

Mr Mike Board; Mr Peter Watson; Deputy Speaker; Mr Monty House; Mr Alan Carpenter; Mr John Day; Mr Larry Graham; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Bernie Masters; Mrs Carol Martin; Mr Ross Ainsworth; Mr Tony Dean; Acting Speaker; Mr Arthur Marshall; Mr Matt Birney; Mr Dan Barron-Sullivan; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr John Kobelke

REGIONAL WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Motion

MR M.F. BOARD (Murdoch) [3.20 pm]: I move -

That this House calls on the Gallop Labor Government to change its city-centric approach and ensure the provision of essential services to regional areas such as Albany.

This is probably the most important motion that the Parliament will deal with in Albany, because it goes to the very heart of this Government's commitment to regional areas. We have had the show, we have seen the government jets fly in, we have had the lunches, we have seen the mountain of press releases, we have seen the journalists supported and a few colour photographs taken, and we have even got to meet the member for Albany, who has made a fantastic contribution to the Parliament, but, in reality, this is all about a Government's commitment to regional areas. In this case, it is a commitment to Albany. The people of Albany and regional Western Australia should know that this Government has been the most city-centric Government ever in the history of this State. It is a Government that has systematically gone about taking money from regional and country areas to spend on its big projects in the city. The Government is doing that because it believes it can win government in the city alone, and that the city will control the Parliament of Western Australia. That is what the Government believes and that is why it has tried to take all the seats out of the country and put them into the city. Policy after policy, government initiative after government initiative and ministerial decision after ministerial decision have systematically taken money away from the country and given it to the city. That is where the power base is, and that is what this is all about. It is fantastic for the people of Albany that the Parliament is here today, and it is fantastic for democracy, but it is a show. When these people leave, a few cheques will have been handed out, a few colour photographs will have been taken, the babies will have been kissed and what is left? We need a Government that is committed to regional areas and that is prepared to dig in and do something for the people who are generating income and who are really making this State work, and not the social engineers up in Perth who tickle the stomach of the Labor Party and the people who will benefit most from a Labor Government because they are given a free ride. Let us support the people who make this State work.

If we want to examine the government's commitment to regional Western Australia, we only have to look at the health issue. When I have visited Albany, not only this time but also all the other times over the past couple of years, people have told me that one of the biggest issues in Albany is the health issue. Why can Albany not be provided with the same health services as any other part of this State, particularly the city? Why does the hospital have to be downgraded? Why is it losing hospital beds?

Mr P.B. Watson interjected.

Mr M.F. BOARD: Why have we lost nurses in Albany? Why does Albany have to wait two years for public dentistry - two years, the longest time in the State? Members should think about that. Why has that come about? Why are those issues not being raised in Parliament and fought for the people of Albany? Why have there been systematic changes? Why have mental health services been downgraded? The member for Albany should go to the hospital and talk with the staff there about the number of beds they have for mental health patients and the problems they have with obstetric services in trying to get general practice after-hours care. Where do people go for after-hours care in Albany? I know where people go in the city, but that has not been fought for. There has been a systematic downgrading of these services. Why would a Government, within 12 or 18 months of coming into government, take away the power of the people to play a role in their health services? Why has this Government sacked all the country health boards in Western Australia that were made up of mayors and townsmen, people involved in the services who raise money for the hospitals, people who build houses for the doctors and those who provide incentives for nurses to come into town? They were sacked because their voice was too loud. They were complaining that they were losing their services - hospital beds, hospital staff and the very things that kept their town alive. The Government decided to get rid of them because they were making too much noise and they were going to cause embarrassment. The Government decided to centralise services; that is, to take positions out of the country and to put them in the city. Systematically over the past three years these services have been downgraded, but why? So that this Government can spend \$1.7 billion on a railway so the people from Mandurah can get to the city eight minutes quicker - that is what this Government is telling us anyway. The Minister for Health is now telling us that the people of Moora cannot have their hospital, the people of Denmark have to wait for their hospital, Albany Regional Hospital cannot be upgraded and Dumbleyung District Memorial Hospital has to close; all of these things have to change. But hang on! The Government has found \$1.7 billion to build some new tertiary hospitals in - guess where? - the city!

