract 133/96

Contracted Amount	\$26 101.00
Payments to Date	\$25 168.00

Contract 504/95

Contracted Amount	\$113 545.00
Payments to Date	\$ 70 779.95

Contract 505/95

Contracted Amount	\$286 837.00
Payments to Date	\$270 313.10

Contract 548/95

Contracted Amount	\$61 613.00
Payments to Date	\$54 907.21

Contract 504/96

Contracted Amount	\$9 011.45
Payments to Date	Nil

Contract 60/96

Contracted Amount	\$35 823.50
Payments to Date	\$20 955.00

PARKS AND RESERVES - REGIONAL

New - Management

525. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Finance representing the Minister for the Environment:

I refer the Minister for the Environment to the announcement of the eight new regional parks in Western Australia -

- (1) What will be the role of community groups in the management of these new regional parks?
- (2) Will the Department of Conservation and Land Management be co-operating with local community groups in the management of the regional parks?
- (3) Will local community groups be funded to participate in the management of these regional parks?
- (4) If so, how will such funding be decided?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

- (1) Community groups will play a vital role in providing advice and assistance to CALM and Local Government Authorities on the management strategies for regional parks. Community groups will be able to assist with the preparation of management plans and the functions undertaken by volunteer groups and friends groups, including research, honorary rangers, education and wildlife carer roles.
- (2) Yes.
- (3) CALM has been allocated funds for the management of the parks and will make appropriate provisions to accommodate the involvement of community groups.
- (4) CALM will allocate expenditures according to need and in consultation with the relevant management advisory committees.

PLANNING - FREMANTLE-ROCKINGHAM INDUSTRIAL AREA REGIONAL STRATEGY

Steering Committee

527. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Who are the members of the steering committee for the Fremantle -Rockingham Industrial Area Regional Strategy?
- (2) When was this steering committee established?
- (3) What are the terms of reference of the Fremantle-Rockingham Industrial Area Regional Strategy?
- (4) Why are there no community representatives on the FRIARS steering committee?
- (5) Why aren't the Rockingham, Fremantle and Cockburn Local Government Authorities represented on the FRIARS steering committee?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Ministry for Planning (Chair), Department of Resources Development, Department of Commerce and Trade, Department of Transport, Main Roads Western Australia South-West District Planning Committee, Department of Minerals & Energy, Water Corporation, Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Fremantle Port Authority, LandCorp, Department of Environmental Protection and Westrail.
- (2) 18 March 1996.
- (3) See tabled paper.

- (4) There are community representatives on the steering committee.
- (5) The local authorities of Rockingham, Cockburn and Fremantle are represented on the steering committee by the Chairman of the South-West District Planning Committee.

ROADS - ROCKINGHAM ROAD

Traffic Volume

529. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the volume of traffic which used Rockingham Road, between Hampton Avenue and Spearwood Avenue, for each of the following years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) For the traffic volumes in each of these years, can the Minister specify how many were -
 - (a) passenger vehicles;
 - (b) commercial vehicles; and
 - (c) trucks carrying freight?
- (3) What is the projected annual traffic volume capacity of Rockingham Road?
- (4) On what date will this capacity be reached?
- (5) What is the projected daily traffic volume capacity of Rockingham Road?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)

(a)	1992/93	Average daily traffic at Hampton Road 13 758. Average daily traffic at Spearwood Avenue 15 247.
(b)	1993/94	Data not available.
(c)	1994/95	Data not available.
(d)	1995/96	Average daily traffic at Hampton Road (April) 6 934 eastbound only. Westbound data not available. Average daily traffic at Spearwood Avenue (May) 15 909.
- (2) Not available.
- (3) 8.8 million - 10.6 million.
- (4) Beyond year 2021.
- (5) Projected daily traffic volume 24 000 - 29 000.

ROADS - ROCKINGHAM ROAD

Maintenance Expenditure

530. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much money did the Main Roads Department spend on the upkeep and maintenance of Rockingham Road for each of the years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) How much money does the Main Roads Department plan to spend on the upkeep and maintenance of Rockingham Road for the next four years?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1) In respect of the section of Rockingham Road between Stock Road and Patterson Road which is under Main Roads control:
- | | | |
|-----|---------|-----------|
| (a) | 1993/94 | \$105 500 |
| (b) | 1994/95 | \$103 700 |
| (c) | 1995/96 | \$108 100 |
| (d) | 1996/97 | \$101 000 |
- (2) Approximately \$450 000.

