

Mr David Templeman; Mr Tony O'Gorman; Dr Janet Woollard; Mr Murray Cowper; Mr John Hyde; Speaker;
Mr Dan Barron-Sullivan; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Tom Stephens; Ms Dianne Guise; Ms Jaye Radisich; Acting
Speaker; Mr Eric Ripper

APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (NO. 1) 2005
APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED FUND) BILL (NO. 2) 2005

Second Reading - Cognate Debate

Resumed from an earlier stage of the sitting.

MR D.A. TEMPLEMAN (Mandurah) [3.48 pm]: I will continue my remarks from earlier today. Other infrastructure funding in the budget that I am pleased to highlight includes an amount of \$400 000 that has been brought forward to ensure that traffic lights are installed at the intersection of Madora Beach Road and Fremantle Road. This is a very important intersection. Madora residents are very concerned about their access to that busy road. The Gallop government is responding to this important initiative by ensuring that this project is delivered this financial year.

The budget provides funding for other important infrastructure. As I have mentioned numerous times in the house, the government has an ongoing commitment to the southern suburbs railway. This project is crucial to the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of my community. The budget allocates \$400.7 million to fund continuing work on the southern suburbs railway. The budget also provides funding for associated works in the Perth central business district and \$22.1 million for the ongoing construction of the Kwinana Freeway railway corridor. A lot of work is being done for Mandurah people who commute to Perth. Forty-two per cent of the people who work in Mandurah head north to their place of employment. Many of them tell me they are excited by seeing the work that is continuing on the southern suburbs railway that will result in the construction of nine stations between Canning Bridge and the terminus of Mandurah central station.

I now refer to sport and recreation. It is great to see that \$400 000 has been allocated towards the redevelopment of the Rushton Park sporting complex. I congratulate the Mandurah Football and Sporting Club for its ongoing commitment, as well as the Peel Thunder Football Club and other sporting organisations for the work they have put in, as well as the work of a range of major sports, such as rugby, hockey, football, netball, soccer and cricket, and all the smaller sports, such as martial arts. There are great groups and great coaches in Mandurah and they are doing a tremendous job. I congratulate all of our sporting organisations for continuing to provide wonderful opportunities for the young and not-so-young people.

I will now mention another matter that is a very important element of sport and recreation. I suppose I am urging the government to seriously look at the ongoing recreational needs of the region. There is a burgeoning population in that region, with a lot of young families and massive growth. We still need to develop more sporting fields and recreational facilities. An issue that arose recently was the need to provide swimming space. There is a strong push by the swimming clubs in Mandurah for a 50-metre swimming pool. We also need to establish the regional facility at Fiegerts Road, which will provide regional sporting space for many organisations. This will mean that we can provide sport and recreational facilities for our growing population into the future. I am pleased that the budget contains some appropriations for sport and recreation, but I am putting out a plea that we need to invest more heavily in sport and recreation in the region.

I now refer to greyhound racing. Mandurah is becoming the centre for greyhound racing in Western Australia and \$170 000 has been allocated in the budget for new plant and equipment.

There has been talk of infill sewerage. I note the comments made by other members, including the member for Dawesville. It is important that the infill sewerage program continue to be delivered through Mandurah. I am pleased that this budget will deliver nearly \$17 million worth of infill sewerage to the Peel region, particularly in my electorate of central Mandurah, as well as in new and older developed areas of Mandurah. The infill sewerage program is currently under way in the central part of Mandurah, which I represent, and that will deliver great benefits to the residents and to the environment. Infill sewerage works will also take place in Falcon, which is in the electorate of the member for Dawesville. A great deal of concern has been expressed about the need for quality infill sewerage in Falcon and I am pleased that this budget reflects that. An amount of \$350 000 has been allocated for work at the Cardup wastewater treatment plant, which is a very important treatment plant south of Mandurah. Some \$1.15 million has also been allocated to the Halls Head wastewater treatment plant. Investment in infill sewerage in Mandurah is very important for my constituents in this rapidly growing area.

I also acknowledge and highlight that the Gallop government budget will deliver to the Peel region \$4.9 million for the Pinjarra Senior High School and \$2.5 million for additions to the Pinjarra Primary School in the Shire of Murray. Those appropriations are very important for those schools. On top of that, there are appropriations for every school in my electorate for maintenance purposes. That is very important. I thank the former and current Ministers for Education and Training for ensuring that the needs of schools in my electorate are addressed. Education remains of critical importance to my electorate because we want to see our young people in either

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learning or earning opportunities so they can lead fulfilling lives and reach their potential. There is a need to look at the middle school model. As has been mentioned, the middle schools feed into the senior college, which takes years 11 and 12 students. There is a need for another secondary school in Mandurah. Indeed, we need to look very closely at the best model. There are two schools of thought. One is to have a middle school and the other is to have a senior high school. That debate needs to be held and plans need to be put in place to ensure that the next secondary school is delivered.

The other important element in education is the support of families. I am very pleased to see the 50c student rate for bus travel. That is very important for my electorate because many families are on fixed incomes; they have very tight budgets. As the Treasurer mentioned in his budget speech last Thursday, the concession represents a halving in many cases of transport costs for many families. It will make sure that students get safely to school by bus. It is a wonderful initiative of the government. It underpins our strong support for, and focus on, education and training over the next four years. I am also very pleased to see that we are continuing to invest in more teachers and support the Getting it Right strategy. Over the past four years, a number of teachers specialising in literacy and numeracy have been appointed to schools of greater need. They are important initiatives of this government and I applaud the Treasurer for continuing to appropriate for them.

Madam Deputy Speaker knows how strongly I believe in the southern suburbs railway. The Peel region will become the railway renaissance region of Western Australia. It will have not only the southern suburbs railway, but also the railway heritage centre in Pinjarra, which is being developed. The government continues to support the reconstruction of the Pinjarra to Boddington railway. Both railway projects have received appropriations. The Pinjarra to Boddington railway has received \$150 000 and the railway heritage centre has received \$350 000. People will be able to travel by rail on the southern suburbs railway for work, play and recreation, and to visit socially. They will also have a tourism experience on the Pinjarra to Boddington railway and the Hotham Valley railway, which continues to provide services in the Peel region.

I am very pleased about the Western Power budget. I heard some members from my region say that there was nothing in the budget for them. I have already mentioned millions of dollars, and let us now look at Western Power. An amount of \$24.706 million is allocated for works in the Peel region, which includes the Alinta co-generation project at Alcoa. An amount of \$3.465 million is available for the new Meadow Springs substation. That is very important. In the northern part of Mandurah, areas have been affected by power blackouts. The new substation will be of critical importance to residents. It means that the infrastructure will be maintained for the growth that is occurring in the fastest-growing region in Western Australia.

The Peel Development Commission continues to deliver great outcomes for the government. Before the election the opposition was toying with the idea of abolishing development commissions. The Peel Development Commission continues to deliver excellent outcomes for the region, and I support it strongly. One example of those outcomes is the Peel Music Foundation, now known as the Fairbridge Music Foundation. I have been involved with this foundation from the beginning and an appropriation of \$163 000 has been allocated to it. That funding will ensure that the foundation can deliver good outcomes. It is aimed at involving young people in an initiative that can deliver tremendous outcomes for young people. A number of underage gigs have been arranged. The foundation will work out of Fairbridge and will provide young people with not only enjoyable experiences such as underage gigs but also an opportunity to be involved in the music industry. I am pleased that Jesse Hill, a great young fellow, has been appointed coordinator of the foundation. I congratulate also Ross Napier, a former superintendent of the Peel police district, on his contribution to ensuring the foundation was established.

Health is a very important issue, particularly to my electorate, because it has not only a large number of growing families but also a very significant number of seniors. Obviously health becomes of even greater importance as we age. I am very pleased that, in the Peel region, the government is investing heavily in community health. We do not place enough emphasis on the importance of community health. If we invest heavily in community health initiatives and implement preventive health measures, the result should be a downturn at the other end of the health continuum, which is the critical area of health concerns. The government is investing heavily in community health. Construction of stage 1 of the new Mandurah community health centre is under way as I speak, and it should be finished by September. Stage 2 is also in the pipeline. A very significant investment is being made in community health in Mandurah. I will endeavour to make sure that the Minister for Health resources that expanded community health centre appropriately, and I have been assured that he will do that.

The accident and emergency department at the Peel Health Campus has been under a great deal of pressure over the past few years. There has been a massive increase in the number of presentations at the accident and emergency department. One of the reasons is the population growth in that region. I am very pleased that the

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government has made a commitment to double the emergency department. It is a very important initiative that will enable the hospital to address the demand.

Mr P.B. Watson: A doubling?

Mr D.A. TEMPLEMAN: A doubling, indeed. We will make sure that that work gets under way as soon as possible so that some of the pressure on the Peel Health Campus emergency department can be eased. I also acknowledge the very important need for planning the capacity of the Peel Health Campus to ensure bed numbers are adequate. The region is growing so that must be reflected in the number of hospital beds available.

We must also very carefully consider the mental health issue in Mandurah. I am a strong advocate for the need for improved mental health facilities in the Peel region. A much greater investment in mental health is needed in my area. A number of people are affected by mental health issues so we must look very carefully at how we plan to provide the services in the community so that people on whom mental health issues impact do not have to travel out of Mandurah to receive treatment. I hope that future budgets contain increased funding for mental health in my region.

The Gallop government has made a strong commitment to the environment in the Peel region. The Peel waterways, which I have spoken about in this place before, are the jewel in the crown of the region. They are the litmus test for the impact of the community on the environment. If government does not address some of the ongoing catchment and drainage issues and algal concerns in the Peel waterways, while at the same time continuing to accept that there is a growing population, it will set itself up for a major problem. Ultimately, the Peel waterways will reflect on the health and wellbeing of the present population, future populations and visitors. I am a very strong advocate of the need to do even more to ensure that the health of the Peel waterways - Serpentine River, Murray River, Harvey River and the inlet - is addressed. I have said previously in this place that when the Peel deviation, a very important project, is completed, land speculation will occur. Already land speculation is taking place along the eastern side of the estuary. We need to make sure a very careful planning process is in place to deal with the demand for urban development.

I am very pleased the Minister for the Environment sees this as an important issue. Towards the end of last year she appropriated some money to ensure a proper environmental impact statement is done on that area. I make a plea that we need to do more about the Peel waterways. I thank the government for what it has done so far. I chair the Economic and Recreational Development Committee, which is looking at implementing a number of action plans. The minister and this government have already done a magnificent job by making an appropriation for a Peel waterways centre, which will be a one-stop shop for the community, government departments and other people interested in helping to support the health and wellbeing of the Peel waterways. They will be able to access information and become actively involved in supporting the health and wellbeing of that important asset.

I want to highlight to the house the member for Bunbury's comments in his budget speech last night. He mentioned that Bunbury was the premier regional city outside the metropolitan area. I correct him and I want to make sure members in this place understand very clearly that Mandurah is the largest regional centre outside the Perth metropolitan area. Mandurah has a population of 56 000 people. It will be 60 000 within the next two years. It is expected that by 2020 its population will be 80 000-plus, possibly 100 000. The claim is constantly made that Bunbury is the largest regional city outside the Perth metropolitan area. It is wrong; Mandurah is the largest city. I understand Bunbury has a population of about 30 000. There is a very big difference in the populations of those two centres. I want to make sure that people, especially members, understand that we see ourselves very much living in a regional centre, not just a suburb of Perth, as some people want it known.

I will conclude by highlighting one issue I am pleased we are addressing locally; that is, graffiti. I was interested in the comments of the member for Murray and the Leader of the Opposition when they visited Mandurah. They suggested we should set up a graffiti task force, such as the one the Court government introduced. It was interesting to hear their comments. They suggested it should happen in Mandurah. The simple fact is that when the Court government's graffiti task force operated, when it was operating, it did so in only a small number of local governments, of which Mandurah was not included. I knew that graffiti had been an issue, particularly over the past four or five months, so I got the police, council, Chamber of Commerce and the Peel junior chamber together, and we met a few weeks ago. We have a very good action plan and only yesterday in the *Mandurah Mail* the police highlighted some very successful prosecutions. Again, it comes down to the community working in partnership; that is, all the stakeholders working together to address issues like graffiti and antisocial behaviour. I am really pleased with this budget. I am very pleased that the forward estimates also indicate significant appropriations into the future for the fastest growing city and the fastest growing region in Western Australia. I commend the Treasurer and the Gallop Labor government for the 2005-06 budget.

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MR A.P. O'GORMAN (Joondalup) [4.09 pm]: I also commend the Treasurer on a great budget. Joondalup is one of the major seats in the northern suburbs. It has done very well out of the budget in the past four years and will do very well in the next four years. In education in the next four years, the Belridge cluster of schools will have technology upgrades, as well as the Padbury cluster of schools in the member for Hillarys' electorate. The member for Hillarys had a bit of a grizzle, saying that nothing from the budget was going into his electorate. I assure the member for Hillarys that Padbury Senior High School is in his electorate and many schools in the Padbury cluster of schools are also in his electorate. A few schools in my electorate, being Craigie Primary School, Springfield Primary School and Camberwarra Primary School, will reap the benefits of that information technology upgrade at Padbury Senior High School. Belridge Senior High School is one of the finest schools in the state. It not only addresses the educational needs of the students but also takes a very strong view and a big lead in engaging young people who may otherwise drop out of the education system by bringing them back in through the vocational education and training system. It is working very hard with some students at educational risk to make sure that they stay in the system.

The budget also provides for a power upgrade at each of Edgewater Primary School, Mullaloo Beach Primary School and Mullaloo Heights Primary School. The parents and citizens associations at these three schools have taken the initiative and worked very hard to make sure that those schools got airconditioning. Unfortunately, that has pushed the power supply to the limit. The government has had to step in to make sure these schools are given a power upgrade so that they can run their airconditioners and operate their technology.

Craigie is a new suburb to the electorate of Joondalup. I particularly thank the people of Craigie who very solidly supported me in the election. I think we pushed our margin up to about 62 or 63 per cent in Craigie. That was after Craigie high school was closed and bulldozed at the request of the people of Craigie in January 2004. A total of 450 students had to move from that high school to both Belridge and Padbury High Schools. When the land is rezoned and sold, some of the proceeds will flow through to Belridge and Padbury High Schools and great plans are in train for what will happen at those high schools.

I congratulate the government on the student incentives to keep young people at school; that is the \$200 and \$400 grants to stay at school or to undertake training. Those incentives will flow through not only to state government high schools but also to private schools. There are a number of private schools in my electorate: Lake Joondalup Baptist College; Mater Dei College, a very fine school, at which I have a great relationship with the principal and the parents and friends association; Prendiville Catholic College; and St Mark's Anglican Community School. I apologise if I have forgotten to mention a private school in my electorate.

On the subject of public transport, a special events station is planned for the Joondalup electorate at Arena Joondalup. The government is also working with Lake Joondalup Baptist College to ensure that trains will stop there in the morning and afternoon so that students can get to school in Joondalup without having to walk an unreasonable distance. I had a discussion today with the City of Joondalup Chief Executive Officer, Garry Hunt, about the commencement of a CAT bus service in Joondalup. He assured me that the city has now signed off on the funding arrangements for a CAT bus service, which should be up and running in the next six to eight weeks. That project is a partnership between Edith Cowan University, the council of the City of Joondalup and the state government. Joondalup Health Campus has also made a capital injection of \$5 000 to that service, as it will benefit greatly from having a CAT bus running around the city of Joondalup.

Sometime in the past four years, the hospitality centre moved to the West Coast College of TAFE. It is about to open officially but it is already operational with a large number of students attending it. I return to the suburb of Craigie to say that in this budget it has been promised a total of \$890 000 for a community house. The City of Joondalup is working very hard with the local community and the Department for Community Development to make sure that Craigie gets that community facility to service people in need of DCD services. I realise that a lot of members want to speak and do not want to be in this place all night. I therefore finish my remarks with that.

DR J.M. WOOLLARD (Alfred Cove) [4.15 pm]: A couple of weeks ago, the government moved an amendment to the Address-in-Reply, calling on the Legislative Assembly to oppose any attempt by the commonwealth government to undermine and diminish the state's right to govern, including the overriding of Western Australia's industrial relations laws. I spoke in support of that amendment because I believed that the commonwealth government has taken over too many of the states' powers. However, having looked into this a little further, I am now concerned that the state government and the Liberal Party, in opposing this move, could be burying their heads in the sand. We could come out, in the long run, as losers. I say that because, if the federal government is able to introduce this legislation under the corporations power in the Constitution, it can take over completely. I am wondering whether it might be better for the state government to get in and negotiate under section 51(xxxvii) of the Constitution.

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We know that the commonwealth government has had taking over workplace relations on its agenda since 2000. In 2004, the federal Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations gave as his rationale for his belief that Australia needed a rational system to address the increasingly untenable coexistence of multiple state industrial relations systems alongside the federal system. The commonwealth might have the power under the corporations power of the Constitution to enact legislation that would be binding on Western Australia. However, it is not clear, and could be challenged in the High Court of Australia. I will move in a while to discuss some of the challenges that have been mounted in the past. The commonwealth is not able to directly take over industrial relations law. We know that from various High Court decisions between 1910 and 1987. Some of the instances given by a former student of Murdoch University, Geoff Bull, were that the commonwealth cannot directly legislate in the industrial relations area but may provide for the establishment of machinery for the settling of disputes. That machinery is currently the Australian Industrial Relations Commission, established under the federal Workplace Relations Act 1996. Geoff Bull's document states why it would be difficult.

If the commonwealth government is successful in taking over the industrial relations systems of the states using its corporations power under section 51(xx) of the Constitution, it will probably take over 85 per cent of the awards that are covered by the state Industrial Relations Commission. We currently pay for the state Industrial Relations Commission, so some people would say that would be a cost saving for us. However, once those industrial relations powers have been handed over to the commonwealth holus-bolus, we will not be able to do anything if in a few years time we do not agree with the way in which it is using those powers. Section 51(xx) of the Constitution reads -

foreign corporations, and trading or financial corporations formed within the limits of the Commonwealth;

A potential problem for the commonwealth is that the extent of its corporations power is unclear. There are two views about the possible scope of that power. The narrow view is that the commonwealth can regulate only the trading activities of a trading corporation, and not any of the other activities of the corporation. The broad view is that there are no limits to the scope of the corporations power. In the past two decades, decisions by the High Court of Australia have moved closer to the broad view and further away from the narrow view. One instance is the decision in *Commonwealth v Tasmania* (The Tasmanian Dam Case). A more recent instance is the decision in *Re Dingjan; Ex Parte Wagner*. In that case, the High Court said that the power conferred by section 51(xx) extends, at the very least, to the business functions and activities of constitutional corporations and to their business relationships. There has been a change in the membership of the High Court since that case. Therefore, if the state simply says no and does not say it is willing to try it, albeit with a clause inserted into the agreement so that it can pull out of the arrangement in five years if it is not working, we may lose out completely.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: Would you mind spelling the name of that last case?