Several members interjected.

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The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr M.F. BOARD: Members opposite are condemned by their own actions. One need only go through what they have done. We are now in the fourth year of this Government. If we try to get over this week's press releases and look at what this Government has done for the provision of health services in Western Australia, all we see is an increase in ambulance bypass figures and waiting lists numbers going through the roof for everything from dentistry to mental health services to elective surgery. We have not seen any real construction. When we were in government, we built four new hospitals. What has this Government built? We have had the nickel and dime stuff about \$20 000 here and \$30 000 there; what a load of garbage. This Government will not make a real commitment to these areas because it knows it is spending all its money on big city projects, for which this Government ought to be condemned.

All members opposite have done in their first two years in government is to blame the previous Government and say, "Okay, things are bad because of the previous Government. We made commitments, but we do not seem to be able to get on with that." After that, the fact that this Government had achieved nothing was starting to come home to roost, and it had to find some other scapegoat. Guess who? It decided to blame the Commonwealth for 12 months. Over the past 12 months the Commonwealth has been blamed for every lack of action, particularly in some of the regional areas. We have been told that it has not provided us with services, and, now, in this Government's last year of office - hopefully - what have we got? Hang on! This Government has not done anything for three years, particularly in the area of health, and now it has decided to come up with a big plan to get someone over from the eastern States and announce funding of \$1.7 billion to build a few new tertiary hospitals in the city. Meanwhile, the people in country areas, particularly in Albany, will wait longer for every health service to which they should have access. This Government ought to be condemned. People from Albany have not had good representation. Once the people of Albany see through the press releases of the past couple of days, they will find out that if they really want to get services delivered in Albany and some money put into Albany, they should think about returning the Liberal member to the seat.

MR P.B. WATSON (Albany) [3.30 pm]: Page 51 of today's *The West Australian* reads "Ray White, Albany. Ready for your 'Seachange'? Albany is booming". The business community is saying that Albany is booming. Members of the Opposition downgraded Western Power, closed the Westrail workshops, privatised AlintaGas and gutted Main Roads, and the National Party was part of that process. I will not talk about those matters. No. Instead, I will talk about what this Government has done for Albany. I refer to the \$20 million police and court complex. The previous local member and police minister under the previous Government would not provide that complex - Gallop Labor Government 1, the Opposition 0.

Several members interjected.

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

Mr P.B. WATSON: Also, \$50 million was allocated to Water Corporation infrastructure. That project was missed by the previous Government. It did not want to know about it. It did not realise there was no catchment in Albany, yet \$50 million was allocated by the Gallop Labor Government. The small boat harbour was allocated \$12 million. This Government has a vision for the boat harbour, the waterfront and Anzac Park. Members of the Returned and Services League in Albany, led by "Digger" Cleak, have a vision for Albany at Anzac Park for 2014.

An opposition member: What about something solid?

Mr P.B. WATSON: I hear a voice. Is this the same member who on the election trail promised a hospital for Denmark, but said no money was available for it in the forward estimates? That was an absolute disgrace.

Mr W.J. McNee: You took away the Moora Hospital and then you promised one to Port Hedland.

Mr P.B. WATSON: We can talk about hospitals, and the \$700 000 allocated -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! The member for Albany has the call.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker.

When we came to power, money to run the local hospital came from the capital works fund. The allocation was \$700 000. The Minister for Health in the previous Government put only \$700 000 into that hospital. The Labor Government has undertaken a \$1 million upgrade of the paediatric ward, and provided the new dialysis unit. It is great to see the Minister for Health in the Chamber at the moment. He put in money so that the people of

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Albany need not go to live in Perth. People previously had to uproot their family and move to Perth to receive treatment. Regarding the \$1 million upgrade of the paediatric ward, I thank the Telethon Trekkers who did a tremendous job. It was great to see the minister open the ward the other day.

Mr J.A. McGinty: It is a wonderful facility, too.