ROADS - SOUTH STREET

Plans

531. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Are there any plans to widen or increase the lane structure of South Street, between Stock Road and Hampton Road?
- (2) How much land adjoining this section of South Street has been reserved for the road?
- (3) How many houses are included within the road reserve?
- (4) How many businesses are currently functioning within the road reserve?
- (5) How much money has the Main Roads Department spent acquiring property within this road reserve?
- (6) Will the Minister table the present plans for altering this section of South Street?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

In respect of the section of South Street between Curedale Street and Stock Road which is controlled by Main Roads:

- (1) Yes. A nominal 40 metre wide reservation exists in the Metropolitan Region Scheme to protect options for future widening.
- (2) Ten metres are currently reserved on each side of the existing road. However, preliminary investigations indicate that five metres on either side would be adequate for future widening between Curedale Road and Hines Road (30 metre total reservation). The full 40 metre reservation is required between Hines Road and Stock Road.
- (3) Thirteen buildings are affected by the five metre widening lines between Curedale Road and Hines Road. A further four buildings are affected by corner truncations but these would normally only be when the property is redeveloped.
- (4) Details of building occupancy is not known at this time.
- (5) \$107 000.
- (6) Detailed road designs are not available. However, a base land requirement plan is held by Main Roads Western Australia.

ROADS - SOUTH STREET

Traffic Volume

532. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the volume of traffic which used South Street, between Stock Road and Hampton Road, for each of the following years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?

- (2) For the traffic volumes in each of these years, can the Minister specify how many were -
 - (a) passenger vehicles;
 - (b) commercial vehicles; and
 - (c) trucks carrying freight?
- (3) What is the projected annual traffic volume capacity of this section of South Street?
- (4) On what date will this capacity be reached?
- (5) What plans does the Main Roads Department have in place to cater for traffic capacity being reached on this section of South Street?
- (6) What is the projected daily traffic volume capacity of this section of South Street?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)
 - (a) 1992/93 Average daily traffic at Stock Road 20 455. Average daily traffic at Hampton Road 12 350.
 - (b) 1993/94 Data not available.
 - (c) 1994/95 Average daily traffic at Stock Road 22 663. Average daily traffic at Hampton Road data is not available.
 - (d) 1995/96 Data not available.
1996/97 Average daily traffic at Stock Road (January) 22 124. Average daily traffic at Hampton Road (September) 11 425.
- (2) Data not available.
- (3) 4.4 million.
- (4) Capacity has been reached.
- (5) The five metre setback is intended to allow for the possibility of widening at some time in the future.
- (6) Projected daily traffic volume 12 000.

ROADS - SOUTH STREET

Maintenance Expenditure

533. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much money has the Main Roads Department spent on the upkeep and maintenance of South Street, between Stock Road and Hampton Road, for each of the years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) How much money does the Main Roads Department plan to spend on the upkeep and maintenance of South Street, between Stock Road and Hampton Road, for the next four years?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

Prior to 1 July 1995, South Street was the responsibility of local government authorities. From 1 July 1995, Main Roads has been responsible for the section east of Curedale Road. The section between Curedale Road and Hampton Road remains the responsibility of the City of Fremantle.

- (1)

(a) 1993/94	local government road
(b) 1994/95	local government road
(c) 1995/96	\$16 000
(d) 1996/97	\$17 600
- (2) Approximately \$100 000.

ROADS - COCKBURN ROAD

Traffic Volume

534. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the volume of traffic which used Cockburn Road, between Rockingham Road and Stock Road, for each of the following years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) For the traffic volumes in each of these years, can the Minister specify how many were -
 - (a) passenger vehicles;
 - (b) commercial vehicles; and
 - (c) trucks carrying freight?
- (3) What is the projected annual traffic volume capacity of Cockburn Road?
- (4) On what date will this capacity be reached?
- (5) What is the projected daily traffic volume capacity of Cockburn Road?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)

(a)	1992/93	Average daily traffic at Rockingham Road 16 095. Average daily traffic at Stock Road 16 965.
(b)	1993/94	Data not available.
(c)	1994/95	Data not available.
(d)	1995/96	Average daily traffic at Rockingham Road (April) 17 972. Average daily traffic at Stock Road (April) 17 026.
	1996/97	Average daily traffic at Rockingham Road (October) 17 844. Average daily traffic at Stock Road (August) 16 514.
- (2) Data not available.
- (3) 4.4 million.
- (4) Capacity has been reached.
- (5) 12 000.

ROADS - COCKBURN ROAD

Maintenance Expenditure

535. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much money has the Main Roads Department spent on the upkeep and maintenance of Cockburn Road for each of the years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) How much money does the Main Roads Department plan to spend on the upkeep and maintenance of Cockburn Road for the next four years?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)

(a)	1993/94	\$ 87 000
(b)	1994/95	\$ 79 400
(c)	1995/96	\$ 99 000
(d)	1996/97	\$101 000
- (2) Approximately \$400 000.

ROADS - STOCK ROAD

Traffic Volume

536. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the volume of traffic which used Stock Road, between Leach Highway and Cockburn Road, for each of the following years -
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) For the traffic volumes in each of these years, can the Minister specify how many were -
 - (a) passenger vehicles;
 - (b) commercial vehicles; and
 - (c) trucks carrying freight?
- (3) What is the projected annual traffic volume capacity of Stock Road?
- (4) On what date will this capacity be reached?
- (5) What is the projected daily traffic volume capacity of Stock Road?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1)

(a)	1992/93	Average daily traffic at Leach Highway 22 701. Average daily traffic at Cockburn Road 23 021.
(b)	1993/94	Data not available.
(c)	1994/95	Average daily traffic at Leach Highway 21 759. Average daily traffic at Cockburn Road data is not available.
(d)	1995/96 1996/97	Data not available. Average daily traffic at Leach Highway (September) 23 384. Average daily traffic at Cockburn Road (August) 17 229.
- (2) Data not available.
- (3) 16.8 million - 20.4 million.
- (4) Beyond 2021.
- (5) 46 000 - 56 000.