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: I will pass it to the minister.

Section 51(xxxvii) of the Constitution reads -

matters referred to the Parliament of the Commonwealth by the Parliament or Parliaments of any State or States, but so that the law shall extend only to States by whose Parliaments the matter is referred, or which afterwards adopts the law;

That placitum assumes that state Parliaments can refer matters to the commonwealth Parliament, and that the commonwealth Parliament has powers to pass relevant laws. It makes the division of powers between the states flexible by allowing the commonwealth and the states to make agreements with one another. If we do not bury our heads in the sand, and we negotiate on the proposed federal industrial relations system, the power can be referred to the commonwealth in a manner that would allow the power to be returned to the states after a specified period. In saying that, the reference of power to the commonwealth with a sunset clause so that the power is returned has not been used very often. Our own Professor Craven from Curtin University wrote -

If a State refers power over a matter, in what circumstances . . . may that reference be terminated?

The weight of High Court decisions is unclear, but it seems to favour the view that references, if not "revokable", are at least "determinable", so that the references can terminate on the occurrence of a certain event, which might be a declaration by the Governor. If the state were just to say no to this move by the commonwealth, and the federal government introduced the legislation under corporations power, and as a wider scope has been allowed to the power under High Court decisions over the past two decades, Western Australia could lose out completely on industrial relations. Whereas if section 51(xxxvii) of the Constitution were applied,

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and Western Australia referred those matters to the commonwealth with a date to apply at which the state could state, "No, we do not like this," it would provide a much better result for our industrial relations system.

An application of the referral power was considered by the last Parliament; namely, the mutual recognition scheme. This commenced in the 1990s when a process of natural consultation was promoted by the commonwealth. The matter went to a Premiers Conference, and a discussion paper was developed that considered mutual recognition between all states. The Premiers signed an agreement in 1991 that was implemented in other states and adopted by Western Australia. The act that the Parliament of the day considered relating to the mutual recognition scheme provided that the adoption was to cease at the specified date of 28 February 1998, or such earlier date as might be fixed by proclamation. We could do the same thing now with industrial relations as was done with the mutual recognition scheme. If we go to the table and negotiate, we could end up with a better deal for WA than if we just sit back, ignore the situation and say that it is a bad thing. One issue that people believe is a problem with the federal system relates to the proposed unfair dismissal laws. Some people are very unhappy that an employer must have more than 100 employees before the unfair dismissal laws will apply. Maybe if WA negotiated with the commonwealth, that number could be brought down to 20. There would be pluses and minuses if we went to the table and discussed this matter. The mutual recognition bill had a five-year sunset clause for various references within the act. The Attorney General is very keen on constitutional law. So far we have heard the arguments against joining the commonwealth's industrial relations scheme. If the commonwealth is able to take over the industrial relations power, albeit not for a year or two - from reading the High Court decisions and the decisions in various other cases, it looks as though it will be able to take over that power completely - I believe it would be better for WA to simply refer industrial relations powers to the commonwealth Parliament for a specified period, with a reference clause, so that if WA is disadvantaged, WA would be able to pull out of the agreement.

Mr J.R. Quigley: Do you mean that if there is a Liberal government, we should refer it to the federal government, but if a Labor government is elected in Canberra, it should be brought back?

Dr J.M. WOOLLARD: A clause could be put in the bill to ensure that it will come back for review after five years, or at five years and 10 years. If that is done, it does not matter who is in power. I know that small businesses do not do as well as some of the larger businesses that work under federal awards. There are pluses and minuses in the issue of federal awards versus state awards. We should not just stand back and say no, we do not want the federal award system. It looks like the federal government now has the numbers and the power to take over industrial relations. Rather than the federal government taking over industrial relations powers through a costly, lengthy High Court case, why does this Parliament not look at referring those powers for a specified time? If that does not work out, we can take those powers back.

I also wanted to very quickly mention a couple of issues in my electorate, because I know the member for Murray wants to speak and needs to leave the house before five o'clock. The budget did not contain very much for my electorate, so the rest of my speech will not take very long. It looks as though an improvement will be made to a part of Canning Highway near Palmyra that has been identified as a black spot where numerous accidents have occurred. The budget provides for a crossing to be installed in, I think, 2005-06. There is also \$1 million funding allocated to Melville Senior High School over the four-year period. I would like to have seen many more of the schools in my electorate identified for upgrading. For example, Applecross Senior High School has not had a major boost in funds for many years and its student numbers are well above average. Members will remember that I mentioned in the house the other week what a poor condition the school is in. The same applies to capital works for many other schools in my electorate.

There is provision for a grant to charitable and public bodies. I wonder whether this relates to the Heathcote debt the government owes to the City of Melville, and I will be asking about that in the estimates committee. I am not sure whether it is to do with Heathcote or the Melville Primary School land.

During the estimates process, I will be interested to hear from the minister the details relating to the 800 additional nurses. I have looked in the budget papers, but I cannot see where the funding for those extra nursing positions is coming from. The budget mentions a provision for additional beds. It may be the additional nurses are factored in as part of that equation. However, I would like to know where the funding will come from. I would also like to know whether the government will be funding an extra 200 nurses each year; and, if not, how its policy to recruit an additional 800 nurses is meant to be implemented.

I was disappointed in the reference to repairing power poles and in the \$20 million for the underground power program. In light of all the money that the government is getting from Western Power, it appears that this is really a government that is not listening to the community. My community and many other communities want underground powerlines. It should have been one of the government's priorities.

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I could go on to talk about many other issues, but I am cognisant of the time and the fact that the member for Murray wants to speak. Therefore, I will take up the other issues during the estimates hearings.

MR M.J. COWPER (Murray) [4.39 pm]: I thank the member for Alfred Cove for deferring to me and allowing me the opportunity to speak this afternoon earlier than was initially planned. The 2005-06 budget regional highlights can be downloaded on a computer through the wonderment of the CD-ROM that was provided to all members. It is interesting that it contains certain functions that enable members to quickly access information and cut to the chase, as it were, to find what is available in their electorates. Basically, it spits out a one-page list of highlights. The page that I downloaded, which I have here, contains five particular points that are investment highlights. I am a bit new to this game, but I have been carefully studying the budget papers and look forward to the estimates committees, by which time I will have a better understanding of how the whole process works. From a quick glance at the documents, I see that they look very glossy and nice. They have the veneer of being very appealing, but once one drills through the surface they are found wanting.

I want to quickly touch on some of the issues that I believe are important. I have prepared a fairly lengthy speech, but in light of the time I will cut it short - I plan to be out of here before 5.00 pm, as the member for Alfred Cove mentioned. The highlight page states that there is \$21.2 million for the Alinta co-generation plant at Pinjarra. It is interesting to note that this is not a new project that has been sprung on us but a plant that has been built for a number of years. The money is a most welcome injection into the economy of our area. A sizeable amount of money is given to my electorate through the infill sewerage program. I am very pleased to see that it has been provided, and I will be interested to see over what period the allocation of funds will be given. Again, I look forward to the estimates and being able to ask questions about that.

Also, \$4 million has been allocated for the construction of the Perth to Bunbury highway. We all know the importance of the Peel deviation, as it is known locally. However, I note that only \$4 million has been allocated in the next 12 months to accommodate that project, and I will speak about that in a moment. Three of the five items mentioned in these highlights are not new developments of this government. They were initiated by the previous government and have been continually funded, yet they have been listed as highlights of this government. It is drawing a bit of a long bow to say that the government is responsible for them.

I will touch on a few of the projects in the Mandurah and Peel region. The marina was an initiative of the former Court government. The performing arts centre also was an initiative of the former government. Hon Roger Nicholls could be regarded as the father of that project. Challenger TAFE in Mandurah is another initiative of the former Court government, and the list goes on. Even the Peel deviation and the southern rail link were first suggested in this house by the Court government.

The Peel region is the fastest growing area in Western Australia; that is official. The growth rate in the Peel region in recent times, particularly in the past 10 years, has been, on average, 5.3 per cent per annum. That compares with the state average of 1.5 per cent and the Australian average of 1.2 per cent. In essence, the Peel region has experienced more than four times the Australian average growth rate. As a result of that growth, we need a strategic plan to deal with the unprecedented demands in the region and long-range planning strategies. Unfortunately, there does not appear to be a lot of strategies from the state government, and I will touch individually on those it has mentioned in a moment. However, we need a strategic plan that people can grab hold of so that they can see where we are going as we try to address the issues that will impact on the people of the Peel region.

Much has been said about the Peel deviation. The fact is that the money has been put on the table by the federal government to the tune of \$150 million, plus an additional \$20 million. That money is available now and can be used by this government, if it so wishes, to commence the Peel deviation. I suspect that the government will commit to the commencement date of 2006 as announced by the minister, although she keeps the commencement date of the Peel deviation a fairly guarded secret. I believe that it will commence next year, otherwise the minister will lose that \$20 million. More importantly, if she fails to do that, there will be a significant backlash. In addition, if the minister were to commence the project in 2006, the completion date would be 2009. That would coincide with the 2009 election and the project would become a significant election issue.

One project that is a bit of a sleeper and has not been spoken of much in this house is the northern Mandurah access road. In the plans for the \$340 million Peel deviation is an access road that comes in from the north east of Mandurah and links the town of Mandurah to the Peel deviation. It has not been funded. The updated plans have illuminated the bypass, resulting in a need for vehicles to use either Pagononi Road, Gordon Road or Pinjarra Road. As the shadow spokesperson for road safety, I can identify now, with my previous experience, that there will be a significant increase in serious and fatal traffic accidents as a result of the government's lack of planning to deal with the issue. In essence, a large number of vehicles are using provincial roads that were not

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designed to carry a large volume of traffic, particularly in the precincts of the schools in the Gordon Road area. Additionally, there is a railway line near Pagononi Road - which falls within the City of Rockingham and the member for Peel's electorate - and Fremantle Road. Those roads will experience severe congestion. Unless a significant amount of funding is injected into that area, it will experience a huge problem. It would be simpler to fund the northern access road, rather than address the issues that have arisen as a result of the lack of planning by the government.

The budget does not mention LandCorp or provide it with the ability to fast-track the purchase or development of industrial land in the region. LandCorp was involved in a successful partnership for the development of the marina complex in the Mandurah electorate, but little industrial land has been provided to meet the expected growth of the Peel region or to sustain suitable and substantial jobs for young people in that area.

The budget also does not deal with the provision of a rapid transit shuttle service in the region. The government has been hell-bent on bringing a railway line to the Peel region. The railway was supposed to arrive in Mandurah in 2006 but it will not get there before 2007. I suspect that there will be more cost blow-outs with that project. Once that railway line is completed, what will happen to the people who use that service? The local area does not have a network that could effectively hook up with or do justice to that long-awaited and needed train service. A number of models have been floated to try to deal with this issue, but the government has not picked them up. The local governments of this region have bleated to the state government about various issues, but it appears that they do not have the ear of the state government. They have warned the state government about these issues for some time, but those warnings unfortunately appear to have fallen on deaf ears, because I have not found anything in the budget to accommodate them.

A number of election promises were made by the government in a veiled attempt to win votes at the last election. One such promise involved the Pinjarra courthouse, which is an old building in Pinjarra that has some historic value. It is badly in need of repair. The government said that it would establish some government services in the town, so that the people of that area could again access some of the services that have been lost over time. The building was to open one day a week. It now opens only by appointment. The government will spend \$200 000 to upgrade this building, but for no apparent reason. No-one is using the building. The beautiful historic courthouse in the member for Bunbury's electorate will receive \$50 000, but \$200 000 will be spent on the courthouse in Pinjarra, which is not used. That is rather perplexing, unless there is some other reason, such as that another government department wants to use the building.

I tabled in this house a petition signed by 2 837 people on the Peel regional sporting complex. The Peel region sport and recreation facilities plan was formulated two years ago, and highlights the future sporting and recreational requirements of the Peel region. The report is a fairly lengthy document and contains 27 recommendations. The main thing that the community wants is a sporting complex to be established on the greenfields site in Fiegerts Road, which is close to where the Peel deviation will go. It is proposed that the complex will include an indoor show court stadium with seating for 3 000 people, an outdoor stadium with seating for 10 000, an indoor 50-metre pool with seating for 2 000, an outdoor mixed grass area for grass sports and, in the long-term, a site for a proposed university. It is a comprehensive report. This complex is needed in the Peel region, but it does not seem to get a guernsey this year. I will again look at ways in which funding can be applied to this project so that it can be expedited, but unfortunately we may have to wait another year before it can be properly funded.

Another petition I tabled in this house was signed by 1 020 people and was on the Murray District Hospital. Most of those people belong to a group called the Friends of the Murray District Hospital. The planned upgrade of facilities was another attempt by the government during the election to throw money at this issue. That \$4 million will be wasted. The hospital is decrepit and in need of replacement. The Liberal government's plan was to replace it to the tune of \$18.2 million to accommodate the future needs of the region. Instead, this government has decided to refurbish and revive the existing hospital. The member for Avon referred to this hospital, which is one that I have had something to do with in years past. Unfortunately, the amount of \$4 million will only scratch the surface in dealing with the issues of this hospital in that fast-growing area. The government states that it will allocate \$4 million over the forward estimates to review and improve the delivery of health services in the Peel region, with particular emphasis on the Murray District Hospital. That is a bit of a nothing statement. What does it really mean? I will be trying to find out the answer during the estimates hearings. It will be proved to be a feeble attempt to offset the Liberals' commitments at the last election.

I now refer to the Peel Health Campus. The government will spend \$3 million on that campus but only \$70 000 in the first year of the forward estimates. As a result of the lack of facilities at the Peel Health Campus, the former member for Dawesville, Arthur Marshall, has established a foundation to try to raise funds for a paediatric section. The fact that the local people are forming a group to deal with the issue is an indictment of

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the government. They think it is serious enough to try to raise the money themselves, without any support from the government. This hospital's accident and emergency centre needs an upgrade. The member for Dawesville referred to this issue. I will not reiterate what he said, but the bottom line is that the A&E centre is designed to take 15 000 people a year. It is currently taking about 30 000, which is unsustainable, and that needs to be seriously addressed to ensure quality health care for the people in the Peel region. Again, no money has been allocated for that.

However, \$3.2 million has been allocated for the relocation of the Mandurah Community Health and Development Centre, which is located on Ormsby Terrace but will move to the medical precinct on Lakes Road near the hospital. That is a welcome contribution by the government.

A token amount of \$2.1 million has been thrown at the Peel waterways to address the issues there. I have made some phone calls and learnt that of that \$2.1 million, \$1.8 million is federal funding and only \$300 000 will come from the state government to deal with what I believe are iconic waterways in Western Australia. People speak of the Swan and Canning Rivers as being iconic. They are, but I believe that the Peel waterways are as important. They are suffering the same effects that are blighting the Swan River and have been overlooked. Unless something is done soon, it will cost a lot more money to rectify the problems.

A lot of studies are being done in the Peel Region - studies for this and that - which is a means of stalling the inevitable. At the end of the day someone needs to make a decision and get on with the job, or we will end up with a library full of reports and studies and nothing will have happened. A couple of classic examples are the Peel Sustainable Development Strategy 2020 report and the Pinjarra to Bunbury sustainability study. I lived in Brunswick Junction and I know the people down that way. Those reports will do very little to identify the issues at hand. We were told that the Pinjarra to Bunbury sustainability study would be ready prior to the election. I believe that was another empty election promise as the government has not come up with the goods. If it does come up with anything, I will be the first to raise it in this house and extol its virtues; however, the sustainability strategy appears to be just another red herring, or smokescreen, to obfuscate the members of this house.

Property rights are a big issue in the Peel region. Nothing in this budget deals with the issue of property rights. The future development of the area relies on an understanding that land will not be taken from people. The value of land impacts on the ability to develop the region and cater for the expected growth. We must be able to reassure people and put in place a policy under which people can go forward with confidence to develop their land. If we cannot do that, we will not have the sustainable growth that is required.

Unemployment in Western Australia was mentioned in this house yesterday. The state rate is approximately 4.5 per cent, which is encouraging. Sadly, the unemployment rate in the Peel region is 7.9 per cent. If we can attack the root causes of unemployment, we could lower the state average. Everyone in the region seems to rely on Alcoa for jobs. The skills shortage in the Peel region is acute. I will attend a forum tomorrow that will address the issue with industry. The Peel Development Commission, which is a government body, has come on board with the Housing Industry Association to look at how people can be attracted back into traditional trades. Over the years young people have preferred to go into technologically based industries at the expense of traditional trades such as bricklaying, boilermaking, electrical trades etc. In the Peel region, if a person can lay a brick, he can earn himself \$1.50 a brick. Twenty-one-year-olds are earning \$150 000 a year. That is the trade to be in.

Ms J.A. Radisich: That is a massive amount.

Mr M.J. COWPER: The member for Swan Hills and I might get ourselves a trowel and go into business! There is money to be made. The problem is that I have reports of people waiting between 18 months and two years before building commences. The bricks are on their pads for that time. It is an indictment of the industry. Traditionally, 60 per cent of building occurred north of the Swan River and 40 per cent south of the Swan River. The situation has reversed in recent years. Sixty per cent of construction now occurs south of the Swan River. Unfortunately, the TAFE facilities are all north of the river. That needs to be addressed.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler interjected.

Mr M.J. COWPER: No. I am including the Peel region in "south of the river".

Lifeline WA is a group that I have supported for a number of years. The group deals with youth suicide; it saves the lives of Western Australians. I have been a member for a number of years. I am pleased to announce that a Lifeline office will be established in the Peel region. I attended a breakfast with the member for Mandurah some weeks ago and was startled by some of the statistics. Approximately 30 000 calls are made to Lifeline in Western Australia every year. The Peel region represents 4.4 per cent of the Western Australian population; yet, it accounts for 18 per cent of calls to the facility. As a result, a branch of Lifeline will be established in

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Mandurah, adjacent to the Lady Brand Lifestyle Village, to deal with the expected 1 500 calls from the area in the next 12 months. Last year Lifeline was looking for funding because it expected an increase in the number of calls it would receive. At about the same time, approximately \$1.7 million was spent by the Premier to allow kids to attend the Perth Royal Show. I suggest to the house that the money could have been better spent trying to save the lives of young people, who are the future of the state. The government does not properly recognise Lifeline as a valuable tool to deal with this issue. The patron of Lifeline is the Governor, Lieutenant General John Sanderson. The government is slow to pick up on the value of Lifeline, particularly in the Peel region. I commend Tim Hawkins, the chief executive officer of Lifeline. He is a fantastic guy; he used to be an up-and-coming executive with BankWest but found his calling was to try to save young people. He is most commendable. He is a man of great integrity and high regard.