Mr P.B. WATSON: That is the thing. The city-centric Liberal Party members come down here from Perth. Do not worry about the members of the National Party, as they do everything the Liberal Party tells them to do. They lie on their backs, have their tummy scratched and put their legs in the air. The Labor Party has the Country Labor Alliance, which goes into all country regions. We speak to people; we are not like these city-centric people opposite. In Caucus, city members in my party say that we give too much to the country. Ask them. We have very good country members in the Labor Party. Country people got nothing from the mob opposite. Look at them - a mob of rabble who gave us nothing! Albany now has the best hospital in the State; I would even go so far as to say the best regional hospital in Australia.

The Reid report will be released by our great health minister on Monday, although it is probably the second or third release.

An opposition member: The parliamentary secretary has already released it.

Mr P.B. WATSON: Indeed. The Reid report will state that the Labor Government will look after regional hospitals, and boost them so that they are major hubs. Also, \$5 million was allocated to clear up the waiting list for dental treatment. We do not sit around and talk in the Labor Party - we do things in the country. A call centre has been provided, and \$1.5 million was directed towards the new sporting complex. One million dollars was directed to the youth centre, which was not here when members opposite were in power. Amounts were made available of \$350 000 for the port, and \$100 000 for undercover areas at schools. The refurbishment took place of the Great Southern Regional College of TAFE. These things have been done. The difference between us on this side of the Chamber and you guys over there is that we have a vision for country people.

MR M.G. HOUSE (Stirling) [3.35 pm]: That is a very interesting act to follow. I am pleased and privileged to be part of this regional sitting in Albany. As one of the members who represents some of the outlying suburbs of Albany and the hinterland, I am very pleased to see members in the Chamber who represent other electorates. From what I hear and understand, the people of Albany have been very pleased to welcome us to Albany. I think that is great. The members who represent city electorates will have found that there is something different about the country. One thing different is the sort of hospitality that has been offered to those who have come here. Often people who live in the city do not understand the tyranny of distance. My electorate, which is not as large as some country electorates, is quite vast, yet it includes some areas in the City of Albany. Many people in government departments sometimes do not understand the practical problems that country people face in accessing health services, power and water. Sometimes they have to battle for all the communication systems with which city people normally expect to be provided.

I am very pleased that the Opposition was able to defeat the Government's proposition to change the electoral laws earlier in its term. Country people would have suffered greatly from those changes. I will give a practical example of that. Some months ago, my wife and I came across a very serious road accident some 30 kilometres from the nearest town. It involved some young people, one of whom had died on the side of the road. We had to find an ambulance and a communication system. Our mobile phone did not work. One young person was severely injured. I have known these young men all their lives. When we were faced with the practical problem of getting to a hospital to save the lives of those who were still alive, we suddenly realised the practical difficulties we faced. The impact of those difficulties on the families of those young people was severe. When members come into Parliament and request the sort of services that people in the metropolitan area take for granted - such as a better ambulance system, a better health system, more hospital beds, more emergency services and more doctors - they do not ask for them just because they believe they are the right things to ask for; they ask for them because of an absolute need for them. That absolute need was demonstrated to my wife and me in a way that we would rather it had not been. However, I can tell members that the experience had quite an effect on a number of people. I do not usually use personal examples in the Parliament. However, that example demonstrates the fact that members do not come into Parliament to talk about the services that they believe people need but, rather, to demonstrate an absolute and real need for them. There are many such examples in the health system and the power system in Western Australia. The power system is the lifeblood by which country people operate. Electricity allows them to live an existence that is reasonably in tune with their cousins in the city. By that I mean that they have access to televisions, freezers, fridges and electric light. Quite frankly, not too many years ago those of us in rural Western Australia did not have those services. Many members recall

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having individual lighting plants. I can see the Treasurer out of the corner of my eye nodding his head. In fact, people in the country do not take those services lightly. A power system failure, because the system has not been upgraded or there is not enough for generation, has a dramatic effect on their lives when it prevents them from doing the simple things they expect to do. They have to send their children to boarding schools 200 or 300 kilometres away in the city, not because they want to split up their families or because they can afford to - I heard a member comment on money a while ago - but because the facilities are not available in the country to provide them with a good standard of education. Those facilities are important to all country people. Every member of this Parliament shares the concerns of their family to access those simple, basic services that many of us take for granted. There is no question that regional development does need some subsidy. If we are to create those sorts of facilities, if we are to allow business to prosper and if we are to allow jobs to be created, we will have to be cognisant of the fact that we must sometimes subsidise it. We have to allow in the budget -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Stirling, you have the call.