ROADS - STOCK ROAD

Maintenance Expenditure

537. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) How much money has the Main Roads Department spent on the upkeep and maintenance of Stock Road for each of the years-
 - (a) 1993;
 - (b) 1994;
 - (c) 1995; and
 - (d) 1996?
- (2) How much money does the Main Roads Department plan to spend on the upkeep and maintenance of Stock Road for the next four years?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1) In respect of the section between Leach Highway and Rockingham Road which is under Main Roads control.

(a)	1993/94	\$92 500
(b)	1994/95	\$91 000
(c)	1995/96	\$95 000
(d)	1996/97	\$97 500

- (2) Approximately \$410 000.

ROADS - STOCK ROAD

Traffic Volume

538. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) What was the volume of traffic which used Stock Road, between Leach Highway and South Street, for each of the following years -

- (a) 1993;
- (b) 1994;
- (c) 1995; and
- (d) 1996?

- (2) For the traffic volumes in each of these years, can the Minister specify how many were -

- (a) passenger vehicles;
- (b) commercial vehicles; and
- (c) trucks carrying freight?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

- (1) (a) 1992/93 Average daily traffic at Leach Highway 22 701.
Average daily traffic at South Street 21 901.
- (b) 1993/94 Data not available.
- (c) 1994/95 Average daily traffic at Leach Highway 21 759.
Average daily traffic at South Street data is not available.
- (d) 1995/96 Data not available.
1996/97 Average daily traffic at Leach Highway (September) 23 384.
Average daily traffic at South Street (September) 21 639.
- (2) (a)-(c) Data not available.

ABORIGINAL ART - INVESTMENT PROCEDURES

Criteria

543. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Minister for the Arts:

- (1) Can the Minister explain what the "investment procedures" are as defined by the State Department of the Arts, and how they are applied to Aboriginal art and organisations dealing with Aboriginal art?
- (2) For what purpose is this criteria applied to organisations?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) Aboriginal artists and organisations apply for project funding through Arts Investment in the same way as all other applicants. There is a standard application form with an advertised closing date. Applications are assessed by a panel made up of Aboriginal people from across the state. The panel makes recommendations to the Executive Director who signs letters of offer or rejection. The Executive Director has a policy of endorsing all panel recommendations.

In relation to major organisations known as Arts Agencies there are standard business planning and reporting requirements for all Agencies including Aboriginal organisations. When Agencies do not meet these requirements or do not fulfil their objectives funding can be withdrawn such as in the case of the State Theatre Company, Chrissie Parrott Dance Company and Dumbartung Aboriginal Corporation.

- (2) Arts Investment is a term used which indicates that any funds received for arts projects through ArtsWA must provide a benefit for the people of Western Australia. Arts funding is not a right for the benefit of the artist or the organisation alone. It must provide some public benefit.

MINISTERS OF THE CROWN - ATTORNEY GENERAL

Marks Royal Commission - Solicitor General's Advice

553. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Attorney General:

With respect to the Attorney's answer to question on notice 490 of 1997 -

- (1) Did the Attorney General seek the advice of the Solicitor General?
- (2) If so, on what date(s)?
- (3) On what date(s) did the Attorney General receive advice from the Solicitor General?
- (4) Did the Attorney General receive any communication from the Director of Public Prosecutions with respect to the matters?
- (5) If so, in each case specify whether the communications were verbal or in writing, or partly verbal and partly in writing and on what dates did they occur?
- (6) On what date did the Attorney General act on the advice of the Solicitor General, requesting that the question of whether or not any charges should be laid against any person or persons arising out of the Royal Commission be referred by him, to the Director of Public Prosecutions for his consideration?
- (7) On what date(s) did the Solicitor General refer the question to the Director of Public Prosecutions?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) No. The advice of the Solicitor General was sought by the former Attorney General.
- (2) The advice of the Solicitor General was sought on 15 November 1995 and 30 November 1995.
- (3) Advice was received from the Solicitor General on 28 November 1995 (by the former Attorney General) and 29 March 1996.
- (4) No.
- (5) Apart from 15 November 1995, when the communication was partly verbal and partly in writing, the communications were in writing.
- (6) 1 April 1996.
- (7) 10 April 1996.

DRIVERS' LICENCES - SUSPENSION ORDERS

Prosecutions

554. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Attorney General:

I refer to the Attorney's answer to question on notice 302 given on May 27, 1997 -

Are relevant records maintained within the Ministry of Justice as distinct from records maintained by the Police Force?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

Records are maintained by Magistrates' Courts for all complaints. However, specific statistics are not maintained for individual offences.