The Peel horse industry is the second largest income earner in the Peel region. That industry generates \$150 million a year in the region, yet there is not a zack in this budget for the Peel equine industry. I am pleased to indicate that, prior to the last election, an announcement was made about the development of a new equine institute of excellence. A Liberal government would have invested in a feasibility study for the model, which is based on the Kentucky model in the United States of America. The number of horses in the areas between Armadale and Harvey is greater than the human population. Private funding of \$100 million will be invested in developing a world-class equine facility in the Peel region. I am sure my colleague the member for Serpentine-Jarrahdale understands the significance of that given the significant equine base in his electorate.

Mr A.J. Simpson interjected.

Mr M.J. COWPER: We would gallop it in!

The Pinjarra Senior High School will benefit from a significant upgrade, so will the Pinjarra Primary School. Prior to the election, the federal member for Canning, Don Randall, the former member for Murray-Wellington, John Bradshaw and I attended a meeting with the parents of Pinjarra Senior High School and we were taken on a tour of the school. I arranged for the member for Cottesloe to also visit the school and we immediately committed \$6 million to upgrading the school.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler: Is that money locked in or is it part of the money lost from the Liberal figures the day before the election?

Mr M.J. COWPER: The money was on the table about two months before the election.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler: There was a lot of money on the table before the election but when the then Leader of the Opposition put forward his costings, much of it was found missing. Was that still there on the Friday before the election?

Mr M.J. COWPER: It was.

Mr J.J.M. Bowler: Are you sure about that? We will check on that now.

Mr M.J. COWPER: The government tried to belatedly trump the Liberal Party's offer and committed \$5 million. However, only \$3 million is shown in the budget papers. I will be interested to find out during the estimates committee hearings where the balance of \$2 million has gone. This budget is an exercise in smoke and mirrors. As a former policeman, I am suspicious about things and this budget has certainly raised my suspicions. I will therefore seek information about the other \$2 million. Nonetheless, the token amount offered by the government is welcome and will ensure that the school is significantly upgraded. That school was built in 1925 and refurbished in 1950.

The Pinjarra Primary School is in a similar situation. Some work needs to be done at that primary school. The member for Cottesloe and I visited the school, and saw the deplorable state it is in. It reflects a standard that no-one else would find acceptable for their children. Thankfully, the government has sought to trump the Liberal Party's commitment. I will hold the government accountable for the expenditure of that well-needed money. Under the school maintenance program, \$89 million is allocated for all the schools in the Murray electorate that require maintenance. I will hold the government to that commitment also.

Other items relevant to the Peel region are tourism, the Peel Development Commission and power reliability. North Dandalup is having difficulty sustaining a reliable power system, and it cannot get gas. I have written to the Minister for Energy asking that arrangements be made to provide 2 200 homes with access to gas. There is a gas-powered co-generation station at Pinjarra and a gas powerline from Dampier to Bunbury, but the people of Ravenswood, Yunderup and North Dandalup, who are near that gas pipeline, cannot hook into it.

The member for Mandurah made the point that an additional 25 officers will be appointed to the Mandurah Police Station. That is great; it will happen, but we need more. A bigger police station is required to

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accommodate them. Growth is outstripping the station. When it was constructed it was too small for its operations and it is degrading rapidly because of the number of people working in it. Planning should be done for a new police station at Mandurah and Pinjarra. I have a schedule here that seems to have been adopted by the Police Service setting out the number of police stations required throughout Western Australia. Members are more than welcome to look at it because it might be relevant to their electorates. Unfortunately, the government does not seem to be on the same page as the Police Service concerning the policing needs of Western Australia. I am very happy to see that the two-man police station policy has been adopted. For a number of years I have been canvassing to try to get rid of all one-man police stations. Now two-man stations are the go and one-man stations are no longer the situation. The change is welcome, but it needs to be properly funded and it is not part of the promised \$350 million that has been budgeted for in the past four years.

I note in the document that the government is talking about 27 new police stations. I counted Ellenbrook, Stirling, Karratha, South Hedland and Derby, but I am trying to establish where the remaining 22 stations will be. The only way I can achieve that number is by taking into consideration those stations that are already under construction, and have been for a number of years, and are nearing completion; namely, Albany, Newman and a couple of others. It is an embellishment of what is actually going on. I look forward to the estimates hearings so that we can drill down and find out what is occurring.

I refer now to the new central Perth detention centre - the watch-house. It is interesting that the government said it had made an announcement. The government is very good at this, and I am taking notes, because when we get into government we will probably do the same thing. When it makes an announcement it has a big hoo-ha and about two months later it has another big hoo-ha, perhaps when it turns a sod of soil. When it actually opens the doors it has another hoo-ha and when it gets its first arrest there is another hoo-ha and so on. The government seems to be able to make good mileage out of one event. The question is: when is the Perth watch-house going to be constructed? Again, I will wait until the estimates for that answer. I am sure all those questions will be answered. The detention centre is a huge \$81 million investment and I hope the government will assure the opposition that the announcement will not be another one of its perpetual announcements.

Also, I am looking forward to examining more closely the number of additional police officers. The government has said it has given an extra 250 police officers to the Western Australia Police Service in the past four years. According to the police annual report, this does not appear to be the case. It is something I will take up further with the minister. By my calculations, there are only 202 extra police.

The Police Service seems to have been the beneficiary of an increase in finance this year. However, when I consider the police stations it has promised and take out the nine new police stations in remote areas and the homes that are required to accommodate the police officers, which is subject to the Gordon inquiry, they seem to have been included in the budget promises. If we take out of the budget the costing for that, there has been no real increase in the police budget.

Two new planes have been bought for the Police Service. That is fantastic; it is great. The decision has been long overdue. The problem is there is no money to back it up. The service will not have fuel for them. They will not get off the ground. There is nothing in the budget to give the police the fuel to put into the planes or to train the pilots. There is no schedule for the replacement of those aircraft over any period of time. Therefore, in five or 10 years' time when these aircraft need replacing, we will be back to the same old, same old.

Several members interjected.

Mr M.J. COWPER: Tell that to the families of the officers who have been killed in the past six years, including my good friends the Scott family from Denmark, whose son was tragically killed in an aircraft crash because of very poor standards.

I thank the house for accommodating me on a truncated version of my speech. I must leave the house now.

MR J.N. HYDE (Perth) [5.08 pm]: This Labor budget is exceptionally good for the electorate of Perth, with a real focus on schools, community safety and health. It is an exceptionally good budget from a hardworking, very talented Treasurer. As the Premier promised during and after the election campaign, the Gallop government aims to do better than in its first term.

What has been absent from the budget debate so far, particularly from the opposition, is how we can make the next three budgets even better, and that takes an understanding of what really fuels our economy.

As these budget papers reveal, the real powerhouse of the Western Australian economy continues to be Perth, particularly the central business district. The strengthening of our gross state product is outlined on page 7 of the budget papers where it states it is fuelled by household consumption, business investment and dwelling

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investment. Page 23 of the budget papers refers to mining royalties and indicates that they are growing but still contribute just eight per cent of state operating revenue. The greater economic impact is in St Georges Terrace, from the 2 000 or so Woodside employees up the top end all the way down to the new Portman project, inland from Esperance, that has over 200 employees at the bottom end of Adelaide Terrace, and, of course, all the lawyers, financiers, caterers, engineers and other associated CBD-based firms working in the mining industry. It is these hundreds of thousands of employees, business owners, shareholders and other city residents who are undertaking the real economic powerhouse of consumer spending and dwelling investment. We must accept that Western Australia is an Asian economy. There are fundamental differences between the economies of WA and the eastern states, not obvious similarities. Asia and WA have high economic growth and high business investment. As growing economies with high population growth, we also fuel that growth through high, yet sustainable, net debt-to-revenue rates and meeting new infrastructure needs. Slow, decaying western economies in the eastern states have low debt levels and a focus on fixing existing infrastructure, rather than investing in new infrastructure. The opposition and other fiscal Luddites dare to criticise our prurient, almost timid, \$1.6 billion Perth to Mandurah railway line. Given that Shanghai is building 18 new underground subway lines, it is clear that we Asian economies and the voters in the southern suburbs understand the need and value of new infrastructure. We must have an economic debate in this state that challenges some of the western orthodoxies in our Treasury. I accept that many of our ministers were in Parliament or were observers when the lazy Court mark II government blamed everything on the previous Burke Labor government, successfully creating the brand name "WA Inc". The great tragedy of the Court years is that the Court government could not understand Western Australia's role as an Asian economy nor did it brand what was right about WA; it just branded what was allegedly bad about WA. Perhaps the Gallop cabinet, in trying hard not to be regarded as a WA Inc cabinet, has been too conservative with debt, surpluses and government priming of the economy. We should not be content merely with a 5.25 per cent growth in the state economy this year, thinking that we have done enough just because we have twice the growth of eastern state economies; we should be aspiring to stronger economic growth and a greater improvement in living standards that many of our northern Asian economies are achieving.

I do not intend that my comments be taken out of context. This is not criticism of my government. This is a quarter-time, gee-up pep talk on how we can do even better in the rest of the game. History will judge the Brand and Court mark I dynasty years as wasted - nice, solid economic growth. However, while Queensland developed its regions so as 50 per cent of Queenslanders live regionally, lazy conservative WA governments in the 1960s created a centralised capital-city economy resulting today in 76 per cent of Western Australians living in Perth. Already in its first five years, the Gallop government has engendered the greatest economic growth in our state's history. Our Treasurer should be lauded. However, as good as the growth has been, it could be much, much better. In the old days of state politics, a loyal opposition provided an alternative vision and offered sensible policies that a government would take on board. Today state oppositions just carp and whinge. Today it appears that state Labor governments are elected because they represent the diversity of the community, which includes diversity in economic approaches. A number of government and opposition members were previously local government mayors running balanced budgets, rather than surpluses, and massively investing in new infrastructure that ratepayers wanted. WA needs an economic vision in the next three budgets that brands WA, so that when people in WA and overseas think of Western Australia, they have a clear, defined image of a place in which they want to live or visit and spend money. Unfortunately, our budget processes put spending into narrow silos, with ministers and bureaucrats fiercely guarding fenced boundaries. It is telling that, since the Fraser years, in WA the final budget process via cabinet appears to be a review by the ERC - the expenditure review committee. It is not an expenditure value-adding review that engenders further economic growth; it is a cost-cutting review. We must start to regard increased spending in tourism, international education, the arts, leisure and sport as a combined organic entity that will brand WA. The retort is not "what will you cut in the budget so that you can boost spending in the brand areas"; the answer is how to grow our economy more to invest in economic activities that will keep growing the economy.

Let us begin the debate. A big surplus is bad. It is lazy money. I appreciate that our cabinet and some commentators may think a big surplus means "Phew! A Gallop government is not a WA Inc government!" However, it is lazy money; doing a nice, admirable, old-fashioned economic job in lowering debt, and saving interest costs at a time when real interest rates are at their lowest level for decades. It remains very lazy money, because it is not actually in the economy or in the hands of taxpayers, priming bigger economic growth. My Labor colleagues may be sick of me questioning Treasury each year on how it bases our expected royalties and other revenue on an ultra-conservative low price per barrel of oil. In the past four budgets, I happened to be right about the price of oil, so I am a little emboldened to discuss Treasury basing our state revenue on oil, in this budget, at \$US30 a barrel. The federal Treasury is factoring in a price of \$US50. British Airways, one of the biggest private users of petroleum, is hedging its future buys at a conservative \$US44. The United Kingdom

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government, when it brought down its budget earlier this year, originally budgeted \$US40.60 for oil; it was revised in May to \$US46.30, conservatively, it is said. If we are understating our revenue, we are overstating our net debt to revenue ratio. I note that much better booming growth economies than ours are using 49 per cent as the benchmark. We need to have an economic debate that challenges the Thatcherite mantra of 47 per cent as being inscribed in a tablet set in stone. I note, poker-faced and without comment, that oil crept up \$US2.50 a barrel this morning and is now at \$US54 a barrel.

Singapore and Qatar are both diversifying their economies. They understand that the minerals, building and consumer boom in Asia may not continue for decades unabated. Both countries are proudly spending billions extra on the arts and sport, as well as the billions they are already spending in tourism. Qatar is rebranding itself, from being seen only as an oil producer, and Singapore is rebranding from being a parking yard for supertankers and an airport hub for quick, cheap shopping, into a sophisticated leading arts destination. The Art Gallery of Western Australia's budget is a shameful disgrace - a tiny increase overall in real terms. Treasury has presented to me, as the local member, that the highlight is a \$238 000 acquisitions fund. I tell members that \$238 000 would barely cover hay and art material expenses for the Malay elephants at Perth Zoo - Putra Mas, Permai, Teduh and Tricia - whipping up their trunk art to sell off in fundraisers. In 1973, Gough Whitlam bought Jackson Pollock's *Blue Poles* for \$1.3 million - valued at \$9 million in today's money. As a work of art - although it would never be sold - it is worth \$35 million today. It has engendered hundreds of millions of dollars in economic terms in Canberra, not only from *Blue Poles* itself, but from the subsequent good acquisitions such as David Hockney's glorious *A Bigger Grand Canyon*. If our state Art Gallery could acquire just a monumental Lucien Freud or a breath-taking Aboriginal masterpiece, imagine the Perth branding that we could achieve. Far from being remembered by older people as the place where, 30 years ago, a chunk of Skylab landed, we would have pieces of art and branding that would add to Western Australia. In our first mid-year budget review we should give \$10 million to the WA Art Gallery and say, "Give us a business plan that will explain it slowly to economic Neanderthals that \$10 million in careful acquisitions will bring in a one-hundredfold benefit in tourism, arts, education and consumer growth." The budget papers note on page 802 that the WA Art Gallery has won a merit award in national tourism, and its gallery shop has won a WA tourism retailing award. If the price of oil is above \$US30 a barrel on 2 July, I ask the Treasurer, the economic review committee and Cabinet to please throw \$10 million to the Art Gallery of Western Australia as a starter. They will soon be reaping \$100 million, which will pay for new schools, hospitals and police services.

I praise this budget for the increase in funding to boost international students through Perth Education City. I praise this budget for the increase in tourism funding. However, let us do even better in our next three budgets. Queensland brands itself as a tourism destination and spends at much higher levels than Western Australia, despite the fact that Western Australia has better beaches and a better reef. It is the marketing and the small spend that is our problem, not the Western Australian product. We can do better. While international student numbers in Western Australia are increasing by only one per cent, they have increased by 14 per cent in Adelaide. The South Australian government and the City of Adelaide brand Adelaide as a education destination on English-speaking television throughout Asia. We can do better in Western Australia.

The Treasurer deserves praise for cutting taxes by at least \$1.8 billion in this budget. However, I will give an example of why we should be cutting more taxes. Four years ago, the Treasurer asked me to prepare a submission on stamp duty on trucks and buses bought new in Western Australia. Our stamp duty was three percentage points higher than Queensland and two percentage points higher than South Australia. Our engineering firms in Western Australia were hurting. Western Australian people were going to Queensland to buy a \$1 million road train and were licensing it in Queensland before they brought it back to Western Australia. Western Australian firms were importing giant trucks and buses - previously made in Western Australia - from Scandinavia. Those trucks and buses would sail past Fremantle on a Nordic ship and would go to Adelaide, where they would be unloaded and registered and then driven back to Perth. Today the truck and bus making firms in Western Australia are booming again. SFM Engineering owner Doug McDonald, whom I visited originally when I was researching this matter, now employs 65 people. He has just brought in his first batch of 10 skilled Chinese welders, and he will be bringing in more, because the demand cannot be met. We in Western Australia cannot wait five years for federal-funded apprenticeships to meet the demand.

The Gallop Labor vision should be to cut more of the uncompetitive taxes. I praise the Treasurer for letting me work with him to get a cut in this stamp duty, and also in some of the other nuisance taxes, such as the equipment hiring leases stamp duty. These taxes directly affect my Perth constituents. This state has the highest rate of self-employed people of any state. If Treasury is setting an artificial budget capacity to enable future tax cuts when the time is right, but that budget capacity is based on a false premise of much underestimated revenue and a too-large safety net surplus, then we are denying tax cuts that could be brought forward.

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Members, do not be misled by the furphy of insufficient skilled labour and not allowing our economy to grow too quickly. As a Labor Party member, I am proud that tight demand is driving up workers' wages and our standard of living. While the federal government is dragging its feet on apprentices, the Gallop government is acting now.

We should also be encouraging some of the one million skilled Australians who work overseas to come home. When I talk to WA expats, nearly all tell me they would return to this state if income tax rates were not so high. In the interim, we should quickly bring in overseas workers. My local restaurant association based in Northbridge is looking to bring in 150 cooks from overseas immediately. We cannot meet demand in Western Australia, particularly at mining sites and some regional hot spots. The Howard Government's immigration practices have placed a bottleneck on the entry of skilled workers, but it is now offering to place Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs staff in groups such as the Motor Trades Association to speed up overseas worker placements. As we are an Asian economy, Western Australia should not be fearful of skilled worker migration. Those 10 Chinese welders are not taking jobs from Western Australians, but are creating a 100-fold spend in our economy as they need to eat, be housed and recreate like any other worker.

I return to my comment on the four Asian elephants at Perth Zoo, three of which were gifts from the Malaysian government in the early 1990s. Tricia came out in 1960 via Singapore, probably as a £10 tourist. Zoos are amazing economic boosters, and we should spend more in that regard in Western Australia. Taronga Park Zoo and Melbourne Zoo have a beautiful new range of enclosures waiting for nine Thai elephants to arrive. I was at the moated Australian embassy in Bangkok a year ago when the elephants were doodling some art to celebrate their move to Australia as a gift. A year later, the Howard Government has not been able fast-track the arrival of elephants into this country. Admittedly the feds are consulting, but some of our well-meaning but deluded non-government organisations think that taking a Bangkok elephant away from scavenging along a 10-lane polluted freeway reserve to being allowed to boost conservation in Australia is a bad thing. Can members imagine the impact on the branding of WA and the economic tourism impact if Perth Zoo were able to secure two royal albino elephants from Thailand or a giant panda from China? The worldwide nexus is huge between a signature zoo exhibit and convention towns, international students and economic growth.

The super jumbo Airbus A380 comes into service in 2006. We need a whole-of-government arts-tourism-education-zoo vision so that the airlines will want to fly the big aircraft into Perth. Qantas this week is advertising a \$300 return ticket from Singapore for people to visit Perth. Millions of middle-class Singaporeans regularly take four-day weekends to spend their massive disposable incomes. They do not receive as much annual leave as is the case with Australians, but they have triple the number of long and extra-long weekends we have in Australia. International students already attract parents and siblings who come to visit at a rate of 1.8 visitor per student. We can make that market grow. The 20-something or 30-something professionals in Singapore and elsewhere in Asia will fly to Bangkok, Kuala Lumpur or Bali for a dance party weekend or for something different. Let us brand WA so that they, and the coming generation of mainland Chinese with disposable incomes, will want to make Perth or Broome their quick vacation destination.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Are we competitive in terms of dance parties?

MR J.N. HYDE: We could be with slightly more government assistance. People will not come here to shop at night, but they will come here to dance.