Mr M.G. HOUSE: I notice that the Minister for Planning and Infrastructure is absent from the Chamber. She might have something to do with the microphone playing up from behind the scenes. She visited my farm on Sunday, which she told me about when I got here on Monday. I was very pleased that she did visit my farm, although my farm manager told me that the animals have not been too well during the past few days.

Mr J.C. Kobelke: She fixes most things, but your farm problems might go a bit too far!

Mr M.G. HOUSE: It seems that way. I jest. I use that as an example of a minister who has visited a small country town, albeit my home town, of which I am very proud. She told me about some of the things that she had spoken to the local people about and how passionate they were about the issues they raised with her. That is a demonstrable advantage of us going to a rural area to hold a sitting of Parliament: it lets people see that we debate things seriously and passionately. The member for Peel, for example, gave a very passionate speech earlier about things that he believes in. The fact that I do not agree with him is not the issue. The part of democracy that is important is that we can have these debates in a Chamber such as this, which allows us to thrash out our differences, and still go out on the street and communicate with people and each other. I am very proud of the system we have. Sometimes I get agitated by it and sometimes I would like more of it. Sometimes I would like it to better serve the people I represent, as all of us would. However, the system works. I think we have been able to demonstrate that to the people of Albany today.

MR A.J. CARPENTER (Willagee - Minister for Education and Training) [3.42 pm]: Everybody knows that this Government is delivering more to country and regional centres in Western Australia than did the previous Government, but members opposite have to make a political point. The facts speak for themselves.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: I would like the local member for Albany to pass on a compliment from me to the staff of the Albany Regional Hospital for the outstanding health care they are giving to my grandmother at this moment. They are providing her with absolutely outstanding care. What a great hospital it is. It has dedicated staff and very good facilities. I am only acknowledging the hospital because I feel as though I should, because this is the last chance I will have to get on my feet and speak during this parliamentary sitting in Albany. I want to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of my parents, Graham and Elaine Carpenter. Through my family connections in this area over many generations, I know a lot about this region. There might be one or two members who know it as well as I do, but I doubt it. I know a lot. I used to live in the main street. My great, great-grandfather built Pyrmont House, where we held our cabinet meeting the other day. I know a lot about this area and I know a lot about the trends that have developed over the years in this area. There has never been a Government more committed to doing things for this region than this one. I have spent the past couple of days here and I have had the chance to get on my feet to talk about the programs that this Government is putting in place in education and training in this area. We are changing the very nature of the education and training opportunities in this area in a way that members opposite never dreamed of, because they did not have the imagination. From time to time under the previous Government, different places would get a new primary school, and that was good. I congratulate the former Government for doing that.

Mr C.J. Barnett: High schools are the big improvement.

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Mr A.J. CARPENTER: High schools were improved as well. However, when the previous Government was in power, the number of young people who were engaged successfully in education until the end of year 12 declined. That was not only a state disgrace but also a national and international disgrace. In the booming heart of the Australian economy the previous Government was so blind to the future that it allowed the number of young people who were successfully engaged in education and training to decline. Less than 50 per cent of the population of some non-metropolitan schools in Western Australia were getting to year 12. When the Leader of the Opposition was Minister for Education, in some high schools in country areas only 33 per cent of boys were successfully completing year 12. That was an utter disgrace. He never had the imagination to do anything about it. We are doing something about it. We are changing the very nature of this community; we are going to change the very nature of this society because of educational opportunity. If we deny young people educational opportunities, they will not succeed in the economy and the world of the future. That is it. That is what we are doing for regional Western Australia. I have given an account of some of the things we are doing in Albany. People in Albany know; they can make their own judgments. They see what is going on. They can come to my forum on 29 April and we can talk about how we will change this community in the future.