PLANNING - APPEALS

Former Minister

568. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) How many of the appeals handled by the previous Minister for Planning after the December 14 general election were in accordance with the recommendations of the Town Planning Appeal Committee?
- (2) How many were contrary?

- (3) For those that were contrary, how did the Minister proceed to the view that the recommendation should not be accepted, and what evidence is on file that the recommendation was flawed?
- (4) On what basis did the Minister reject the recommendation in each case?
- (5) If the recommendation is confidential -
 - (a) are members of the Town Planning Appeal Committee professionals in the town planning area;
 - (b) why should the recommendation be confidential when it is a qualified opinion on how the appeal should be dealt with; and
 - (c) is this information available through the provisions of freedom of information legislation?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(2) 13 appeals in accordance with the recommendations and 5 appeals not in accordance with the recommendations were determined by the former Minister before 14 December 1996 with decision letters being sent out after that date. 22 appeals in accordance with the recommendations and 2 appeals not in accordance with the recommendations were determined by the former Minister after 14 December 1996.
- (3) The recommendation of the investigating Member is considered by the Minister at a meeting at which the Chairman and two other Members of the Appeal Committee are normally present, together with a Member of the Minister's staff. Discussion of the file papers, the investigating Member's recommendation and other Members' opinions occurs, as a result of which, the Minister makes his decision. Records of those discussions are not kept. No recommendation is regarded as flawed. It represents each Member's view of the best planning outcome of issues which are invariably matters of opinion.
- (4) In each decision letter conveying the Minister's decision, a brief explanation of the reasons justifying that conclusion is given.
- (5) Recommendations to the Minister from Members of the Town Planning Appeal Committee are regarded as confidential:
 - (a) Members of the Town Planning Appeal Committee are professionals and experienced in planning matters. Most are qualified planners, others are qualified in the areas of architecture, civil engineering, building surveying and local government, given the wide range of issues which arise in planning appeals;
 - (b) It is advice to a Minister of the Crown to enable that person to undertake effectively the responsibilities of Office;
 - (c) Yes, as a result of a recent Supreme Court Judgement.

PUBLIC TRUSTEE - LEGAL ACTIONS

575. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Attorney General:

- (1) In the 1995/96 financial year, in how many legal actions was the Public Trustee a party?
- (2) Of those, how many have been finalised?
- (3) How many legal actions other than those instituted by the Public Trustee have the Public Trustee's involvement as a party?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1)-(3) To ascertain the details required will involve the physical checking of over 7 000 files as all details relating to individual legal actions are filed on the client's file. As such I am not prepared to devote the considerable resources necessary to extract this information.

GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES - PUBLIC RELATIONS

Expenditure

580. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) What is the department's projected expenditure on public relations/community awareness in the 1997/98 Budget?

- (2) How does this compare to the current financial year's allocations?
- (3) How many FTEs within the Minister for Labour Relations' department are involved in communications, public relations/community awareness or media relations?
- (4) Are any of those persons journalists, and if so, how many?
- (5) What is the department's projected expenditure on advertising in the 1997/98 Budget?
- (6) How does this compare to the current financial year's allocations?
- (7) Are there any new campaigns to be undertaken by the department in the 1997/98 financial year?
- (8) If so, what is the projected cost of those campaigns?
- (9) Is the management/organisation of those campaigns to be out sourced?
- (10) If so, to whom?
- (11) How many officers from each department or agency are located permanently within the Minister's office?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I assume the honourable member is referring to the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations in this question. If so, I provide the following response.

- (1) Approximately \$370,000 has been allocated in 1997/98 to publications, advertising and other public awareness activities.
- (2) The 1996/97 allocation was the same.
- (3) 2 FTEs.
- (4) 1 person is a qualified journalist.
- (5) A precise figure has not been determined, however, approximately \$215,000 is the estimate for advertising costs in 1997/98.
- (6) Approximately \$270,000 has been spent on advertising up to 31 May 1997.
- (7) The campaign to raise awareness about the provisions of the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act will continue in 1997/98.
- (8) Final figures are yet to be determined for 1997/98.
- (9) No.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) Nil.

LAND TAX - BELLEVUE

620. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister for Finance:

I refer to the Minister for Finance's letter to the member for Midland dated June 3, 1997 with respect to Land Tax on 112 Clayton Street, Bellevue -

What is meant by the word stigma in the sentence which reads "The Valuer-General explained that the current unimproved value of \$35 000 effective from July 1, 1996 for Lot 184 is considered to be at a minimum value level that adequately reflects the "stigma" associated with the location of the Lot"?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

The word "stigma" was used in the context that the value of the property at Lot 184 Clayton Street suffered from being located within close proximity to the contaminated Omex petroleum site.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

GOVERNMENT PROPERTY OFFICE - LESCHENAULT QUAYS SHOPPING CENTRE

621. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

In relation to the lease the Government Property Office negotiated at the Leschenault Quays shopping centre in Bunbury -