One of most important economic drivers in WA, and specifically in my electorate, is the \$21 million Chinese consulate building in East Perth. The Chinese government has shown faith in Western Australia by making an investment in offices, housing, personnel and equipment. The Gallop government should be praised for increasing our trade office presence in Asia, admittedly from a terribly low base under the conservatives. However, we need to invest much more in resources, personnel and intelligence in Asia. In some Asian cities, WA has one staff member and a shared office, whereas Queensland has its own digs and five staff. It should be no surprise that Queensland tourism and international student recruitment are outstripping ours. That big fat WA surplus looks even less impressive when we factor in the opportunity cost of not having staff to build on the goodwill and one-off project spends we undertake.

I hope we actually have a cohesive strategy to value add some excellent budget initiatives being undertaken in Asia. I praise the Minister for Culture and the Arts for our funding support of the West Australian Symphony Orchestra in China next year, between 7 and 26 May. Please, Mr Speaker, do not schedule parliamentary sittings at that time. We need to ensure that our tourism spend, our international student spend and our political lobbying are coordinated so that we get full value. Similarly, someone is planning a WA Week in South Korea later this year. Are all ministries and agencies involved? If we had two staff in Seoul, would we get 20 times the economic value that we would get for our state if we had just one staff member?

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In summary - I note with some surprise that the audience has grown since I started my speech -

The SPEAKER: We are trying to keep the crowds outside.

Mr J.N. HYDE: This remains not only an exceptionally good budget but also probably one of the best budgets WA has ever seen. We went to the election promising that we could do better. We did not go to the election sitting on our laurels. We said that we would work to make a better WA. We have the ability to do that. We should not be happy with excellent economic growth; we should aim for the best economic growth. It is through investment that we will get it.

MR D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN (Leschenault) [5.32 pm]: Firstly, I will pick up on some comments that the member for Perth made, because they were quite interesting and, dare I say it, I actually agreed with the member for Perth. Yesterday I asked a question of the Treasurer in which I pointed out that it looked as though the government had underestimated the amount of revenue it would get from taxation through the oil stream process. I pointed out very clearly that with the price of crude oil at \$US52 a barrel yesterday - as the member for Perth has correctly pointed out, the price has climbed to about \$US54 a barrel today - it looked as though the government was being a bit stingy in its budget estimates. Of course, the government has indicated that in the coming financial year the price of oil will sit on about \$US40 a barrel, and after that fiscal year the price will drop to \$US30 a barrel. We pointed out that notable economic forecasters such as the Macquarie Bank and others had indicated that there is no way, in the medium term, that the price will come down to \$US30. It might come down to \$US43 or \$US44. Others are suggesting that it will stay at \$US50. Some are suggesting that it will go even higher than that. Through the financial year 2005-06, the chances of the price of oil going down to an average of \$US40 a barrel are extremely slim. In that respect, I agree wholeheartedly with the member for Perth. He said that if this carries on, or words to that effect, guess what? We might have another \$100 million of taxation revenue. If the price of oil sits on about \$US52 a barrel, we will have more than \$180 million of taxation revenue. That is the point we were making to the Treasurer. However, when we did it, he indicated that there was a conspiracy - that I must somehow have some conspiracy idea that the government was featherbedding its budget and so on. The member for Perth will be delighted to know that I agree with him. This is yet another indication of how this government has padded out the budget. It is not the first year that this government has done it. If members look at the current budget papers and look back over the past couple of years, they will see that it is something the Labor Party is very good at. It underestimates the price of oil. In one year alone this Treasurer got an extra \$310 million out of oil taxation because the government underestimated the value at the beginning. It was all out of the north west of the state. I wonder how much goes back into the north west of the state. The former member for Pilbara is not here, otherwise I would be getting interjection after interjection. The member for Perth has hit the nail on the head. Dare I say it is not the only area in the budget where revenues have been underestimated? There is employment growth in the north of the state and so on. I have sat here and sometimes shaken my head at some of the things the member for Perth has said, but today we are united in agreeing that this Treasurer has got it wrong and has underestimated the amount of revenue he will get in this budget. He is obviously covering up the fact. We will see another expenditure blow-out -

Mr J.N. Hyde: It is the Treasury.

Mr D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN: It is the Treasurer. The bloke over there with the red tie is the person who delivered the budget speech. I did not see the Under Treasurer come into this place. The Treasurer comes into this place. He is backed by all the Labor Party members, who give him their support and say what a lovely budget it is. We will see expenditure blowing out again over the next few years because the Treasurer has managed to featherbed the budget. I will remind the Treasurer of this conversation in 12 months' time. We have had this discussion before, when I have pointed out at the beginning of the financial year how the Treasurer has managed to featherbed a budget. At the end of the year, lo and behold, one of us was right. Guess what? It was not the Treasurer.

That is not what I want to talk about. I want to make some comments on an area of energy policy that for a while was really hitting the headlines but now, unfortunately, has drifted to the back of the agenda. Whenever a state or commonwealth budget is released people look at what the government of the day is doing. They ask what the government can do to assist people in the community, whether it be small business groups, particular lobby groups, the health sector or whatever it might be. Collectively, what can we do to assist the very people whom we represent in this chamber? We will have a political debate over what sort of direction we should go in - should we give tax cuts, spend more money on services and so forth. However, one area in which we can make a very significant difference - I would argue at minimal cost to the public coffers - is motoring costs. This debate really came to the fore about five or six years ago when a number of country members in particular got

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fed up with the fact that country motorists were being charged so much more for petrol, diesel and liquid petroleum gas or autogas than their counterparts in the metropolitan area. Ultimately a committee looked into the matter.

Since the Gallop Labor government won office in 2001 on a raft of promises to bring down the cost of motoring, we have seen very little in the way of positive action; indeed, we saw the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection take up his new post in 2001. At first he looked as though he might be quite zealous about the task of tackling country fuel prices and perhaps motoring costs as a whole. It did not take long for us to realise that all we had before the 2001 election was rhetoric. It was not long before the government threw its hands up in the air and said that it was all too hard and it would let the major oil companies do whatever they do, and we were back to square one. As a result of that, as we speak today, petrol can be bought in and around Perth for 96.5c a litre for unleaded fuel while in my home town of Bunbury, which is less than 200 kilometres away, the cost is 107.9c; that is, in Perth the cost is 96.5c while in Bunbury the cheapest is 107.9c. The Caltex petrol station next to my electorate office in Eaton, which is technically in the Shire of Dardanup, is charging 109.9c a litre for fuel today. In very round terms, it costs about one cent or one and a half cents a litre to freight the fuel to Bunbury from Perth. The retailers get a one cent a litre commonwealth subsidy, so if stations in the metropolitan area are compared with like stations in Bunbury, there should be a difference of about half a cent a litre. By "like stations" I mean petrol stations that are pumping similar volumes, have comparable economic situations and so on. How the difference between 96.5c a litre and 109.9c a litre for fuel can be justified is beyond me. Members must bear in mind that this Labor government went to the election in 2001 promising in no uncertain terms to close the gap between country and metropolitan fuel prices. That is just one area of motoring cost in which the people of Western Australia would see some very significant benefits if we had a government, of whatever political persuasion, with the fortitude to run with the issue and take on some of the biggest and most powerful vested interest groups in the commercial sector.

It was interesting to hear the debate last night in this chamber about the issues of market domination in the retail sector and, in particular, the provision and sale of foodstuffs. I suggest that anyone who wants to get an inkling of what is happening, and what will only continue to happen, in the retail sector need look only at petrol marketing. In fact, across Australia at the moment we are seeing absolute market domination in a number of commercially strategic areas. General retailing, food retailing and petrol retailing are intertwined. The other area, of course, that is being brought into this fear of market domination by major corporations is liquor sales. There are problems in areas such as insurance, banking and other sectors, but I will not go into them at the moment. It is no surprise, then, that Coles and Woolworths -

Mr M.P. Murray: Are you suggesting deregulation?

Mr D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN: If the member reads the report that was brought down about five years ago, he will find that we suggested a very extensive regulatory network for fuel pricing. That report was brought down in the dying days of the previous administration. The Labor Party picked up that report, ran with it and said that it would implement the recommendations in the report, and then it ran a mile from it. Fuel pricing is now becoming a battlefield between the monopolistic corporations and the cartels on the one hand, and the people who strive for free enterprise and a truly competitive environment on the other hand.

There are a number of promises in this area that the Labor Party in four years simply has not upheld. I have just mentioned one example of closing the gap between country and metropolitan fuel prices. The report went further and considered the provision of liquefied petroleum gas, and I will touch on that in a bit more detail in a moment. For some years now in Perth we have had the crazy situation of the petrol discount cycle. It is not a discount cycle. These companies do not sell fuel at a loss for any particular period. Simply, the wholesale price of fuel is padded and companies can, in effect, pick winners in the retail market. Over the past decade or so, major oil companies have selectively subsidised their own sites, because that is what the discounting effect has been used for, and have given them a discount on the price of the fuel. It means that they can wholesale fuel to their own sites at the same price they can sell it to an independent petrol site. Of course, once they factor in the subsidy - or the discount, as some people like to call it - for their own site, it very often means, and has meant in the past, that many independent retailers simply cannot buy petrol at the same price as some of the major corporations are selling it either at their own company sites or at sites that they control. Over the past 10 years, independent companies and retailers have gone out of business one by one. That has not occurred because those businesses were in bad locations or could not compete on a level playing field. Quite the opposite is true; they had the rug pulled from beneath them. They were not able to buy fuel at the price at which the major corporations sold fuel to their own sites. One by one they went broke. There was a tremendous independent site on Walter Road. The owner made it clear that the major oil corporations were subsidising their sites and that he could not buy fuel at the price at which it was sold to stations only a few hundred metres away on either side of

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him. Eventually, customers did not go through his driveway and the business went broke. Another classic example is in Singleton. The Shell petrol station in Singleton used to be independently owned by a private individual. The station is in a tremendous location and includes some ancillary retail components. The problem was that the two major company-owned stations to the north and south of the Singleton station constantly undercut the independent retailer through cross-subsidies and predatory pricing. Ultimately, that business went under and Shell took it over.

These issues have been debated for five or six years. The government has gone very quiet. For a while it tried to use the legislation that the previous government put in place. We never found out the results of some forensic investigations. The government made excuses for why it could not close the price gap between Perth and country areas. Eventually, the minister simply said that the government would leave it up to the oil companies to decide what they wanted to do.

Another area that is extremely important is liquid petroleum gas. As with petrol, we do not know whether we are paying an honest, competitive price for LPG. I suspect that we are paying way above the odds. The argument about the price of petroleum is that import parity pricing is involved; that is, local crude oil can be sold on the world market so it would be unfair to restrict the price of that fuel in any way. In any event, Western Australia cannot supply its total needs, so that could not be done anyway. Import parity pricing is not covered by a law that has been passed by this Parliament; it is just a mechanism that the corporations use. In the case of petroleum products such as unleaded petrol and diesel, it is very hard to argue against the implementation of some form of import parity pricing. The situation is different with liquefied petroleum gas, because Western Australia can supply far in excess of its domestic needs. There are three main producers of liquid petroleum gas in Western Australia; BP Australia Pty Ltd, Wesfarmers LPG Pty Ltd and BHP Billiton Petroleum. BHP Billiton Petroleum is based in Onslow and takes LPG from the product that comes from the North West Shelf and the Griffin field; BP takes some butane and propane out of the production process at its refinery in Kwinana; and, for some years, Wesfarmers has in effect had a monopoly on extracting liquid petroleum gas from the Dampier to Bunbury pipeline. The Wesfarmers arrangement is due to end at the end of this month, which could offer significant opportunities.

Around 250 000 tonnes of LPG is produced annually in Western Australia, most of which - 170 000 tonnes - is exported, and about 80 000 tonnes is used domestically. Of the gas used domestically, around 67 000 tonnes, which is more than 130 million litres, is used as autogas. The bulk of that liquid petroleum gas - almost all of it - comes from Wesfarmers' LPG extraction plant in Kwinana. We have abundant supplies of liquid petroleum gas on the North West Shelf. We have a relatively fledgling autogas market and we do not have a huge domestic market, either - probably 10 000 to 15 000 tonnes of domestic use a year. It might surprise some members to learn that Albany, for instance, is reticulated with LPG, not natural gas. Liquid petroleum gas is the substance that we generally refer to as bottled gas and is used not only for barbeques but also by many people, particularly in outlying areas of the metropolitan region, in country towns and more remote country areas, for their basic cooking and heating needs. The price that people continue to pay for bottled gas defies any logic. In 2001, the Labor Party stated that it would provide a subsidy on bottled gas to assist seniors with cheaper heating and cooking. For the fifth budget in a row, that is another election promise that the Labor Party has failed to meet. The Labor Party has failed to look after the seniors and pensioners in our community who rely on bottled gas and who are susceptible to rises in gas prices.

Over the next couple of years we will have to turn our minds to expanding the liquid petroleum gas market, particularly in relation to autogas. At the moment the autogas industry is relatively small, but the technology is totally different from what it was 10 years ago. We are now on the verge of being able to rely on LPG extensively, maybe eventually almost exclusively in Western Australia, until other energy and environmentally efficient and effective fuel stuffs become commercially and economically available. Ten years ago the technology was not that flash. If a person converted his car to run on LPG, he would often have problems and no manufacturers in Australia were rolling dedicated LPG motors off the production line. They have been doing so in America for some time, even though the LPG market there is very small as a proportion of the overall market, but that overall market is so big that it provides an economy of scale that justifies producing dedicated LPG-driven vehicles.

Some years ago, Ford in Australia took the plunge and started producing dedicated LPG-driven vehicles, which have been an enormous success and have exceeded Ford's initial expectations. The technology has now reached the stage where there is an EFI-compatible dedicated motor. Dual cab utes and a range of sedans are coming onto the market, and we are reaching the stage when there is an LPG car to suit just about every commercial application. The only problem in this whole equation is the cost of LPG. While some people will connect their vehicles to LPG - in some cases, it is economically viable to do so - in most cases it is still very marginal whether it is worth converting a car to LPG or spending the extra money up front on a car that contains an LPG

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conversion. The reason for this is very simple: over the years the retail price of LPG has steadily tracked behind the price of petroleum products. Therefore, as the marvellous import parity pricing policy has resulted in the price of unleaded fuel and diesel moving up and down in relation to the witchcraft and vagaries of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, the same thing has happened with LPG. As I said earlier, the situation can be understood with petrol because we are dependent on what happens overseas as we get a huge amount of our crude oil from overseas. In that sense, we are price takers. However, we are not price takers with LPG. We have LPG galore; it is coming out of our ears because of the North West Shelf gas project. The argument used by the companies is that they still have to apply import parity pricing on LPG because, putting it simply, if they do not sell it on the domestic market at an international price, they can export it at that price. It is not that simple. As I said earlier, the domestic market is very small. We have far more capacity to supply the domestic market and to meet export needs than we have demand to use up the supply. The bottom line is that we are paying too much for LPG, whether it is bottled or autogas. Not even a year ago LPG was selling for 30c to 35c a litre at petrol stations around Perth. The cheapest that LPG can be purchased in Perth today is 41.5c a litre. The average price around Perth is 43.5c a litre. That is interesting because we are paying more than people pay in the eastern states. At Tullamarine today LPG can be bought for 35.9c a litre, and a docket from a supermarket will knock 4c a litre off the price. We pay 43.5c a litre, but people in the east pay 35.9c a litre. For all I know, that is probably not the cheapest price in Victoria. Why are we paying 12c a litre more than a typical price in Victoria when we have such an abundance of LPG in this state? How do we know that we pay a fair price? About a year ago we could buy LPG at a bowser for around 30c a litre. Nothing has changed since then to the production costs for LPG. There might be some additional freight costs or wages that have been factored in, but, in real terms, I would bet a brick to the Sydney Harbour Bridge that a good analysis would show that there is no justification in a commercial sense for the increase in LPG prices over that period. The LPG prices have tracked up with petroleum prices, which are affected by international oil prices because we are generally price takers. We have to accept the import parity pricing on petroleum. The LPG producers, principally Wesfarmers and BP Australia, have increased their prices accordingly; therefore, they are generally tracking 50c or 60c a litre at the retail level.

I mentioned earlier that a few years ago Western Australia used approximately 130 million litres of LPG each year. We have a very small market. It might be possible to grow the market if the price of LPG were low enough, and the differential between LPG and petroleum were high enough. When it came to buying a new car, people would realise that the price of petrol was about \$1 a litre and likely to climb, as the member for Perth indicated and agreed with me. Let us assume that the price of LPG were stable at 30c a litre. It would suddenly become worthwhile considering buying a dedicated LPG-powered vehicle, especially as there is now so much choice on the market. It would also pay leasing companies to have fleet arrangements involving LPG vehicles. At the moment, it is marginal. I have spoken to some people in leasing who will not go near LPG because of the uncertainties of resale values and because the differential price between petrol and LPG is not high enough. If people knew there was price stability with LPG at between 30c and 35c a litre, and that the differential would be maintained, they would have the confidence to buy an LPG-powered vehicle. The market would start to expand of its own accord. The state government might take the plunge and do the right thing for environmental and cost reasons and start converting its fleet to LPG. Hang on a minute, that is what the Labor Party promised in 2001. Again, it is another promise not fulfilled. As products come on stream, if the price is kept low enough and the differential remains high enough, the use of liquefied petroleum autogas will start to expand. That will be very good for our environment, particularly in the metropolitan region because LPG burns infinitely cleaner than is the case with unleaded petroleum. Only the latest diesel specifications would give it a run for its money. The use of LPG would provide cheaper motoring.

It does not take much to work out just how much cheaper it would be. To use the Treasurer's analogy, I did a back-of-the-coaster calculation. Given petrol is available for 96c a litre and LPG is consistently available at 30c a litre, even based on today's petrol prices, the price differential would be 66.5c a litre. I will not go into the different burning capacities and energy efficiencies because LPG is slightly less efficient than petrol. However, a person using 50 litres of LPG a week would save around \$33.25 a week. Essentially, over a full year, that person would save around \$1 730. In effect, that person would be giving himself a pay increase of more than \$2 500 a year. If we could keep LPG prices to the 30c mark, even based on today's petrol prices - most analysts predict that petrol prices will continue to go north over the next couple of years - it would amount to Western Australians giving themselves a pay rise of \$2 500 a year. Surely that is something that governments of any political persuasion would want to strive for.

To achieve overall economic benefits, obviously there would be a policy of expanding the use of LPG through domestic supplies. Not only would that save individual motorists and the Western Australian economy significantly - we are talking tens of millions of dollars - but also obviously the national economy would benefit

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because it would gradually reduce the need for imported petroleum products and so on. There would be environmental benefits, a typical Western Australian family with just one vehicle would in effect receive a \$2 500 pay rise, the Western Australian economy would save tens of millions of dollars and import reliance would be reduced.