I will give a run-down of some of the things I have not mentioned. The member for Wagin asked me a few weeks ago about the breakdown of the additional money for school maintenance. The amount is \$1 million a month for seven months. He asked me how much was going to country schools. I said I did not know but that I would find out. I have found out. Of the \$7 million, country schools will receive \$3.505 million and metropolitan schools will receive \$3.495 million. Country schools will receive more. Why? Because they need it most. Good government puts the money where it is needed most. It does not do what members opposite did; it puts it where it is needed most.

Information and communications technology - what a mess! Everyone knows that. What a disastrous mess the member for Cottesloe presided over. It was an absolute disaster. What have we done? We have completely changed it around. Look at the way things have changed in schools. Look at what is happening at Spencer Park Primary School and North Albany Senior High School. The schools will be completely different schools of the future. How much is the Government spending in the regions on information communications technology for projects for the future of telecommunications?

Mr M.J. Birney: What about talking to us? Aren't you here to talk to us?

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: No, I am not here to talk to the member for Kalgoorlie.

An amount of \$14.36 million will be spent in metropolitan areas and \$8.2 million in the regions. The 100 schools project includes infrastructure expenditure of \$1.764 million in regional areas and \$1.38 million in metropolitan areas. Is a theme developing here? Can members see a consistency? We are doing it; we are delivering and members opposite did not. That is why they were voted out. Albany has a member who is a genuine person and understands the local community. He is not a person who did not care about or understand his local community. He was not part of a Government that did not care about or understand the community of Western Australia. In their first chance to get to their feet, members opposite spoke about the Western Australian flag. They do not understand the Western Australian community. They think the sort of people who contact them from the Liberal Party are representative of the broader community and that the biggest issue on their mind is whether we want a different state flag. That is not the issue in which people are interested. People are interested in real things, such as the way their community is managed. The Opposition is hopeless. It was a hopeless Government, but it is a worse Opposition. It has no vision for the future of this country or the State. It has nothing to offer. However, I exclude some members of the National Party from that category, but not many other members opposite.

What did their shadow police minister say when he came back from Bali? That is the sort of quality they have in their party: a person who came back and said he had been drunk for four days and he did not know what had happened! What sort of a role model does that present to young people in Albany? What sort of a role model is the member? He is a disgraceful role model. Members opposite have nothing to offer.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr A.J. CARPENTER: Government is more than just the nuts and bolts, although they are important. Do members opposite know what government is? Government represents the combined aspirations of the people. Members are elected, not because they are going to do this, that and the other, but because they have a big picture. We articulate the vision, hopes and aspirations of the people of the State. That is what government

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does. It is bigger than they ever imagined. It is more important than they will ever know. This Government has a vision for Western Australia, the great southern and Albany. The Government is putting it into place. This town has never been in a better position. Look at it - it is booming and throbbing! Under members opposite, it was going nowhere. The whole town is now vibrant - congratulations. I hope it continues into the future. Well done.

MR J.H.D. DAY (Darling Range) [3.50 pm]: There is something appropriate about our being on a theatrical stage here in Albany given some of the performances we have seen over the past few days.

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Mr J.H.D. DAY: It is part of the role of Parliament and it is good that the Minister for Education and Training is able to have his parents here today. I agree that it is very relevant and appropriate.

The Minister for Education and Training was selective in his comments when making reference to the development of schools in Albany over the past few years. If he wanted to paint a comprehensive picture of what had been put in place over the past few years, and in particular during the time of the previous Government, he could have referred to the major redevelopments of Albany Senior High School, North Albany Senior High School and the construction of the new Albany Primary School. The Leader of the Opposition, the then Minister for Education, was very much involved in that.

My main comments relate to the energy portfolio. The motion that we are debating refers to the need to ensure the provision of essential services to regional areas such as Albany. There is really no better example of the need to ensure that those essential services are provided than electricity supply. Most people in the community take the supply of electricity for granted. When there are problems, such as lights going out or plant not working, the community is understandably very vocal and concerned about them. Electricity is crucial to the operation of homes, businesses and farms throughout Western Australia. It is evident that there are major problems with the State's electricity network, particularly with the south west interconnected system. It has been well demonstrated that the infrastructure is ageing, that some poles are falling over, and that wires are not up to the standard necessary to carry the amount of electricity that is being demanded. Ageing infrastructure needs large amounts of money spent on it to upgrade it to a satisfactory standard.