- (1) What other properties beside the Quays did the Government Property Office look at in Bunbury?
- (2) Who was the GPO officer involved in the negotiation with representatives from the Quays and who represented the Quays?
- (3) Was the Premier aware of these negotiations?
- (4) If yes, did he approve the lease?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Water and Rivers Commission, with the assistance of local real estate agents, conducted its own search for suitable accommodation in Bunbury. In addition to Leschenault Quays, two other sites were considered by the commission. These were an ex-furniture showroom in Blair Street and vacant accommodation in Bunbury Tower. The Blair Street property was discounted due to high lease and redevelopment costs and Bunbury Tower was considered not to be suitable for the commission's field operations, which include the provision of chemical laboratory facilities and specialist cleaning areas. The Water and Rivers Commission selected Leschenault Quays as the most suitable and cost effective option.
- (2) The Government Property Office was represented by one of its panel of leasing consultants, John Sheridan of Perth Property Net. The lessor was represented by Greg Mason of Bunbury Land and Estate Agency.
- (3) No. As the accommodation is less than 500 square metres, the Chief Executive of the Government Property Office has delegated powers to approve the lease and this approval was obtained in February 1996. The GPO 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.
- (4) Not applicable.

MENTAL HEALTH ACT 1996 - AMENDING BILL

622. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

I refer to the comments of the Attorney General in the second reading of the then Mental Health Bill 1996 when he said on 5 November 1996, cited in *Hansard* on page 7770, "refinements will be required after six months' operation. The Minister has indicated that he will bring an amending Bill to the Parliament, probably mid-next year, to enhance the legislation even further".

- (1) Will such a Bill be introduced?
- (2) Is so, when?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) After six months' operation. The Mental Health Act 1996 has not yet been proclaimed. A statewide education program is now underway. The creation of structures required by the new Act is being progressed.

EDUCATION BILL - PUBLIC MEETINGS

623. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

I refer the Minister to his comments on radio that he and/or his department would be holding public meetings to allow consultation with the public on his draft education Bill. Will the Minister please advise the date, time and venue for each of these proposed meetings, perhaps by tabling details in the House?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. It is proper and appropriate that I should read out the answer. This sort of question is normally put on notice but as the member has asked the question I am happy to read out the answer.

The meetings will be held on -

Wednesday, 23 July 1997	Methodist Ladies College, Claremont	7.30-9.00 pm
Thursday, 24 July 1997	All Saints' College, Bullcreek	7.30-9.00 pm
Monday, 28 July 1997	North Albany Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Tuesday, 29 July 1997	Narrogin Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Wednesday, 30 July 1997	Merredin Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Thursday, 31 July 1997	Northam Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Monday, 4 August 1997	St Stephen's School, Duncraig	7.30-9.00 pm
Wednesday, 6 August 1997	Kununurra District High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Tuesday, 12 August 1997	Eastern Goldfields Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Wednesday, 13 August 1997	Geraldton Senior College	7.30-9.00 pm
Thursday, 14 August 1997	St Luke's College, Karratha	7.30-9.00 pm
Friday, 15 August 1997	Hedland Senior High School	3.00-5.00 pm
Monday, 18 August 1997	Warnbro Community High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Tuesday, 19 August 1997	Kelmscott Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Wednesday, 20 August 1997	Swan View Senior High School	7.30-9.00 pm
Thursday, 21 August 1997	Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School	7.30-9.00 pm

Details of these meetings will be published in metropolitan and regional media.

PRISONS - ACCOMMODATION REPORT

624. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the Minister for Justice:

- (1) Why has the Minister not tabled a report on prison accommodation which he has had in his possession since February 1997?
- (2) When will Cabinet consider the report?
- (3) Do the recommendations contained in the report include the option of private prisons?
- (4) Is the Government considering any immediate solutions to the problem of overcrowding in prisons?
- (5) If so, what are these?
- (6) If not, why not?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) This question contains an incorrect statement of fact.
- (2) When a proper and considered review with appropriate options is available to Cabinet.
- (3)-(4) Yes.
- (5) It is inappropriate to canvass hypothetical situations before consideration by Cabinet.
- (6) Not applicable.

HEALTH - HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES

625. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

Given that it is now almost the end of June, when will the Health Department enter negotiations with the WA Home and Community Care network and Aged Care (WA) on revised contracts for the provision of HACC services for the 1997-98 financial year?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

The department has given a commitment to review the current HACC contracts in consultation with the two industry bodies. Although some preliminary work has been done, the review will not be completed in time for a revised standard form contract to be used from the commencement of 1997-98. However, the department is conscious of the problems in using standard form contract documentation and is therefore willing to negotiate specific amendments with individual HACC providers in relation to their 1997-98 funding.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION - OFFICERS

626. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for the Environment:

- (1) Will the Minister inform me of the number of Department of Environmental Protection officers operating in -
 - (a) the Kimberley region; and
 - (b) the Pilbara region.
- (2) How many sites, subject to environmental monitoring, do these officers have to police?
- (3) Does the Minister consider the number of officers is adequate?
- (4) What assurance can the Minister give that environmental protection is being adequately serviced in these regions?
- (5) What, if any, additional resources will she be providing to ensure that the environment in these regions is protected?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Pilbara has two environmental officers and one administrative officer on a permanent basis. The Kimberley is serviced from Perth from the resources of both the licensing and pollution management branches on a needs basis.
- (2) The Pilbara has 66 licensed premises. Not all these premises require environmental monitoring. The Kimberley has 13 licensed premises.
- (3) Yes.
- (4) The Department of Environmental Protection has provided fixed and supplemented resources to serve these areas as determined by need.
- (5) A review of staff levels of all regional officers is undertaken by the department annually. This takes into account both existing and proposed developments and acceptable levels of service. The Minister envisages that if the planned new projects for the Pilbara are built, additional staff will be allocated to meet that increased need. During the last financial year, considerable additional resources were added to regional offices through WA. These included one more officer to the south west, one to the goldfields, two to the mid west and one to the Pilbara.

SCHOOLS - DRUG EDUCATION

*Effectiveness***627. Hon LJILJANNA RAVLICH to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:**

My question relates to the Court Government's new drug strategy, specifically to the \$1m allocated to expand the drug education program in all schools.

- (1) Is it true that drug education is not taught as a separate subject in schools but rather as part of the health education curriculum?
- (2) Is it true that the 1993 National Heart Foundation survey of health and physical education estimated that on average primary schools spent only 51 minutes a week and high school 1.27 hours a week on formal health education instruction?

- (3) If this is true, will the Minister advise the House on how much of this health education instruction time is specifically allocated to drug education in schools?
- (4) Does the Minister not think that this is woefully inadequate given the magnitude of the drug problem among Western Australian youth?
- (5) In view of the time specifically allocated to drugs education in Western Australian schools does the Minister agree that the comments made on 23 May 1997 in *The West Australian* by Director General of Education Cheryl Vardon that 95 per cent of primary and secondary schools had drug education programs that covered all types of drugs, but with an emphasis on alcohol, tobacco and analgesics are misleading to parents and the community generally?

The PRESIDENT: Order! Parts (4) and (5) are seeking an opinion so they are out of order in their present form.

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes. Many schools with excellent programs integrate health education and drug education with other subjects in the curriculum; for example, personal development courses and English.
- (2) The 1993 National Heart Foundation survey did state these figures. The statistic relating to primary schools is a raw indicator of school time allocation to health education as it does not include other factors such as the quality of programs or the extent of cross-curriculum teaching. The Minister is unaware of other surveys that state these figures.
- (3) The Education Department does not have information on the percentage of health education time spent on drug education. However, the generic skills that are the focus of health education programs - self-management skills; that is, decision making and goal setting, interpersonal skills, and communication skills - are core components of all health education programs and are completely relevant for drug education. Major national documents on school drug education support the integration of drug education into comprehensive and ongoing health education programs. The first draft of the health and physical education learning area statement developed by the Interim Curriculum Council focuses on developing major outcomes for students related to self-management and interpersonal skills and key content. When implemented in 1999 this document will provide clear direction for health education, including drug education, in all Western Australian schools.

ROADS - FREMANTLE-ROCKINGHAM CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY

628. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Has the Cockburn City Council approached Main Roads WA to alter the proposed route of the Rockingham controlled access highway in any way, and if so, how?
- (2) Did the Cockburn City Council have concerns with the current planned route, and if so, what were those concerns?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) The City of Cockburn has expressed concern to Main Roads that the proposed alignment of the Fremantle-Rockingham controlled access highway would impact upon Beeliar Regional Park. I met with representatives of the Cockburn City Council yesterday and it was agreed that Main Roads would examine other possibilities.

ALINTAGAS - CAPITAL INVESTMENT RETURN

629. Hon MARK NEVILL to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Energy:

What do the Government and AlintaGas consider is a reasonable rate of return on capital investment in meeting capacity needs in the gas industry?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. AlintaGas has and will continue to have a range of investments covering its business activities. There is not a single rate of return which covers its rate of investment, but a spectrum

of returns. The rate of return will depend on a number of factors including the type of investment, its expected actual and economic life and the risk associated with it.

TRANSPORT - YORK-PERTH

630. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of the concern of York residents that the weekly bus service from York has been discontinued, making it impossible for many elderly York residents to travel to Perth?
- (2) Will the Government restore this important service?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) The weekly day return road coach service between York and Perth was withdrawn in September 1995. Due to the short notice of this question I am unable to provide exact patronage figures for that service. However, I understand that average patronage from York was fewer than two passengers. That was not sufficient to warrant its retention. A recent survey of passenger demand indicated that there was still insufficient demand to warrant a daily return service between Perth and York. Although a day run service is not available York residents are able to travel between York and Perth on Westrail's regular road coach service operating between Perth and Albany via York.