Until now, Wesfarmers, in effect, has had a monopoly on drawing LPG from the Dampier-Bunbury pipeline but that arrangement is ending. A couple of years ago I thought it was possible to mandate a particular specification requirement along the pipeline. I have subsequently realised that that is not the case. We need to turn our minds to how we can ensure that the domestic market is supplied LPG at an appropriate rate. A number of suggestions have been made: one is to hypothecate a domestic supply to ensure we always have a domestic supply of LPG and perhaps even apply price control to LPG supplies. That is not a new idea. In 2001 the Labor Party promised it would do exactly that. Price control of LPG is a very simple matter. It is relatively simple to work out the true wholesale cost, production costs and so forth of LPG. It is also very easy to work out a sensible and fair price for LPG.

Mr M.P. Murray: Cost-plus is the old system.

Mr D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN: It is an old system, but I would not quite call it cost-plus. There is a way to work out the true production costs of LPG and come up with a fair wholesale price before LPG hits the auto market. That would not touch the export market at all. Whether it is Wesfarmers, BHP or whomever, they would be able to engage in the export market and sell at whatever the international price might be. It is time the Labor Party looked at that 2001 promise it made and started thinking about whether it will implement some sort of price control for LPG. If, for example, it were possible to demonstrate that LPG retail prices could come in at around 30c a litre, I would suggest people would start changing over to LPG in droves. The key concern for people who are contemplating going over to LPG is that although the cost may be 30c a litre one day, it will be 35c the next, 41c six months later and who knows how much it will be after that. The other day in Perth it hit more than 50c a litre. People do not have any confidence that LPG prices will stay low.

I thought a government worth its salt would talk to some of these corporations, particularly Wesfarmers, about the future potential to assist with or facilitate any arrangements that would enable them to continue to carry out extensive export sales of liquid petroleum gas on the basis of a fairer and more consistently lower LPG wholesale price and ultimate retail price for autogas use in Western Australia.

Finally, after five budgets, another thing this government should do is live up to a simple commitment to provide a subsidy for bottled gas for seniors. I am sure many members, particularly those in country areas, are aware of the problem. I know the member for Collie-Wellington's electorate would be a classic example of a place where a lot of people rely on bottled gas. Even in my electorate, which is principally an urban electorate, there are areas that are not reticulated for gas. I heard the member for Murray say that he is trying to champion the cause in his electorate for natural gas reticulation. Some areas of my electorate fit the same category. Consequently, at the moment people have a choice: they can use electricity for heating and cooking or they can use bottled gas. Obviously, bottled gas has a number of advantages, but, quite frankly, the main disadvantage is the price. I have gone out - not in my electorate, I am pleased to say - and spoken to elderly people who have told me that during winter they actually turn the heating off and cook on one burner because they cannot afford the bottled gas. That is a very sad reflection on the lack of action, particularly by the current government, which made a very firm commitment to reduce the price of bottled gas for pensioners. The main thing it demonstrates is that it is time to consider this issue at a government level. We do not need to look into why it is happening; we know why it is happening. We have had a study and we know what is going on. It is time the government took some very positive action to provide real competition in the industry. If that is difficult to achieve - I suggest that will be the outcome - the government will have to look at a regulatory framework to ensure Western Australians are not ripped off when they buy bottled gas and are not susceptible to the vagaries of import parity pricing when they fill up their cars with liquid petroleum gas.

The bottom line is that if the government is dinkum and wants to implement its 2001 policy, and wants to find a way to assist Western Australians throughout the state without having to burden taxpayers, there is a solution. If we deal with the price of LPG - both autogas and bottled gas - and reduce the differential between country and metropolitan fuel prices, we would put a lot more money back into the pockets of average Western Australians. I argue that is something that every government of any political persuasion should be striving to achieve.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie-Wellington) [6.09 pm]: I rise to speak in favour of what I consider to be a very fair budget. As is the wont of our world these days, everyone wants things immediately and is not quite willing to wait for them. I will talk about our government's 2001 policy on old-growth forests and bring that policy back into focus for a little while. Back then members opposite said that country towns would die and fade away.

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I remind them that this has not happened. The Labor Party has created extra national parks that are now stimulating the economy of some country towns. For example, the park next to Collie, Wellington National Park, is visited by people from Bunbury as well as from Collie. It has certainly stimulated the economy around those areas. For many, the cafe at the national park was shut. That cafe is now a thriving business. That business is overflowing when people go there and then the tourism flows into Collie. We are quite pleased with that.

I will mention the funding in the budget for some improvements in the Collie area. There is \$80 000 to complete the redevelopment of the Wellington Dam precinct. That will be a major improvement to a development that was built in the 1950s and not improved since then, and has been well received by the visitors to the dam. Every year about 200 000 people visit the Wellington National Park, which has put a high demand on the facilities there. The government will now fund improvements to that development. There is \$200 000 in the budget to complete the construction of the rivers' edge trail - I do not know whether I can pronounce the Aboriginal word for it, Jabit, correctly - linking various river attractions in the Honeymoon Pool precinct. The Honeymoon Pool area now attracts thousands of people, especially over the Easter weekend. Previously people visited the Dwellingup and Lane-Poole areas. However, they are now filtering down into our area and again contributing to the economy of Collie and the surrounding districts, such as Brunswick, where people shop for foodstuffs and - I was going to say also sometimes shop for beer - and collect a few of those bits and pieces on the way through. Businesspeople have acknowledged that. They have said they have had a very good Easter with tourists coming up the hill. It is a case of getting in early, otherwise there is nowhere to camp. A couple of times in the past few years now that area has been shut because of the overflow and people have been redirected to other campsites run by the Department of Conservation and Land Management. I think that is excellent. That is something of value that has come out of protecting old-growth forests. I read recently in the newspapers, including yesterday, that the Pemberton timber mill has been on-sold at a very attractive price. Members said that if it was shut, Pemberton would go to the wall. However, people are now investing back into that area by buying the mill. Gunns is another timber mill in Yarloop, which is in my electorate. Gunns bought out Sotico Pty Ltd, expanded the mill and there are now 61 people working there.

However, this budget is about getting the balance right. I believe, at times, although we may not get it 100 per cent right, we are very close to that at the moment. We have ecotourism, ordinary tourism and adventure tourism, yet they are balanced by having a viable timber industry. One problem that we have these days is with the importation of timber. Some timber comes from poorer countries that are clear-felling their rainforests. That is something we must look at very closely, because those timbers are being sold too cheaply on the market and attracting people into that area away from our natural timbers, because of the price difference, and causing problems for the rest of the world. Protection of old-growth forests was an election promise that members talked about in doom and gloom terms. It was heavily funded in our first budget. People in the timber industry were supported. The unemployment rate in Manjimup is now down to four per cent and in Collie it has dropped from 12 per cent to eight per cent. There are various reasons why Collie's unemployment is still eight per cent. The town of Yarloop has settled down and its future is assured with 61 workers there. That is a great spin-off of this government's policies. With our ecotourism and timber policies, I think we are headed in the right direction.

I return to the budget areas. I spoke previously about the budget of \$200 000. There is another \$200 000 to carry out repairs to the River Road bridge, which is one of the most beautiful parts of the Collie electorate. The bridge had some structural problems. Traffic had to be rerouted around the area, and people missed one of the best parts of that area. The bridge needs to be redecked, and new sheeting and safety railing is required. The budget looks into some of the smaller things that impact on our smaller towns.

This leads me to a process that has been in place now for a little while, and has had funding - the Pinjarra to Brunswick sustainability study on how to keep those inland towns alive. For many years the area was in a very conservative and safe seat - the previous member was John Bradshaw - and sometimes it did not receive the focus it should have received. As a result of the study, funds have been allocated out of the budget to help those smaller towns survive. I will start at the Waroona end. The town is going through a phase of change, with the help of Alcoa. There is the possibility of the expansion of Alcoa to the tune of \$1.4 billion, if it gets off the ground. By all reports, things are going fairly well. The company has consulted with the community through the tripartite group. Some splinter groups down there have different opinions, and some of the problems that were being experienced have been worked through. Not all the problems have been sorted out; there is still a long way to go.

The Minister for Peel and the South West has been there on several occasions, most recently talking to the people of Yarloop and Hamel about how to enhance the towns they live in. They are very small communities. With around 600 people, it is very hard to attract funding to support those towns. People who have been through

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Yarloop and have heard about the workshop will realise, once they get off the main road and drive in, that it is a town that has been left behind in some ways. It is a timber village, and can be a tourist icon in the future. It was pleasing to go there with some funding and, in conjunction with the Shire of Harvey, to put up a plan to assure the future of Yarloop. At one stage the people of the town were lost; they were not quite sure which way they were going. Five different groups were fighting each other. Slowly but surely they are starting to get a focus. It is all about a small amount of money that has been put in there to give direction. It is not the be-all and end-all, but it is giving that community some direction. I thank the Minister for Peel and the South West for taking the time to come down and give us hand with that.

Further along, money has been allocated to the South Western Highway. We have heard about the lower end of the highway and its problems, but between Waroona and Harvey the same problem exists. A huge number of trucks go to the market every day from the south west, and they use that road because they do not feel that going through Mandurah is a viable alternative. There are about eight sets of traffic lights in the Mandurah area, and a motorist can sometimes be queued up for three changes of lights. In a big truck, stopping and starting takes its toll and adds to costs. The trucks come down the South Western Highway, and that is causing problems. I am glad to see that money has been allocated to the Peel deviation, which I am sure will bring about a change. The trucks will go back onto the coastal highway, and the tourists will come onto the South Western Highway. Money was also allocated, out of a previous budget, towards the Harvest Highway group. It is working very hard to produce a continuous rollout of publicity about what is available down the South Western Highway in anticipation of the extra tourist dollar that will come down there. They are on the front foot; some of the people are benefiting already. They already have a newsletter and a web site. People today do not just jump into their car and go for a drive; they plan their trip. They are coming onto the inland road. The passing lanes will certainly be welcome in some of those areas.

We then get to Harvey. There have been some modifications of the highway near the high school. Hopefully that will sort out the problem - in my view due to poor planning - where the high school is on one side of the highway and the people live on the other, so every morning high-spirited young people are dashing between the trucks and cars and at times seeing how close they can get to them. Unfortunately, a few years ago a couple of young children were killed in an accident near the school. That certainly put the focus on that area. I was a bit embarrassed about being a player there at times and being part of the political point-scoring - not from my side, but from others - by people who were just trying to score a vote in the election. I sometimes go to the school on a Monday morning and stand by the side of the road to make sure the traffic is still under control in that area. If we do not do these sorts of things as public people, and there is another accident there, we will all have to accept some of the blame, because we have not been part of the community to make sure that in the future moneys are allocated and work is done to eliminate the problems.

We then get to Brunswick. That is a very happy community at the moment. In terms of dollars per head, they have done pretty well. An amount of \$350 000 has been allocated to the primary school for a covered assembly area. The teachers and parents at that school have been waiting for that for 10 years. Some of the parents were a bit put out that they had worked for all this time to raise the money but their children would not benefit from it because it was their last year at that school. However, it certainly put a smile on the faces of the teachers and the P&C people when that funding was announced. The administration section of the school has also been upgraded. An amount of \$100 000 has been allocated to the aged care facility in Brunswick. It is all about the sustainability of these small towns. What has been happening is that as people get older they move out of the town and go to where the facilities are. That often takes four or five people out of the town at the same time. A while ago two of the delis in Brunswick closed down. Recently another deli closed down. Only one shop is left. Brunswick and many of the other inland towns have been shrinking. However, I believe our government's sustainability policy will bring people back to those inland towns and there will be an increase in population. I take my hat off to the Shire of Harvey, because it has been on the front foot in this area. Six blocks were recently released in Harvey, and they were snapped up at a profit, whereas previously all the blocks that had been subdivided were sold at a loss. That is a sign of things to come. From Brunswick it is just a short trip up the hill to work at Worsley, and some of the people are locating there.

I now get back to my home town. I have had a few grizzles about budgets over the years - probably a bit more than a grizzle at times. It is great to see that \$2.2 million has been allocated for aged care facilities in Collie. Federal funding has been allocated to match that, and I must say thanks to Hon Geoff Prosser and his crew, who worked with us to make sure that would happen. The current aged care facility, Riverview Residence Collie, is now 40 years old. The residents will be relocated to a new \$7 million facility that will be built to the latest standards, and will cater for people not only in Collie but also in the hinterlands, such as Darkan and Wagin, who do not have ready access to aged care facilities. The land that has been excised from the hospital is certainly another bonus. This work began about 40 years ago under the former member for Collie, Tom Jones. He will be

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proud to see that his work has paid off and that 40 years later the new facility is being built. At first he had to be pushed a bit to make a move. Everyone knows what Tom is like. Most people in Collie heard of his disappointment about how things were going to change. I think he stood on the roof and shouted, as he normally does - generally at me. However, he has now accepted that things have to change. The new facility will be an absolute boon for aged care in Collie.

I now get back to the high school. One of the major issues at the school was the science centre. I think I have said a couple of times that I am sure my name is still scratched onto some of the desks in that school, because that is how old the place is. The average size of kids has increased, and I noticed that the benches have been raised a bit higher. An allocation of \$2 million has been made to Collie Senior High School, and the P&C is thankful for the money. The new high school library was opened early last year by then Minister for Education and Training, Alan Carpenter. Facilities and infrastructure are being built under the existing budget by the government. Many people want these things to happen straight away, but that is not possible. My view is that we should be grateful for what we receive; work hard to lobby people to make sure we get our share; and once we get our share, move on.

I noticed that Waroona lacks a bit of presence in the budget papers, although a main street development project will be undertaken. The government has also allocated \$250 000 for underground power at Waroona. As some towns have fallen away and shrunk, shops on the main street have become vacant, which does not make people want to live or invest there. A pretty face always turns a big head: if the appearance of towns improve, people may be attracted. The main streets of towns are relics of the past in some cases - some may say historic - and some have been allowed to fall apart. That does nothing for the image of such towns. That applies to many towns in that area, including Collie.

The acceptance by the communities in the lowlands for me since the election has been outstanding and surprising. As I said, it was previously a safe seat for the conservative side of politics. Although people do not change their politics, they certainly let it be known where they come from and people have been willing to work with their member of Parliament for their community.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: They're smart enough to know when they have a good member!

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Is that it? They quickly let their local member know if he makes a mistake, but that is the game of politics. It is good that communities want to do something for themselves. There is not a handout mentality, which I have heard in this place on occasions: "Why have we not got so and so?" People ask how they can go about doing things and how can they assist, which makes it easy to work with them. They do not sit on their butts and say that they want \$5 million to get something done. They will raise that money. An example is Harvey, where a meeting was held about aged care at which people recognised that acute aged care is a problem all over the state and is also an industry, and they considered how to get that industry to Harvey. A pilot committee is looking at the matter to see whether it is viable and whether beds will need to be made available. People have not asked for money. They will look at the issue first, and if they need funding later, that will be fine. They know there are ingoings and outgoings, and they are working towards that end.

A small industry that may pick up four to 10 jobs is important to these towns. Every job counts in those communities - not every five or 10. One notices the difference in the city: a factory in Welshpool may shut down and 20 people be put off, but it is not noticed. If 20 people are put off in Harvey or Collie, it would be noticed. We work towards developments. Another very proud moment was the relocation of the JLB Electrical Services factory to Harvey, along with 30-odd jobs. There is action. People recognise that things cannot be delivered straight away, and they are willing to work toward that delivery. The recent budget has allowed infrastructure to be provided. I understand that Collie has been allocated \$8 million for water upgrades and \$10 million for electricity line upgrades. The Muja power station will receive \$10 million or \$12 million for upgrades. People want basic infrastructure, and they will build on that facility. The budget has provided that infrastructure. I am very happy with the budget, and I am willing to work with my communities to ensure they maximise the benefit from that infrastructure.

MR T.G. STEPHENS (Central Kimberley-Pilbara) [6.30 pm]: I appreciate the opportunity to welcome aspects of the budget that respond to the pre-election commitments made by the Labor team in the north of the state, particularly in my electorate of Central Kimberley-Pilbara. For me to have the opportunity of presenting to the team the challenges that the regions were faced with in the lead-up to the election and to then see, within double-quick time, many of the promised responses flowing through the budget papers before the house is at least a recognition that the government has honoured the promises that were made to the people of those two important regions in the north west of the state. In these budget papers, for the very first time we see included funds, for instance, for the rollout of a major new health campus for the community of Port Hedland. That has been a bugbear for that community since cyclone Joan went through Port Hedland some 30 years ago. The

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community has assumed ever since that an allocation would be made in the budget for a replacement hospital. That has not been the case until this year. For the very first time we shall see significant funds rolling out over the coming years that will enable not only the aged care facility to be constructed this year, but also the design and construction of the \$65 million hospital in South Hedland.

In addition, of course, there is other significant expenditure that was talked about in the election campaign, such as funding for schools in Port Hedland itself. There will be a major upgrade of the Hedland Senior High School complex. Police facilities will flow into the South Hedland community, and there will be additional facilities to support the township of Port Hedland. Vital to the inland communities of Karratha and Tom Price are the funds that will flow into the second phase of the Karratha-Tom Price link road. People who are not familiar with those towns and communities would almost disbelieve how high a priority that project has for the people in those communities. They are anxious to obtain quick and easy access to the coast. The commitment of the previous member for the area, Fred Riebeling, the current Speaker, is now being delivered through the total package of some \$110 million worth of funds that will be used to add extra bitumen to make the journey easier. It will not complete the task, but it will take us down the track towards getting a speedy access road between the coast and those important inland towns.

In addition to the expenditure in those communities, the township of Halls Creek will see the vitally important completion of its hospital, which will be opened later in the year. Construction has now started on the new swimming pool for that inland town of Halls Creek. A much-needed aquatic centre and basketball courts will meet the needs of the community for decent sport and recreational facilities, and the community will have the benefits that flow from reducing the health problems that arise when people do not have access to such sport and recreational facilities. There is much in these budget papers that I welcome. I express my appreciation for the fact that we have been able to make those commitments and start the process of responding to the many needs of the electorate.

The first thing I look at in the budget papers is the front cover. I find there a little allegorical tale that at least speaks to me. For about 15 years I have said to Treasury people that there is something wrong with the front page of the budget papers. However, my comments have been ignored. Therefore, I will now go public with those comments and say that it strikes me as rather odd that the budget papers should have such an old depiction of the state Parliament. It is a depiction of the state Parliament when the fountains used to work, which is a long time ago. It is a depiction of the beautiful lemon-scented ghost gum at a time when the lemon-scented ghost gum was a fairly small gum, before it started shedding vast trunks onto ministerial cars and demolishing them. It also depicts a portrait of the Parliament prior to the addition of the wing to the north. It was 15 years ago that we planted the spotted gum at the front of Parliament House. It is now a vast tree that complements the lemon-scented ghost gum - salmon gum, as some people call it - over to the right. There is now another huge tree at the front of Parliament House. I find it absolutely interesting that for 15 years Treasury has continued to replicate a portrait of Parliament House that is so out of keeping with the way it is. That is of no consequence to anybody, certainly of no consequence to anyone in my electorate, other than the fact that therein lies a tale about the way in which Treasury, and regrettably those who can too easily become servants of Treasury, observe the realities of the state of Western Australia. Not only have trees outside the front of Parliament House grown to be huge, but also problems around Western Australia have grown absolutely huge. They require focus, effort and the allocation of government resources in ways that have so far not happened. At a time when Western Australia has an absolute tiger economy as a result of China's resource development, which is dragging the state along with it, with huge amounts of money flowing into the state's coffers, Treasury and government respond by somehow or other thinking that they can save up the money and not respond to the weeds that are growing in our garden. Those weeds are becoming serious threats to the way in which the community will operate into the future.