The electricity network system capacity also needs expanding in the south west of the State. We have seen some tragic examples over the past few weeks of summer of things going wrong with the electricity system. The bushfires in Bridgetown that occurred just before Christmas were caused by the ignition of dry material on the ground after a tree came into contact with a high voltage powerline, which ignited a fire that had pretty devastating consequences. Even worse and more tragically was the fire north of Mt Barker at Tenterden in which sadly two lives were lost as well as livestock, and a large amount of public and private property was burnt. That fire was caused by conductors being blown together by strong winds, which caused sparks that dropped to the ground and ignited a fire that had devastating consequences. In very recent times in the southern and south west parts of the State, there have been some very tragic examples of the electricity infrastructure not being up to the appropriate standard.

The capacity of the electricity system needs to be expanded. A very good example of that was given during a meeting that the Leader of the Opposition and I had with representatives of the Shires of Gnowangerup, Jerramungup and Ravensthorpe last week at which it was made clear that there is a need for increased capacity for the transmission line from the poly-generation power station east to Ravensthorpe. It has been estimated that to upgrade that transmission line to a sufficient capacity would cost about \$42 million. The Premier was involved in the announcement yesterday that the BHP Billiton nickel mine would go ahead. I would be very interested to hear from the Premier or the Minister for Energy whether the Government explored any possibility of interlinking the power plant at the proposed nickel mine with the electricity network. Had some interlink been provided, it would have been of benefit to the people of the Ravensthorpe area, in particular. It is really the responsibility of the Government to maximise the opportunities for the people of the State. I would be very interested to know what effort was put in, because, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, it seems like a missed opportunity for the Ravensthorpe area. It would certainly be preferable if the benefit of the additional generation capacity to be installed at the nickel mine had been interlinked into the system so that at least the people of the Ravensthorpe area could encourage new businesses with a back-up power supply. It seems that the Government has missed an opportunity. There are deficiencies in the power supply to Kalbarri, as was highlighted on ABC radio earlier this week. As well as rural and regional areas, there are also major deficiencies in the metropolitan area, as reported in this morning's *The West Australian*. The Government's approach has

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been to spend a large amount of money on breaking up Western Power. It planned to spend \$153 million over four years. The grand plan would have involved an additional expenditure of \$26 million per annum. We need to hear a lot more from the Minister for Energy - probably not in this debate, but at some later stage - about the structure of the electricity market the Government intends to put in place, and its costs.

The Government has put a limit on Western Power's borrowings, because it needs to keep its debt levels under control. That is clearly directly related to the southern metropolitan railway, which is being built at a cost of \$1.6 billion and, no doubt, rising. The amount of borrowings necessary for that project is impacting on the amount of money that Western Power and similar organisations are able to borrow to invest in upgrading and expanding the electricity network. It is time the Government lifted the borrowing restriction on Western Power, so that funds can be put where they are needed.

I will make one final brief point, in particular to the people of Albany and the great southern. Small to medium-size businesses would have had a reduction in the cost of their electricity if it had not been blocked by this Government in 2002. Western Power proposed to reduce electricity prices by 10 per cent over three years, starting in July 2003. We know that the Minister for Energy, or his office, intervened to stop that price reduction going ahead for their own convenient political reasons.

Mr E.S. Ripper: That is not the case.

Mr J.H.D. DAY: If that is not the case, the minister must provide a full explanation of what intervention was provided. This motion should be supported.