LEGAL AID COMMISSION - FUNDING

631. Hon N.D. GRIFFITHS to the Attorney General:

- (1) Upon what terms is the Commonwealth making its contribution to the Legal Aid Commission for the financial year commencing next Tuesday?
- (2) Will the Attorney General now tell the House the amount of the contribution and the amount of the supplementary funding to be provided by the State?
- (3) If not, why is the Attorney General failing to account to the Parliament for the expenditure of public money in his area of portfolio responsibility?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

- (1) In Western Australia, as in most States, the final terms are still to be agreed, unfortunately. We have a draft agreement; however, many of the significant parts are still in the hands of the Commonwealth. We are not strangers in that respect. All other agreements have been on an in principle basis. We will be working on a purchaser provider basis and none of the arrangements with States on that basis has been worked out.
- (2)-(3) The member is wrong in saying that I will not account for money that has been spent, because we do not have money to spend.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: How much will it be?

Hon PETER FOSS: I am happy for money to be spent. However, at this stage we do not know how much it will be. I would like to tell the people of Western Australia what amount of money will be available. The amount of money that will be available will be a combination of the amount given by the State and the Commonwealth. I am not yet able to tell the member the amount that will be given by the State. I do not wish to allow the member's usual petrol on flames attitude to come into play, even if I were ready to tell him the amount that will be provided by the Commonwealth. I wish to let the people know exactly how much of their money will be spent.

Hon J.A. Scott: Accountability.

Hon PETER FOSS: There is nothing to account for. We do not have the money.

Hon N.D. Griffiths: The Attorney General is keeping the Parliament in the dark.

Hon PETER FOSS: The member asked why I did not account for the money that will be spent. Until I have the commitment from Treasury there is no money to be spent. It is not a matter of being accountable. Until such time as there is money I cannot tell the member. I will do exactly what the member has asked me and tell him how much the taxpayers of this State have contributed when I know what it is. Until such time as I know what the Treasury will contribute it will be quite irresponsible for me to allow the member to do what I am sure is his wont by merely

referring to the amount that will come from the Commonwealth. I will do what is necessary to assure the people of Western Australia exactly what the situation will be, when I know what it is.

FIRE PROTECTION GUIDELINES

632. Hon CHRISTINE SHARP to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Energy:

- (1) Has a set of guidelines been developed by the Department of Conservation and Land Management, the Ministry for Planning, local government and the Bush Fires Board to assist in integrated planning for fire protection of subdivisions, plantations and other fire prone areas?
- (2) If so, when will these guidelines become publicly available?
- (3) Will the Minister table a copy in this Council before the winter recess?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) No.
- (2)-(3) Not applicable.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT - TEACHER AIDES

633. Hon HELEN HODGSON to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Education:

- (1) Has the Education Department entered into an enterprise bargaining agreement with teacher aides regarding a recognised career path for aides?
- (2) If so, has the Education Department reneged on that agreement?
- (3) If so, why was the agreement breached?
- (4) In the light of planned industrial action resulting from the breach, what measures will be taken for the care of students usually under the care of teacher aides?

Hon N.F. MOORE replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) Yes.
- (2) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Should industrial action occur which affects the Education Department's ability to fulfil its duty of care to students, school principals will advise parents of any affected students of any necessary steps to maintain duty of care for the children. Each case will need to be considered by the principal and dealt with depending on the needs of the students. In the case of students with severe disabilities who require medical attention, the department will provide whatever support is necessary to maintain an educational program for those children. Parents and volunteers may also be requested to support schools, where deemed necessary by the principal.

LABOUR RELATIONS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL - INQUIRIES

634. Hon TOM STEPHENS to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Labour Relations:

- (1) How many telephone inquiries have been received by the Government requesting explanatory notes and/or the legislation on the free-call number set up under the labour relations legislation advertising campaign?
- (2) How many Internet inquiries have been received by the Government requesting explanatory notes and/or the legislation during the labour relations legislation advertising campaign?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) The Department of Productivity and Labour Relations has received 1 542 requests on the 1800 623 727 free-call number for copies of the Labour Relations Legislation Amendment Act and/or the summary of the Act.
- (2) There have been 711 requests via the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations Internet site for the summary of the Act. In addition, 1 240 hits on the Department of Productivity and Labour Relations Internet site, which contains details of the Act, have been recorded.