I do not know what words would make Treasury and people with a preoccupation with budgets and figures respond, but maybe I should be using the words "contingent liabilities". That is not the way I look at it at all, but maybe people who are familiar with the figures of the state think that it is easy to squirrel away billions as a result of the benefits flowing to the state, despite the fact that huge problems are confronting the state, particularly in the remote and far north regions of the state. We in Western Australia have the great privilege of having a very significant Aboriginal population in the state. However, with that privilege there comes to us all, particularly the state government, enormous responsibilities. As we heard earlier today in a contribution made by a member opposite, the Aboriginal community's failure to thrive can be seen in the educational statistics. The analysis of the educational system that is available to anyone reveals a crisis, with Aboriginal people failing to thrive in the education system, which is producing vast numbers of kids and young people who are no longer engaging in the educational system through school or training or finding their way into employment. If this were

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a small statistical blip, we might not be too worried about it, other than because of human compassion. However, the north of the state has - again I will use descriptive language - a tsunami of young people emerging through the population statistics. It is a demographic that reflects the figures of the Third World. I have been looking today at the web site of the Fred Hollows Foundation. It has a graph showing the indigenous population of our country and our state. One can see there the vast percentage of young people who make up that population. Some 40 per cent of the indigenous population is under the age of 15 years compared with 21 per cent of the non-indigenous population. Community after community around the top end of the state have vast numbers of kids who fail to thrive in education or move towards training and employment. The health statistics are absolutely woeful and atrocious. Regrettably, in my view there is a paralysis within the spheres of government in the response to these challenges. That paralysis comes from time to time. I have seen it in my long parliamentary career. I saw paralysis in the early 1990s, and I have watched the paralysis burrow down within governments, at a national, state and local level, until it is at crisis point again. It does not give me any pleasure to observe it, but there is a paralysis in the field of Aboriginal affairs and in the response of government to these challenges, which I have seen only once before in my long parliamentary career. That paralysis is now being repeated.

How do I see this paralysis working out? I will give members an example. I know the Warmun Aboriginal community in Turkey Creek very well. I used to live there. I was the first community employee when it moved off the stations into that little place nearly 30 years ago. Just up the road from that community is Gidja land. This year the northern end of that land will deliver to government coffers \$51 million in royalties from the Argyle diamond stream, and next year it will deliver \$41 million. Those funds could have by chance gone to the Northern Territory government if the mine had been just a few kilometres to the east. Over the past 20 years the northern end of Gidja land has delivered about a billion dollars in royalties to the coffers of the government of Western Australia. Last week I attended the opening of the Sally Malay nickel mine at the southern end of Gidja land. It will deliver vast quantities of funds to the coffers of the government of Western Australia and benefits to the Australian community. What is the government's response generally to that community for the flow of funds it receives from those two industries, leaving aside the vast amount of money it receives from the tourism industry through the Purnululu National Park and Conservation Reserve, which sits in the heart of Gidja country, and from the pastoral industry that occupies all those lands? Last week we presided over, effectively, the closure of the only contribution that the state makes to the needs of that community by and large. We shut down the health clinic, apparently because of a regrettable incident in which a nurse was pushed by a drunk. I do not know how many times a health professional at a metropolitan hospital has been pushed by a drunk. That might be one way to facilitate the closure of Royal Perth Hospital, which I gather many people in the system want to do. It strikes me as very odd that a community with a population of some 500 people, including aged people, no longer has a clinic to deliver emergency health facilities because a nurse was pushed. Certainly, people travel to the community a couple of days a week to deliver health services, but that is simply a drive-in, drive-out service. A very good friend of mine from that community died last week, after the health clinic was closed. An aged woman had a stroke and simply no-one from the health system was able to respond to her needs. She was driven to Kununurra, but she was dead. As the local member of Parliament, I feel a personal sense of embarrassment over that. About 99.9 per cent of that community voted for me at the polling booth. The old girl was there to vote for me.

The state government does not have responsibility for the school. We promised a police station, but it still has not been provided. We promised child protection workers, but they have not been provided. We promised the community a place manager, but one has not been provided. This community has been generous in its interface with the Western Australian community. The community has supported the construction of the Argyle diamond mine; in fact, an agreement will be celebrated next week. Vast quantities of money flow from the Argyle diamond mine into the state's coffers, yet we have not been able to deliver to that community the basic things that are needed in the contemporary world, such as a functioning health clinic. The budget for that clinic continues to sit under the Department of Health. I presume that funds will continue to be available, but the clinic will have been shut down. The three accommodation units provided for nurses are now unoccupied. The police cannot go there because they do not have any accommodation into which they can move, yet there are three empty houses available for nurses, who will not go there because there are no police. This extraordinary set of circumstances would be funny if it were not regrettably replicated in remote and regional communities around Western Australia.

This issue is off the radar screen for the state and the rest of the community. An adequate response to meet the needs of these communities is not emerging from the spheres of government. This was one of the reasons I championed the place management strategy and tried to get a place manager into that community to try to get government agencies to respond to and meet the needs of that community, and to coordinate the responses of the

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state government system. Funds have flowed. The place management budget is in place. However, a place manager is still not available to that community. No-one else is available to focus on the delivery of services to that community of about 500 people. This galls and embarrasses me. I do not get any enjoyment from knowing that my best efforts over time have come to nought.

The Turkey Creek community has enormous potential within it. I refer not only to the human resource of the young people who are currently struggling with their education in the little Catholic school. The headmistress of that school has a cousin in the Parliament. She is a great headmistress and the school has fantastic staff. However, some young people have not thrived in the school system, and they have not been able to access programs that could meet their needs. The community is begging for access to the swimming pool program, which could be put to use in their community. They could try to impose the no school, no pool policy, but there is no program to which they can apply for funds. The former Minister for Aboriginal Affairs, Kim Hames, brought in that program. I was the shadow minister at the time and I attacked him for his stupidity. I learnt about four years later that it was a fantastic program, so I ate all my words and tried to deliver, without any funds, a replica of that program. I managed to get a fourth pool into the Karalundi community to try to emulate some of the success of the previous minister, who provided three pools in Bunnengarra, Yandeyarra and Jigalong. The Warmun community would love to have access to a school pool program, which could provide incentives for a little place like that. However, they cannot access any program for that. I am hoping that through some work of my parliamentary committee, we can find ways to reactivate that program. The Northern Territory government, run by Clare Martin, has succeeded in grabbing this program and is working in partnership with the national government. It has extracted significant funds, which have flowed to a swimming pool program for the Wadeye community of Port Keats, which is just over the border of Western Australia. I am very familiar with that community. It is now the beneficiary of this very significant facility.

The Northern Territory government has the advantage of having northern Australia right on its doorstep. It understands the size of the problem and rolls out programs to meet its needs. The Northern Territory has the advantage of geography. The only way in which the Western Australian government can hear about this stuff is for people to deliver speeches such as this in every possible forum to articulate and present the problems of our state, given its geographical conditions. Things can look good around the metropolitan area and neighbouring communities, but out further the Aboriginal communities face some vast challenges. Those issues are interfaced with the wider community. Unfortunately, the positioning of the Parliament and the government in the south of the state means that it has difficulty focusing on those problems.

I am conscious that in a community like Turkey Creek not only is there a problem with its now virtually closed clinic, absent nurses, missing police officers and available child protection officers, but also it has some of the greatest artists in the nation producing some of the finest work in the tradition of the Warburton community, such as the art that emerged from Paddy Jaminji specifically and then Rover Thomas of the Warburton Arts School. At an auction this week I think one of the Jaminji paintings produced a figure of approximately \$750 000. They are old friends of mine whom I met when they first started to paint and came out of the bush to put their ochres onto canvas. The canvases they are producing are selling for \$1 million a shot. Other people have come after them. Paddy Jaminji is dead, Rover is dead and Queenie McKenzie is now dead after producing vast quantities of art. A huge group of artists is producing art of enormous calibre and value that is landing on the world stage and returning enormous benefits for the individuals who are doing the painting and the art dealers who are selling it. Again, there is not an adequate program to respond to the opportunities connected with the Aboriginal art industry. Despite the best wishes of government, it has not yet found a way to adequately support the training opportunities that can come from improving the level of facilities in that area. The artists in that region operate in a building that I bought for the community in 1978 for about \$30 000. It was the old post office. I used to live in it as their first coordinator and it has effectively become a beautiful location for painting. It was my old home, but it is now in need of a capital works program. Unfortunately, our programs all have contestable funds, such as the regional investment fund. People have to bid and prepare detailed submissions, which is beyond the capacity and the scope of the Aboriginal people in little communities at Turkey Creek and their overstretched advocates and employees. Nonetheless, there is the capacity to do something. It is a tragedy that the government has not yet found a way to respond with a significant program to meet the needs of this community.

The same community contains an Aboriginal roadhouse and a store that struggle to respond to the health challenges that good diet could deliver for that community. Twenty years ago the state Labor government of the time created a program to work on the Aboriginal stores. That program was a valuable way of supporting healthy diets in the Aboriginal communities and building up enterprises. Over time this has been systematically destroyed and dismantled by successive governments to the point at which there has been no response to the

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Aboriginal community stores around Western Australia. There are probably 250 Aboriginal community stores, often in the hands of people who have not utilised them to the advantage of the Aboriginal people and who are not meeting the health, training or economic needs of those Aboriginal communities. Fortunately, there are a number of very good people in those stores. However, there is no longer available within government a focus on the challenge that these stores represent. I could understand that if our budgets were stretched, our coffers were depleted or if there were no funds flowing from the lands of the Aboriginal people to justify putting expenditure back into these communities, but this is not such a time. Our coffers are full, and we should recognise that if we do other than invest in the circumstances that I describe, the contingent liability will build up. The people will become less healthy and less engaged in employment opportunities and the economic development of our state and nation. When I first came to Western Australia some 30 years ago, Aboriginal people populated the work force of the north. They had many government jobs in hospitals, Main Roads and the Public Works Department. The Aboriginal population has virtually fallen out of the employment statistic of the departments and agencies of government. They are no longer adequately represented in the government sector or industry in that part of the world. As a result, we have a huge challenge. Argyle Diamonds is one of the companies that is, fortunately, rising to the challenge. It is looking for partners in government. Regrettably, I do not believe it has found adequate partners to meet its needs. We have a major challenge to respond to the sets of circumstances I have described. If it were simply just one community that needed attention, people might be reasonably alarmed. However, endless numbers of communities have a need for leadership from government to tackle the issues and get them back on the radar screen. The communities need a vision. There is so much that must be done today, if not tomorrow. If it were left for some time down the track, there would be a wave of people who would produce dysfunction in their lives, the lives of their families, their communities, the regions of which they are part and the lives of everyone else in this state. However, some good things are happening for individuals. Some individuals and families have started to succeed. Interestingly, some communities have started to succeed, particularly where they have been blessed with quality leadership. A couple come to mind. Interestingly, the Noonkanbah community is starting to thrive under the leadership of its chair, Dickie Skinner. I think the scriptural phrase is "gold tested in fire" when it comes to Dickie Skinner. He was tested by the experience he had over the years. He was with me when the convoy trundled through and we took the risk of going to jail when we tried to resist the desecration of sites in that area some 25 years ago. He was tested by fire but he is now a strong leader of his community. The community at Louisa Downs is led by Norman Cox, who is a distant cousin of Dickie. He is a fine leader of his community. Some good quality things are happening for them. The sad thing is that these communities are the exception, not the rule. Again, regrettably, it is not as if they have found willing partners in the sphere of government to respond to their needs.

I hope that, over the coming months, as I continue to beaver away on these issues through the committees of which I am a part and the other forums of which I am lucky enough to still be a member, there will be an adequate response to this extraordinary crisis that the Aboriginal community of the north west of the state is faced with. It is a crisis that cannot be fudged; it is something that cannot be put off. The Fitzroy valley has a large population. The community is begging for a high school facility. I delivered to the community a pre-election commitment that the government would position a new high school for the community. I am embarrassed that there is no response as yet in the budget papers to that need. I know that the community would love to have a private-public partnership in which it could find the funds to become the owner of the facility and deliver it to the government of Western Australia. It would reap the benefits of being landowners and facility owners. It would rent back the facility to the government of Western Australia. That probably will not happen. I suspect the government analysis of public-private partnerships will show that the facility is so small that it is unlikely to have the economy of scale to make it possible. That community is entitled to an up-front, clear answer about whether it will be awarded a public-private partnership. If not, I ask the government to please urgently allocate funds within the budget to provide a functioning high school that is not regularly flooded or destroyed by the floods of the Fitzroy River. The community needs a school that offers a contemporary educational environment to meet the needs of a very significant population in Fitzroy Crossing.

A couple of weeks ago I was absent from the Parliament because a very dear friend of mine died in Sydney and was to be buried from Redfern, where I had worked with him. He was a bloke called Ted Kennedy, a priest who worked in the Redfern scene. He introduced me to Aboriginal Australia. It was from Redfern that I found my way to the north of this state. I learnt from that experience at Redfern, and I suppose from Ted Kennedy's theology, where we, as human beings, place our priorities. We can only feel good about ourselves as Australians, about this nation or this state to the extent that we respond generously to the needs of those less fortunate than ourselves.

Within our midst are people who are begging for the leadership that can come only from government to meet the many challenges they face. Many of them are ready to meet us more than halfway, as others already have done.

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They have quality leadership available to them in the Pilbara, and from people in the Kimberley, such as Patrick Dodson and his wife June Oscar. However, they do not have comparable levels of leadership within the relevant agencies of government. Our regions are equipped with regional managers who have no discretion to respond to or match the dedicated efforts of the Aboriginal leadership on offer in those communities. They are regional managers who are well suited to running their office space. However, the capacity to respond to the overwhelming challenges of a dynamic such as that I described cannot be left to middle-ranking public servants. It requires leadership at the most senior levels of every sphere of government - local, state and federal. In the Mexican stand-off that has arisen as the federal government tries to vacate the field of Aboriginal affairs, where local governments have never found a way to adequately rise to the challenge, the Parliament of which I am a part and this government that is formed from it, must recognise the state's fortuitous economic circumstances. Budget figures that any government would kill for and money rolling into the coffers of the Western Australian government now deny us the excuse that we do not have the money to do something about it. All we now need is the will. It is my intention to keep trying to ginger up government so that it develops the will that was last on display in this place when Peter Dowding was the Premier. He had a determination to shake up the systems of government to get them to tackle the vast needs in the community. Interestingly enough, part of his undoing came from the resentment that occurred as he shook up his colleagues and agencies. Nonetheless, he had a go. I am a bit past caring about what reactions I get trying to shake up the systems of government. If people of goodwill are prepared to listen and read what is being said and described here, it is not good enough any longer to simply say no. A health clinic cannot be closed in an area with a population of 500, where the needs are vast, and the people be left to some volunteer effort of my colleague Ernie Bridge. He is about the only person left doing anything of any value in meeting the health needs of the people of Turkey Creek.

The diabetes statistics are begging for attention. These statistics were the result of surveys undertaken by the Unity of First Peoples of Australia, a group that Ernie leads in the community. He has been able to describe the challenge to us. He gets in there with volunteers to try to meet the needs, and our response is to shut down the health clinic. Somehow or other we think that is a reasonable response to meet their needs. I do not think it is. I know that there is a better response available from people who have a heart and a brain. I am asking the government of Western Australia to find a way to rediscover heart and intelligence within government to meet the many challenges and needs that are out there in this field I describe.

MRS D.J. GUISE (Wanneroo - Deputy Speaker) [7.06 pm]: I support the appropriation bills and congratulate the Treasurer for delivering on our commitments to the community, as promised. I also commend the former speaker for giving such a good speech and highlighting to us that there is still a lot more work to do.

Last year I concluded my remarks in the budget debate by saying that I looked forward to improved recognition of the outer metropolitan area - we are not quite city and we are not quite country either - and we had some real needs to be met. I am pleased that in this budget, as in the past four years, the government has started to address these issues.

The Wanneroo electorate is experiencing exceptional growth. It has done so in the past four years and it continues unabated. Everyone keeps asking me where all these people are coming from. They are coming from far and wide. They are voting with their feet and coming into the electorate. In these good times we are unashamedly not only trying to fix the long outstanding problems, but also providing the infrastructure and services to accommodate that population growth and the demands it brings with it.

This budget includes a record spending on infrastructure, some \$4.7 billion on capital works across Western Australia. For the electorate of Wanneroo, this budget probably tops the scale of previous expenditure. I do not think anyone in this chamber would begrudge that, because the electorate was somewhat ignored for many years and we have been second cousins to Joondalup for a long time. I have to try to redress that imbalance and look after the existing community, which was largely ignored for far too long, and also cater for the growth.

I am conscious of the time and I will try to be reasonably succinct, so I will just highlight some areas.

I was really pleased to see in this budget the continuation of the good work of the Department of Conservation and Land Management in Yanchep National Park. CALM is to be commended for stepping up to the plate when the national park experienced those terrible fires early in the year. It immediately provided great support for its own people, one of whom was seriously hurt. Homes were destroyed and it was able to put in the funds and get the park back on its feet. Members should bear in mind that Yanchep National Park has a business that also was hurt by the closure. CALM's efforts to turn around the park in such a short time are to be commended. In this budget there is an allocation of \$280 000 to upgrade the Cabaret Cave visitors facility. It will be a great boost to the park and is most welcome.

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Education and training needs in an electorate such as mine keep on unabated. I think I have the record for the most schools in an electorate. To meet those needs we are providing \$5.5 million to complete the new primary school in Two Rocks which, unfortunately, has been somewhat delayed because we had trouble locating a site. However, that is now being done and that school will open in 2007. We are providing additions and improvements to Wanneroo High School and building primary schools in east Butler, Tapping and Neerabup. Prior to my election as a member of this place, I was told that it would take some convincing to get a new primary school in Carramar. I can tell members that the new primary school in Carramar opened this year and already has 575 students. That is why we must now build a primary school at Tapping. We also thought that the growth in Neerabup, with a little school and a few houses, would steady up and it would be fine to retain the school for the junior years K to 3. Then - oops - that was not the case and we realised we needed to extend it to year 7. The community came on board on that proposal. I congratulate the past and previous Banksia Grove residents association, in particular Geoff Westlake, who was prepared to sit down and work with the department and me to ensure that we could retain it as K to 7. That then set the scene for me to say that not only must we do that but also we must build the substantive school, because the expansion out there is just huge. That is the story about the school setting in my electorate. I am sure in budget debates to come I will share with members a few other stories about schools that we have had to get up and running. However, for now, I welcome those improvements, which acknowledge the sheer growth in the number of young families that are moving into my electorate and the need to accommodate them.