DRUGS - EDUCATION PROGRAMS

635. Hon GIZ WATSON to the Minister representing the Minister for Family and Children's Services:

I refer to the Government's new WA drug abuse strategy -

- (1) Does the Minister have any evidence of success with education programs for children in the area of drug abuse?
- (2) Does the Minister have any evidence that children are unaware that drug abuse is bad for them?
- (3) Does the Minister have any evidence to support this sort of strategy as a legitimate expenditure of taxpayers' money?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) There is a wide range of literature on drug education. Several meta-analyses demonstrate that drug use prevention programs in schools have an overall significant impact on behaviour, skills and knowledge. For example, with respect to smoking, the Surgeon General of the United States of America in 1994 noted that the consistency of overall findings and reductions in smoking prevalence studies was rather remarkable. The literature shows also that shorter term interventions result in shorter term outcomes. It is clear from the literature that school health education on drugs is most effective when it is continuous, long term, and part of a comprehensive program in the community. Most recently these findings have been confirmed by a prominent drug education researcher, G. Botvin, reporting on long term follow-up results of a randomised drug abuse prevention trial, in the journal of the American Medical Association in 1995.
- (2) Research undertaken for the Drug Aware public education campaign indicated that the information children and young people have about drugs tends to be based on half truths, incomplete knowledge, and information that could be described as persuasive. Young people are not receiving sufficient objective information about the consequences of drug abuse. Such information is essential if young people are to make informed choices and sensible decisions about their behaviour.
- (3) On the basis of the clear evidence that drug education in schools can be effective, if it is implemented in the way this Government's program will be, on the basis of the known need for this education by our young people, and on the basis of the substantial drug problems in our community that this Government is committed to tackling, this strategy is not only a legitimate expenditure of taxpayers' money, but an essential one.

HEALTH - HOME AND COMMUNITY CARE

Funding - Unspent Allocation

636. Hon CHERYL DAVENPORT to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

- (1) Will the Health Department return to Canberra any unspent home and community care program recurrent or capital funds from the 1996-97 financial year after 30 June 1997?
- (2) If so, why has the funding not been allocated?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) No, the full quantum of home and community care funds for 1996-97 has been spent. A small amount of recurrent funding of around \$197 000 remains to be committed, but this is available for use in 1997-98.

ROADS - FREMANTLE-ROCKINGHAM CONTROLLED ACCESS HIGHWAY

Route

637. Hon J.A. SCOTT to the Minister for Transport:

- (1) Why has Main Roads Western Australia rejected the option of aligning section 1 of the Fremantle-Rockingham controlled access highway with Cockburn Road, which is about only 200 metres to the west of the proposed controlled access highway?
- (2) Would this option be less expensive than the proposed section of the Fremantle-Rockingham controlled access highway; and, if so, by how much?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(2) This option has not been considered because the Fremantle-Rockingham road will be a controlled access highway, whereas Cockburn Road will be a local distributor road providing access to industry in the area. It is important for members with an interest in this matter in the Cockburn area to come to terms with what I said yesterday; that is, there are different roads to do different tasks. Cockburn Road will simply service the area along the waterfront. The planned design is to go west of the alignment where it interacts with the existing road. It will link up to the east to provide through traffic to Rockingham and beyond.

POLICE - STATIONS

Mandurah - Safe Holding Cells

638. Hon J.A. COWDELL to the Attorney General representing the Minister for Police:

When does the Government expect to repay the \$120 000 to be advanced by the City of Mandurah for the construction of safe holding cells at the Mandurah Police Station?

Hon PETER FOSS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question. The Police Service will not avail itself of this generous offer by the Mandurah City Council and will fund the refurbishment of the Mandurah Police Station cells from its own budget allocation.

FISHERIES - SOUTH COAST PURSE SEINE FISHERY

Meeting of Licensees

639. Hon KIM CHANCE to the Minister representing the Minister for Fisheries:

- (1) Is it correct that at a meeting of the south coast purse seine managed fishery licensees held last Saturday, 21 June 1997 the purse seine management plan was unanimously rejected?
- (2) Did that meeting call for the Fisheries Adjustment Scheme Committee to be permitted to consider all options for a management package for implementation in 1998-99, including the consideration of both the Esperance and Bremer Bay pools and the unallocated total allowable catch?
- (3) Has the meeting recommended an interim measure for 1997-98 which permits an allocation to Albany based boats of 2.5 tonnes a unit from the Esperance zone 4?
- (4) Will the Minister for Fisheries consent to the view that has been clearly expressed by the whole of the south coast purse seine fisheries catching sector and proceed to assist the fishermen to find an equitable resolution to the penalties they face?

Hon E.J. CHARLTON replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1)-(4) The office of the Minister for Fisheries was given a copy by the Western Australian Fishing Industry Council of a reported industry position from a meeting of purse seine fishermen held in Albany on Saturday, 21 June. I am awaiting official confirmation from the President of the South Coast Licensed Fishermen's Association with regard to the outcomes from that meeting.

HOSPITALS - JOONDALUP

*Budget Allocation***640. Hon E.R.J. DERMER to the Minister representing the Minister for Health:**

- (1) How much has been allocated in this year's Budget to meet the cost of public patients being treated at the privately owned and managed Joondalup Hospital?
- (2) Can the Minister explain why the Auditor General is looking at the contract between the State Government and Health Care of Australia relating to the Joondalup Hospital?

Hon MAX EVANS replied:

I thank the member for some notice of this question.

- (1) A total of \$25.8m maximum. The full amount may not be expended, depending upon when full services to the new hospital come on board.
 - (2) No, the decision to review any aspect of government activity is made by the Auditor General and only he can give an explanation as to why specific projects are selected.
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