On the other end of the scale, there are quite a large number of seniors in my electorate. Retirement and lifestyle villages are a growth industry in Wanneroo. We baby boomers are proving to be a bit of a deadly lot!

Mr D.A. Templeman: Our seniors will be able to visit your seniors.

Mrs D.J. GUISE: That is right, they will. They can catch the train. It will be fantastic. We will have to have a party somewhere in the middle.

Seniors in my electorate welcome the news about free ambulance travel and the concession. The need to call an ambulance is an issue for people in retirement villages and seniors who live independently. It was particularly important to ensure that seniors continued to receive free or subsidised services after the medical benefit funds indicated their withdrawal from non-urgent ambulance cover. It was a serious issue for people in those sorts of establishments. This initiative for free ambulance travel is, therefore, very welcome, as are other initiatives that the government is establishing. However, I will not go into all the details of those initiatives now.

Improvements to Joondalup Health Campus come as fantastic news for us in the northern suburbs. The population needs to be accommodated by the provision of services where people live. A further \$5 million, therefore, towards the provision of a 30-bed inpatient mental health unit is most welcome. Joondalup has a fantastic mental health unit, but it struggles to meet the demand for its services. These extra beds, therefore, are fantastic news. Of course, we have been waiting a while for a further \$1.85 million to complete the new Joondalup dental clinic, but it is good to see that we will be able to establish that facility in a short time. There is also, of course, \$3 million to commence stage 1 of the hospital redevelopment, which will take us through to the ultimate conclusion of the Reid report review.

Fire and emergency services are important to the population in the Wanneroo electorate. There is a fantastic green belt there, but it brings with it the risk of fire. Unfortunately, I have seen quite a few fires in my term as the member for Wanneroo; more than I would like to have seen. We have, therefore, allocated \$600 000 for new facilities to house the Quinns Rocks day-shift brigade, \$1.78 million over two years to construct the new Eglinton fire station and \$160 000 for station equipment at the Wanneroo volunteer fire station. Those are all very important expenditures and a great boost to both the career and volunteer firefighters in my electorate. With as many people in Wanneroo as there are, of course, they have to be moved around. That is also proving a bit tricky. However, thankfully, we got a train station at Clarkson and we now have six train car sets, which are absolutely fantastic. That has alleviated the minister of the responsibility of paying for people to push passengers onto trains, as occurs in Japan in peak hour, although it was getting to that stage with people really crammed into trains. That has been, therefore, fantastic. Obviously I now need to take it a bit further. However, in the meantime, money has been announced for the extension of Mitchell Freeway through to Shenton Avenue, and then on to Burns Beach Road by 2007. Money has also been allocated to improve safety on Wanneroo Road. There is a bit more money yet to come, so there will be more news about that later. There are some important parts of Wanneroo Road that need urgent attention. In order to ease the pressure that is building up on Marmion Avenue, the government will pre-fund some extensions on Connolly Drive that will connect the dots and allow the traffic in the northern corridor to flow a bit better. That will be good news for the member for Mindarie as well.

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Importantly, the Government is starting to roll out its contribution to the Wanneroo town site precinct and revitalisation project. This budget contains the first \$2 million of that money. That will be a great boost to turn around the town site precinct, which is in dire straits and in need of a lot of help and support. We are pleased that we are able to do our bit, in partnership with the City of Wanneroo council, to provide that community infrastructure. Frankly, the community cannot wait. The council has already started work on relocating the war memorial. It looks fantastic and is really welcome.

Of course, there is also the long-awaited police station. What more can I say! That was a bit of a bunfight in terms of the negotiations between the Servites and the council, but they finally got their act together. Land has been set aside for the construction of the new Wanneroo police station. Members will have heard me talk in the past about the existing police station. Frankly, I would not have put a dog in there. How the local police officers put up with that accommodation in years gone past is beyond me. They are to be commended for being so patient. I know they all look forward to being in their new police station very soon.

I turn now to public transport. It is good to hear that the Public Transport Authority has been able to increase peak bus services to and from the Clarkson railway station. That will be a great boost to the people in the northern suburbs. It is important that as the population grows we are able to bring on trains and provide the necessary bus services to get people around the area. I am a bit passionate about this matter. I am grateful that in the last term of this government I was able to achieve the first east-west bus connection. Many people have a habit of travelling into the city every day like lemmings, but not everyone wants to do that. People also want to be able to get from east to west to connect with the trains and have some choices about destination. That is fantastic.

For families in the northern suburbs I do not think I can underestimate the importance of the news about the 50c fares for all school children.

Ms J.A. Radisich: Hear, hear!

Mrs D.J. GUISE: The member for Swan Hills concurs. That will be a huge saving for families, particularly in the outer metropolitan areas, with children who have to travel to school. I cannot emphasise strongly enough how much parents are looking forward to this initiative in term four this year. I am grateful that we have been able to deliver on this initiative.

Of course, when we are talking mortgage belt, the adjustment of land tax scales to offset the impact of rising land values is also very welcome, as is the introduction of the 50 per cent land tax reduction for caravan parks. I applaud that. It is important that we continue to make available affordable holiday destinations and choices for families. I am an old girl who used to like going up north to go fishing, and down to Canal Rocks. It is pretty hard to find a tent site there now. These things are really important. I have talked to a few of the caravan park owners. They think this is a really fantastic initiative.

I turn now to sport and recreation. Interestingly enough, money has been allocated for the construction of a sound barrier behind the 100-metre firing line at the Perth Lever Action Rifle Club at the Wanneroo shooting complex. Even though it is only a small amount of money, it is very important to the club. Members may wonder why I would mention that. Well, as it turns out, I am not a bad shot! I had never fired a gun before in my life, but, as happens in this job, I was asked whether I would mind representing the Premier at the opening of the shooting season. Bunnykins here went along not realising that it meant that I got to fire the first shot in each round! I started with the rifle and could not even see through the - what is it called? It can be seen that I am not au fait with these things at all! I got a bullseye with my first shot, and the target is hanging in my office as proof, but the shots that followed were very sad.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: "Deadeye" Di.

Mrs D.J. GUISE: I do not know where the pistol shot went; no-one saw where it went. Then I went out with the shotgun; they are heavy and amazing things! I had a go later with the double barrel and it damn near knocked me over. I decided to stop while I still had my collarbone and cheek intact, but it was not a bad effort. I do not think I can repeat in this chamber what one bloke said to me. It was a colourful definition, and I probably won a few votes for having a go - I will leave it at that. Small amounts of money help different clubs and associations in our electorates.

I now turn to some big and important issues concerning the old infrastructure and the need for new infrastructure. The Water Corporation will be spending in the electorate of Wanneroo a total of \$39.332 million, of which \$14 million is for a water treatment plant in the northern suburbs, and \$18.7 million for work on the Alkimos waste water treatment plant. Frankly, I say to the Minister Assisting the Minister for Water Resources that I cannot wait for that facility to be built. Also, \$700 000 is allocated for work on the Carabooda reservoir,

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and \$5.831 million is directed to continue the infill sewerage program in the northern suburbs. I will come back to water, minister - do not go away. I also acknowledge the \$100 000 provided for work on the waste water treatment plant servicing Yanchep and Two Rocks.

A total of \$10.164 million is allocated to Western Power for work in the local area, of which \$2.2 million is for the replacement of power poles. I do not have the statistics with me, but I bothered to ask a question on this matter. As I represent an area that suffers from bushfires, I have a particular bent about Western Power's attitude to its pole replacement. It is special that wood poles in an area known to be a bushfire risk are replaced with something else that burns equally well - guess what? - more wood! It is an astonishing strategy. I was a bit naughty: I was in the Northern Territory recently and took a happy snap for the minister of the concrete and steel power poles. I took the photos and brought them back and said, "Here's a hint." They have termites in the Northern Territory, but they also have the same climatic conditions we face. Concrete and steel poles are to be highly recommended in areas like my electorate. If we cannot dig a trench and stick power underground, I want to see more concrete and steel as it does not burn as wood burns.

The government will undertake the installation of a third transformer for the Landsdale substation with \$1.397 million provided. An allocation of \$1.988 million is made for the purchase of land and line easement at Neerabup, and more than \$2 million is directed to transmission work. Also, \$900 000 is allocated for work at the Pinjar Gas Turbine Power Station. Of course, work will commence on the Wanneroo-Pinjar line with a \$1.504 million allocation. The total cost of that project is \$19.5 million. It is a very important facility. It has been a little controversial in parts: some environmental constraints were involved, so a reasonable route had to be found. I know it is important, not so much for my electorate, but more for the hinterland that it will serve in the future. It will serve people as far north as Geraldton and into the wheatbelt, areas which have power outages, so it is very important to people there. I am sure the member for Moore will concur.

One last subject is dear to my heart. I was interested in the debate held yesterday. A motion was moved firstly by the member for Stirling, and it was combined with a motion that was placed on the notice paper by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. I did not have the opportunity to speak yesterday, but I will speak on it now in this speech. I basically encourage the Minister Assisting the Minister for Water Resources and the Minister for Water Resources with responsibility for the big policy picture to please hurry up. I want the money allocated so that we can do the feasibility study on pumping the waste water from Beenyup. I desperately need it to go into the Neerabup industrial estate. I raised the prospect publicly last year of using waste water from both the Beenyup waste water treatment plant and the new Alkimos plant that is coming online. That water is a valuable asset. Water that could be reused is currently being pumped into the ocean. For three and a half or four years - every time I had the opportunity - I got on to Jim Gill and everybody else to try to convince them that we could do it, rather than waste the water. It is done in lots of other places. I have a horticultural-agricultural industry in my electorate that it could serve. In a good year, that industry is worth \$140 million in gross agricultural product. However, we cannot push out too much any more because water is fully allocated as far north as Gingin. Renewable energy projects in my electorate are desperate for this water. It would be a winner all round. Jobs would be created and greenhouse gas emissions would be cut. It is user friendly. It is incredibly important for the area. We need to get a move on with this.

At the moment the Environmental Protection Authority is doing its work with due diligence. It is talking about managed aquifer recharge using treated waste water on the Swan coastal plain. There was a forum and in Wanneroo we packed the hall. Last year when I mentioned that there was the possibility of using waste water in the horticultural-agricultural precinct, there was pretty much a standing ovation, as I referred to before. It was unbelievable. I say to the minister that we are ready to go, so bring it on, because it will be able to save a valuable, viable industry and jobs in the northern suburbs. We will be able to attract environmentally friendly businesses. As I said, everybody will be a winner.

Other places in the world use this type of waste water. I have a document with me from Arris. It was established in 2000 to bridge the gap between scientific research outcomes and their successful adoption in agriculture. It is safe to use reclaimed water in horticulture, and it provides benefits to the industry. Under the heading "Benefits to industry", the document states -

A renewable, reliable and quality water resource. Significant environmental benefits to include in quality assurance programs. Smooth and efficient development of a sustainable water resource.

It goes on.

I read the EPA's discussion paper, and I recommend that everybody read it. It refers to direct reuse of waste water for horticulture, and also the possibility of recharging it directly into the aquifer. That is why the two motions that were moved the other day got my attention. I think the member for Swan Hills' committee will

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look at this issue. I urge the member to look at the said document. The motion the other day referred to the safety aspect, and that is what I want to focus on. We are bringing product into this country from other countries that do not have the safety standards that we have. Those countries use untreated waste water. The member might want to go to Mexico City, for example, to have a look - not that I want to give the member travel plan ideas. However, Mexico City has been using untreated waste water for decades to irrigate crop land in the Mezquital Valley in the state of Hidalgo. It presents some health risks. I have footage at home from China that I must share with the member. Human faeces are being used. Forget recharging water through the aquifer; forget treating it any other way. The Chinese do not bother with that. It goes straight from the people to the crop. It is not a problem - do not pass go! Fantastic! We are bringing those products into this state, and that is hurting our growers. Where are the safety standards? Where is the product labelling that says "Carrots, Product of China, straight from you to your table, courtesy of a body bypass"? Fantastic! I think not! I would like to know what I am buying, where it is grown -

Mr J.E. McGrath: Look after the market growers of Wanneroo.

Mrs D.J. GUISE: Exactly, and look after my growers. We have every intention of doing this the proper and safe way. The Department of Health is looking at this issue and is doing it with due diligence. It has considered pathogens, chemicals, heavy metals and radiation. Basically, it has eliminated heavy metals and radiation. The two biggies are pathogens and chemicals. We have the processes in place to make this as safe as possible.

Many other places use treated waste water not just for horticultural purposes but also for drinking water, which is interesting, including Namibia, South Africa and Orange County, California. Israel is an interesting example. Israel uses the managed aquifer recharge approach, with a combination of direct waste water reuse to provide irrigation water. Between 60 and 70 per cent of urban and industrial waste water is reused in agriculture following secondary treatment. The Dan region reclamation plant is the largest waste water treatment and reuse project in Israel, and it produces more than 130 gigalitres of recycled waste water a year. It has been in operation how long? I reckon our Water Corporation is a bit slow. It had to get with the program. It took me a long time to convince it. Do members know how long the plant in Israel has been operating? It has been operating for 25 years. Where was our lot? Asleep at the wheel, I think. It is a new concept; it might not be safe! Good grief!

Usually I bypass the shop and go straight to the growers for strawberries, so I was a bit horrified the other day when Stuart came home with some strawberries. I am the member for Wanneroo and he bought strawberries with a label stating, "Straight to you from Watsonville, California." Fantastic! We know we must have trade. However, as I said, if we bring it in, I want to know how it is grown and where it is from. I could talk for ages about this issue, but I will not because members want to go home. However, I take this opportunity to say how important I think the motion was that was moved yesterday. I commend that work to the committee. I hope it does it well. I have jobs and industry waiting to go for the Minister Assisting the Minister for Water Resources. I urge the minister to act with some haste and give our agencies a bit of a prod. Or we could bypass them and just import the intelligence from overseas; I know of lots of places.

In conclusion, I believe this budget delivers a better deal for families, more tax relief and more for education and training, health and law and order. Certainly, from our perspective in Wanneroo, it is very welcome. I therefore commend the bill to the house.

MS J.A. RADISICH (Swan Hills) [7.33 pm]: It gives me great pleasure to present my contribution to the budget debate for 2005 - much to the Whip's dismay. Over the past week, while I was reflecting on what I might say in my contribution, I looked around the chamber and saw my new colleagues and tried to recall what it was like four years ago when I was first elected to this place. One thing that would have been very handy is a comprehensive "what it means to be a member of Parliament and what to do" handbook or guide; unfortunately, no such document exists, so we all sort of bumble along and make our way in the big wide world of state politics.

Again, looking at new parliamentary colleagues and reflecting on the meaning of the budget in the context of the annual workload of members of Parliament, it is important to remember that although the budget is a very significant event in the annual timetable of Parliament - the state budget being an approximately \$12 billion instrument, which is very significant for all aspects of daily life in commerce and society - it is not always the big budget items that can make the difference when performing one's role as a member of Parliament. For example, when I was first elected in 2001, the Labor government had made no commitments to capital works or any other commitments about what money might be spent on my electorate during the government's first term in office. It reflects on the achievements that I and the state government have had in Swan Hills between 2001 and February 2005.

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It is not always about money. One can certainly achieve a great deal within one's electorate by fulfilling many other roles. However, the accrual of funds to undertake works, whether they be funds for capital works or for recurrent expenditure, requires a great deal of wrangling, harassing sometimes of ministers and hard slog to ensure that ministers and government departments are aware of needs in particular local areas and communities and that they are aware of the importance of projects. This means that some funds can be diverted from time to time to ensure that important, yet sometimes overlooked, initiatives are pursued.

Sometimes it is the little things that matter the most. For a member of Parliament it can sometimes be quite flattering to reflect upon the nature of inquiries and requests that come over one's desk, whether by phone, fax or e-mail, or through face-to-face meetings with people in the electorate. There is perhaps some level of inflated perception out there in the real world, as some people like to call it, about the exact power and influence of a member of Parliament. I may have mentioned in this house before that perhaps one of the first and greatest lessons for members of Parliament is to realise that we basically have no power at all. We have the power of influence, however, and we rely heavily on those in charge of government departments and in executive government to make policy or financial decisions to make local communities' realities happen. Most of our job is about facilitating outcomes, bringing people together and finding answers and solutions. Again, reflecting on the fact that we are talking about the 2005 state budget today, it is not always a matter of money; sometimes it is just about providing a network or giving a line of inquiry or a contact to achieve outcomes for a local community.

One group of people I want to salute in my budget speech is the research and electorate officers who work for members of Parliament, whether at the state or federal level. Our staff perform a great task to help bring all our work together and help effect outcomes so that many of the projects and wishes of the electorate can come to fruition. They certainly deserve a big pat on the back. However, we do not turn away the big ticket items that we might be so privileged to have bestowed upon our electorates. In my electorate of Swan Hills, for example, like many other electorates, there are major issues of concern, in particular education, roads and transport, health, community safety, environment and lifestyle. I think it is fair to say that my electorate has been very fortunate with the capital works funding commitments for education. When I was elected in 2001 there were no commitments for any schools in my electorate. However, due to my relationships with ministers, the local schools and the parents and citizens associations, the perseverance of local schools and P&C associations to lobby me and the ministry and the ability for us all to work together, we have achieved a great deal in that time. A number of projects have already come to fruition, including the opening of the Arbor Grove Primary School and the funding commitment to and construction of the extensions to the Upper Swan Primary School, to name but two examples.

I am fortunate to be able to boast of significant capital commitments to various educational institutions within my electorate over the next four years. I am very proud to reel off some of those today. I thank the former Minister for Education and Training for his support for and concurrence with these projects. He recognised the importance of many of these projects, some of which have been overlooked for many years. I am not blaming one government or another. The library centre at Sawyers Valley Primary School and works to Darlington Primary School were overlooked for many years by successive governments. Fortunately, as promised during the last state election, and as illustrated in the financial papers, the government has provided commitments to these projects. An amount of \$375 000 has been provided for the Sawyers Valley library centre. Improvements to that centre are greatly needed, as I have previously mentioned in the house.

The budget provides an initial commitment of \$2 million from a \$7 million package for the Bullsbrook District High School. Many people are unsure about what is happening at that school.

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.W. Andrews): Members, it is approaching 20 minutes to eight at night and the member for Swan Hills has been interrupted a couple of times. I am sure that we would all like to go home at some stage. I ask members to keep the noise down.

Ms J.A. RADISICH: Thank you, Mr Acting Speaker. The \$2 million allocated to this project in the 2005-06 budget is just the start. The project will be given \$7 million over the course of the next couple of years, which will allow for the primary school to be completely rebuilt on that site and for the development of a full master plan for the entire primary, middle and senior schools for students from K to 12 at Bullsbrook. That is a major commitment. The complete revamp of that site will cost between \$30 million and \$40 million. It is a staged process in which the community is participating. An active implementation committee is under way. In terms of the primary school, consideration will be given to which buildings can be restored or saved and which should be replaced and renewed. It is a quite exciting project, which is looking at the reformulation of the schools from K to 12 over the next few years.

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Upper Swan Primary School was the beneficiary of a \$1.5 million new cluster block during the last term of government. It has now received an additional funding commitment to expand the car park and undercover area at the school. That is quite a nice birthday present for the school, which this year celebrates its one-hundredth anniversary. That is a significant milestone for any institution. The centenary ball was held recently, which was a beautiful affair at the Belvoir Homestead, and it was attended by recent graduates of the primary school through to people in their 80s. It was a great community event to celebrate the one-hundredth anniversary of the school.

Another important educational commitment from the government is to the new specialist music centre at Eastern Hills Senior High School. The friends of the music group at Eastern Hills Senior High School have lobbied actively for this funding for a long time. Again, this is an issue that I have raised in the Parliament in the past. I am pleased that funding has become available. As the old cliché goes, the hills are alive with the sound of music. That hits the nail on the head in terms of the musical acumen of the young students and the broader community of the eastern hills area. The project has had a few ups and downs, as all projects do. Some very robust negotiations occurred with representatives from the Department of Education and Training. However, they appreciated the long-term importance of this project. A facility will be built that will not lose its usefulness in a few years but will have a long-term future at the school. It will continue to be a useful facility for many years to come. I look forward to the further development of that project.

Another couple of projects that have been funded through this budget have arisen as a result of a great deal of lobbying by the school communities, staff at the schools, supporters of the schools and past students. These projects are the Darlington Primary School extensions, which are much needed, and the Mount Helena Primary School information technology and car parking upgrades. All this work that is going on in my electorate will be complemented by the government's \$1.74 million commitment to an IT cluster system, which is a great initiative. Rather than disperse funds to randomly upgrade IT systems at various schools, this is a very strategic approach and something for which the Department of Education and Training should be commended. Over the next few years there will be upgrades at all the local primary schools, as well as at the feeder high school at Eastern Hills. The level of technological competency that the students develop at the primary schools can be fed into the high school. There will be a smooth transition and all the students from the feeder schools will have the same level of competency. The computer-to-student ratio at all the feeder schools will be the same, and staffing teacher relief as well as IT support will be provided as part of that just under \$2 million program.

One matter that I am concerned about with the educational capital works that are going on in my electorate and many other electorates is the cost blow-out that appears to be imminent, if it is not already a factor that we must deal with. It has been put to me that because of the booming housing market in Western Australia, the shortage of bricks, the shortage of tradespeople, the expense of tradespeople and all of the associated factors are causing some inflation in the total capital cost of many skilled projects, for example. I accept this argument to a certain extent. However, I also question some of the tendering processes, as well as the general capital works construction processes within government. It seems there is a lot of confusion and some overlap between the Department of Education and Training and the Department of Housing and Works. We have a strange system in which there has been quasi-privatisation of various aspects of the construction processes, as well as some in-house work, and we seem to be fumbling around without having a streamlined approach. I know that some officers within departments would say that that is not the case and that they are absolutely doing the best with taxpayers' money, but I believe it could be done better. There seems to be layer upon layer of bureaucracy that needs to be shaved. The Minister for Housing and Works is aware of this situation and he is pursuing it to see what can be done to streamline these processes, because we must get value for money for all government projects so that taxpayers get the best value for their money. I do not want a particular allocation to be given to a school project, whereby the school community, the staff community and the parents get very excited and think they have \$2 million to play with for an extension at the school, only to find that by the time money has been paid to a project manager, the architect's costs have blown out, and because there are rocks instead of clay or clay instead of sand, and other hidden costs, the dollar amount that is available to spend on the extension, new facility or whatever has diminished significantly. I look forward to the Minister for Housing and Works investigating this matter with a great deal of fervour because it is an area in which we can achieve efficiency savings. I do not say cost savings, because I think that the amount we allocate to these particular initiatives is very modest; however, we need to be streamlined. The government needs to be able to say it is working for everyone. This is not about lining the pockets of certain companies or parts of the private sector or even transferring costs between departments. None of that provides a sufficient outcome for people in Western Australia.

Before finishing with education I want to mention the school maintenance commitment. Last year the Gallop Labor government committed \$64 million over four years to address the backlog of school maintenance in all

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government schools. In my electorate, the amount of money committed to schools for maintenance varied between \$6 000 and \$349 000 depending on the school. The lowest amount was for Ellenbrook Primary School, as it is a very new school, and the highest amount was for Eastern Hills Senior High School, which is an older school that has higher maintenance requirements. I would like to see from the Minister for Education and Training a clear list of which schools are on the list and when they will receive the money. Many schools are approaching me saying that they know they will receive \$48 000 or whatever but they want to know whether it will be this year or in four years. People can bet their bottom dollar that, by the time four years pass, there will be another long list of maintenance requirements. That is something that the government has to tackle head-on because we cannot put our heads in the sand about these things. We should champion the fact that we are building a range of new facilities - for example, educational facilities - but we cannot turn our backs on the very important maintenance requirements of the existing infrastructure.

Roads and transport are an issue of great importance in my electorate. The same applies to other country or outer metropolitan electorates. I am particularly pleased that funds in this budget have been allocated for the duplication of Middle Swan Road, which was a pre-election commitment of the Gallop Labor government. An amount of \$2.5 million has been allocated for passing lanes on Toodyay Road. We will see those road projects unfold over the next few months.

One budget commitment which I am pleased to see and which is another example of the Gallop Labor government fulfilling all its election commitments is the allocation of funds for the *AvonLink* train station at Herne Hill. The *AvonLink* line is something that I have previously raised in this house. The average number of patrons on the line is approximately 30 a day, which is a very poor number. The investment of funds in infrastructure and the provision of a new station will not send passenger numbers out of control but it will, overall, provide much better value for money for taxpayers' investment in the *AvonLink* commuter service. It will also provide more transport options to people who live in the Swan Valley. The area is semi-rural with some, limited, bus services. A train service for people who travel to either Midland or Perth in the mornings and evenings will be a cost-effective and time-effective option for them to access work, recreation or whatever.

It is very exciting to see that funds have been brought forward for the redevelopment of the Swan District Hospital. The hospital will be upgraded to a general hospital over the next few years. It is something very much welcomed by people in the eastern region. It is a very long way to travel to Royal Perth Hospital or Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. The upgrading of the hospital and the doubling of the number of beds is a great achievement.

Community safety is, naturally, an area of concern in the electorate of Swan Hills. I am pleased to say that the budget contains a strong commitment to community safety initiatives. In particular, the Mt Helena Fire Station will receive \$150 000 to improve the status of the station. I thank the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, who have supported me in obtaining funds for the fire station upgrade. Interestingly, when I was doorknocking during the election a number of people in Ellenbrook - two in particular - asked me what was happening with the Ellenbrook fire station. My immediate reaction was a feeling that I should tell them when it would be built. I was sure the answer they wanted was that it would be built as soon as possible. I was surprised that they both said they hoped it would not be built for many years to come. I asked them what they meant and they said they were both volunteers at the West Swan Fire Brigade. Given there is some - not tension, because that is too strong a word -

Mr A.J. Simpson: Healthy competition.

Ms J.A. RADISICH: I thank the member very much. Given the healthy competition between career firefighters and volunteer firefighters, the volunteers at West Swan are pretty happy with their lot at the moment and are not so keen for the career firefighters to come on board just yet. Nonetheless, I am sure a mutually beneficial arrangement will be arrived at over the next few years.

I extend my congratulations to all the police staff who work out of Midland, Kiara and Mundaring Police Stations. They have achieved excellent reductions in crime rates in those areas, my electorate and beyond. They deserve a great deal of credit for adapting to some new systems implemented by the new officer in charge of the east metropolitan district and for meeting the challenge of the Commissioner of Police's Frontline First policing policy and achieving real results in local communities. We cannot ask for more than that, so congratulations to all involved.

As the name suggests, the electorate of Swan Hills is one in which lifestyle and environmental aspects are very highly prized. I am pleased that last week the Legislative Assembly passed the amendments to the Swan Valley Planning Act, which will see the flavour of the Swan Valley protected for many years. I hope that our colleagues in the Legislative Council support the changes that will help sustain the unique lifestyle and environmental aspects of the Swan Valley so that they may be enjoyed by many future generations.

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An issue with the Mundaring water treatment plant that has been brought to my attention in recent weeks worries me. The amount of \$7.4 million has been allocated in the budget for the new tanks to be built on the Mundaring hill site. That work is under way. The Environmental Protection Authority approved that Water Corporation project some time ago for water storage tanks to be erected on the Sawyers Valley-Mundaring site. I notice that \$1.5 million is allocated in the budget for the Mundaring water treatment plant. Unfortunately, I could not ascertain from the budget whether it was for the existing water treatment plant, a waste water treatment plant or a new water treatment plant. In the past week or so, a number of letters have arrived at my office from concerned citizens in Mundaring. I joined them over the past 18 months or so to discuss this very difficult issue and the difficult question about whether a new drinking water treatment plant would be built on top of Mundaring hill along with the new water storage tanks. I will pursue the issue in the estimates committee and with the Minister Assisting the Minister for Water Resources, who I am very pleased to say is here this evening. People in Mundaring and the hills have a great passion for the environment. A meeting was held towards the end of 2003 about the Water Corporation's proposal to build water storage tanks and a water treatment plant on Mundaring hill. So many problems arose with the proposal for a water treatment plant that the proposal was withdrawn from the original application. As we know, EPA approval was given only for the storage tanks. I realise that the issue will not go away. The Water Corporation must do two things: firstly, it must make sure that the quality of water available to the hills and other residents is of the highest standard possible. Secondly, the new water treatment plant must be in the most appropriate location to ensure a sustainable outcome and minimal environmental impact. During the process in 2003 we were told that a number of sites were possible. The preferred site was Mundaring Hill. However, a range of issues were attached to that site, which included the amount of chemicals and the fact that it was unstaffed, it was on the top of a hill and there were houses 6 000 and 1 000 metres away from that site. As I said, that application was withdrawn and did not go through Environmental Protection Authority scrutiny. We have to proceed and develop a new Mundaring water treatment plant because the Department of Health said that for only the next couple of years would the quality of water in the hills be sufficient for drinking water. We need to act on this issue. However, we need to act on it in a sustainable way, and that includes the economic, social and environmental considerations of this project. That is something I will be talking about with the minister assisting the minister.

Western Power, another utility close to my heart, has been strongly supported by the government through this current budget. More than \$3 million worth of works will be undertaken in my electorate over the next little while, including upgrades at Sawyers Valley, Bullsbrook, Darlington and Ellenbrook.

Over the past week or more there has been a lot of discussion in this chamber about Western Power and the solutions to blackouts, brownouts, surges and so forth. I do not think all the answers are about underground power. The power supply in the hills has certainly improved over the past four years. There is no question about that. I get a lot of anecdotal evidence through my office to support that. After every storm and other environmental incidents I certainly get a lot of phone calls from people complaining about outages that are too long or the phone service that is not as accurate or sufficient as we would like. We have found that a very effective way to counter the outages, which frequently occur, is aerial bundle cabling. It is a much cheaper option than underground power, particularly in areas like the hills where the terrain is rocky. We need to look at a much stronger aerial bundle cabling program, as well as the use of reclosers and so forth, because they can save a lot of pain at a much more minimal cost than the whole painful process of underground power. I hope the Minister for Energy considers all the options available to him when looking towards the future of a more reliable Western Power network.

Finally, I would like to reflect on an important area of my electorate, which is Ellenbrook. As members know, my electorate expands through the hills to Gidgegannup, the Swan Valley and Ellenbrook. Ellenbrook is the urban centre of my electorate and it is the most populated centre. Although some constituents of mine often say that Ellenbrook gets everything, compared with some areas that have 900 residents, Ellenbrook has 15 000. If we are talking about a per capita allocation of resources, there is a great deal of merit in the concentration of capital works and services in Ellenbrook to service that growing community. In addition, Ellenbrook will become the second regional centre within the City of Swan, second only to Midland. A very significant growth pattern is envisaged for Ellenbrook in the future.

Approximately one year ago Dr Samuel Bada came to Western Australia after he responded to my advertisement in a national medical journal. He actually came to Ellenbrook and set up a new general practitioner's surgery. Since then, Dr Bada has employed Dr Uma Rao. That area now has two GPs. One year ago the area had 10 000 residents but no GPs, because the conglomerate GP provider had left the building, so to speak. Now the doctors are virtually fully booked and Dr Bada is looking to expand. I am pleased he has purchased land and made application to the City of Swan to build a brand new medical facility in Ellenbrook. It will be fantastic for that growing area where there are a great number of families, and in particular families with young children. I

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therefore congratulate Dr Bada for his vision in coming to Ellenbrook, for seizing the opportunity for servicing people in Ellenbrook and for making the investment in the community in the long term, which is, in fact, what his new medical facility will be.

With growing families and young children, education, again, is extremely important in the Ellenbrook area. We are going ahead in leaps and bounds in that regard. The Ellenbrook secondary college has been an issue of some debate in this house previously. I recall, again approximately a year ago, the opposition denouncing the government for allocating only a few hundred thousand dollars in the last state budget towards the planning and design work for the Ellenbrook secondary college. It is interesting to note that members opposite said that nothing could be done as it was not enough money and that work would not start on the college. However, let us look at what has happened in the past year with a funding allocation for planning and design of approximately \$250 000. In that time we have seen up to this point one year's work from a number of parties, including the Department of Housing and Works, T&Z Architects, the Department of Education and Training, the City of Swan, all the local feeder primary schools, LWP Property Group Pty Ltd, me as the local member, and others. We are now at the point at which the developed design reports have been finalised and signed off, so that detailed specifications can be ready for tendering next month, in July 2005. The designers and the members of the implementation committee are working towards the integration of the developer groups' streetscaping with the high school art and landscaping. The City of Swan has commenced preparing the management agreements with the Department of Education and Training to cover the capital cost allocation of the joint community and school library facility, to which the City of Swan is contributing \$4.5 million to value-add to the state government's already strong investment in that education facility in Ellenbrook, which will be right in the town centre. Management and maintenance arrangements for the library learning centre, the performing art space and capital contributions and maintenance arrangements for the shared-use oval are also being prepared. A public artist has been selected and the development approval for the school is being worked through with the Western Australian Planning Commission. As with these things, there is a bit of a hitch with the Department of Environment's allocation of a bore licence. However, all these issues are being worked through and progressed. We have the firm view that we will be committing to our original promise of opening the year 7-10 school at the beginning of the school year in 2007. The work is being closely monitored by the Department of Housing and Works, for which I thank it. We want to make sure that this project is delivered on time, as it is very much needed in the local community.

I also compliment the Anglican Schools Commission for its fervour. In the initial stage its school will be a K-8 school. Later it will go to year 12 and will also have a boarding facility. The Anglicans have been very busy of late. I think they had their school plans ready even before their approval came from the Minister for Education and Training; so they have been right on top of things, identifying the need in the market and taking action to provide that educational facility for local people. I understand that plans for the Catholic high schools are also being developed. A site is set out in the north of Ellenbrook and there is a lot of potential for the Catholic Education Commission to come on board sooner rather than later to fill that growing need in the market.

At the beginning of 2004, \$800 000 of state government money was contributed, along with significant funds from the Ellenbrook management group and the City of Swan, to develop a second access way into Ellenbrook, which has been needed for a long time. This was particularly highlighted by the incident several years ago when a petrol tanker fell over on Gnangara Road and closed the only vehicle access way to Ellenbrook on Pinaster Parade. That work is coming along. Unfortunately - this is life - that work has been progressing a bit slower than we would have liked, because there were a range of issues to do with the gas pipeline, access to the land, clearing and environmental approvals, and so forth, but we always get there in the end, particularly if there is the will from a range of parties to achieve positive outcomes.

Community safety is coming along nicely in Ellenbrook. The first instalment of \$600 000 towards the new police station is included in this budget. A site has been allocated in the town centre, which is an ideal location for the new police station. That police station will be a state-of-the-art facility. Works will commence later this year. In the interim, however, the government has committed, as of 3 January 2005, to a 24/7 police patrol for Ellenbrook and surrounding areas. That exercise has proved to be extremely effective. The rates of return are being lauded by the local police. Some people said that is very nice; there will be a 24/7 police patrol for a month or so; and then the election will come along and it will be abandoned. That is clearly not the case. The government has again upheld its commitment to the local community and is delivering sound community safety outcomes.

Finally, the budget contains a \$2.5 million commitment for an Ellenbrook health and leisure centre. I note that there was a typographical error in the budget papers that referred to a swimming pool in Ellenbrook. However, the Government's commitment is for money towards a health and leisure facility. That facility may take a

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number of forms. It may take the form of a swimming pool of some description, or it may take the form of indoor or outdoor courts, a splash area, or whatever the community thinks is appropriate. It will also depend on whatever the council is prepared to fund on an ongoing basis, because obviously the capital development will be vested in the council in the long term and it will be responsible for the long-term maintenance of that facility. I have had discussions with a private investor who is establishing a fitness centre in Ellenbrook with his own capital. That will include a gymnasium as well as some courts and a karate studio. My view is that we should use the government money to complement the private sector investment, and vice versa, when the time arises. I am not in the business of duplicating services and facilities. We need to provide the best and broadest outcomes possible in every community. If that means we need to say the private investor has built his gym, but we need to build ovals and courts, then that is what the government should do. Although there are obvious cost implications and various fee structures and so forth that will come into play as these facilities are built, there is not in my mind any justification for the government to duplicate these kinds of sporting and recreational facilities.

In short, those are my comments on the budget.

Mr D.A. Templeman: In short! I would hate to see you do it in long terms!

Ms J.A. RADISICH: Those are my comments on the very generous, very well structured, very strategic, very thoughtful and very well managed state budget of 2004-05. I sincerely congratulate the state Treasurer, the member for Belmont, for his efforts in the past four and a half years in this State. Without his support for growing communities in Western Australia, many of our communities would not have the strong level of investment, whether it be economic investment or investment in social and other infrastructure, that this state government has managed to achieve. I congratulate the Treasurer and hope that he has a very nice evening once I finish speaking and he gets to go home.

MR E.S. RIPPER (Belmont - Treasurer) [8.15 pm]: I thank all members who have spoken in this debate. They raised many interesting issues, and I look forward to the further examination of those issues during the estimate committee process to be held next week. I commend the budget to the house.

Question put and passed.

Bill (Appropriation (Consolidated Fund) Bill (No. 1) 2005) read a second time.

Pursuant to standing order 222, bill and estimates referred to Estimates Committees A and B.