MR L. GRAHAM (Pilbara) [3.58 pm]: I will make a short contribution to the debate on the motion, referring to the Pilbara - not specifically the area I represent, but the generic area. It is unique in this State, in that it was not the State Government that developed the Pilbara in the 1960s; it was the resources industry. There is no other time in Australia's history when a State Government effectively abrogated its responsibilities and allowed industry to do it in its entirety. It is nearly unprecedented in the nation. The federal Government made its contribution to those major corporations through the taxation system. The problem confronting the Pilbara now is that, 30 years on, after nearly 10 years of decline, it is in need of the State Government coming to the plate. I will talk about the iron ore industry for a minute, and provide some interesting figures. In 1976, the iron ore industry produced 85.6 million tonnes. In 1983, it produced 75 million tonnes. That was the combined effect of the contributions of the member for Riverton and me to the industry! In 1993, production went up to 116.3 million tonnes. In 2003, total shipments are estimated to be 201 million tonnes. I stress "estimated" because they are not confirmed. It is likely that, in the next five years, that figure will double. That will give members some idea of what is going on in the Pilbara. What has that meant to Governments? It has meant that State Government revenue will have nearly doubled between 1997 and 2007. Its budget income will increase from \$7.6 billion in 1997 to an estimated \$13 billion in 2007. It means mineral and petroleum royalty revenue increased from \$570 million in 1998, which is the first year it was recorded in that way, to an estimated \$1.34 billion in 2007. It has roughly doubled in that area. Iron ore royalties have increased from \$171 million in 1976, to an official estimate of \$298 million in 2007. It is most likely that next year the iron ore industry will pay in excess of \$400 million in royalties. The official estimate has no chance of being met. It is most likely to be 50 to 100 per cent out.

When the Government receives that amount of revenue flowing to it, the Pilbara will face some serious difficulties. The first difficulty is that there is simply not enough money in the Pilbara to run the area. I will go into the arguments about royalties and where they are generated from. The fact is that there is not enough money in the Pilbara to operate the communities there. The second problem - I say this is a problem, although it is a nice problem - is that the growth in China is increasing the demand for everything that is produced in the Pilbara at a rate that city folk - including most of the people in government departments and offices - simply do not understand. The growth is almost exponential. It is no longer a case of increasing by double; it is a case of how much can we get out of the ground and how quickly can we get it to China for it to use. The growth and the economic opportunity provided to the State and the Pilbara as a consequence of the growth in China exceeds the growth and the economic opportunity that was put in place during the post-war construction of Japan. This State has yet to understand the full consequences of what is happening in China. That ignores the growth that is happening consequentially in Taiwan -

Mr C.J. Barnett: The point is that the whole State shares in the development.

Mr L. GRAHAM: It is. Despite the growth in our current industries, we are losing market share in China. It is extraordinary that, although the growth in the region is almost unprecedented, we are losing market share in vital

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resource projects to Brazil and India. It is amazing how those countries are able to produce, respond and react. In some cases it is the same companies. Multinational companies in South America - I have no axe to grind with them - are able to respond more quickly to the demand in China than we, in the Pilbara, are able to respond. One of the reasons is that our system of government is set up for the status quo, or declining income and declining budgets. That position is changing daily in Western Australia.

MR M.P. MURRAY (Collie) [4.03 pm]: I thank the people of Albany. Members have had a tremendous time here. The regional sitting of Parliament is a first for everyone, and I am glad to be part of it. I will refer to country issues. I have seen the worst of what can happen to a town when a Government does not take care of it. I was lucky enough to be elected owing to the fact that Collie was neglected by the former Government. Some 400 jobs were lost from the coal industry and 300 jobs were lost from the power industry. Things were very grim. I won a seat in what was considered in many people's eyes to be an unwinnable seat. I am proud to represent my town and my region. When 600 jobs are lost from a town, among other things, the schools decline and the doctors leave. Country people in all parts of regional Western Australia know about those things. I have been passionate about country issues in not only my area, but also others. It is great to come to Albany because the Labor Party has a Country Labor Association, which the member for Albany is a major player in. Certainly, he has his say about his region very loudly and clearly. On many occasions we see him in the corridors with a minister jammed in the corner, trying to get a few bob out of him to further his area.

At the last election, I said that my area was at its lowest ebb. Since then I have seen things improve. I am proud to say that that is mainly because ministers in my Government have come to the party and given us a hand. At times, not a great deal of help is needed in a country town. As has been said before, people in country towns do not need a lot. We want only the basics, and that is what we ask for. We do not go over the top. Many towns do not have public transport or the things associated with that. However, we do want the basics; that is, the roads and the power supply that have been spoken about by members on this side of the House. That is happening. However, it is a slow process because they have been allowed to run down over many years. I believe that successive Governments have been neglectful in the area of power supplies, and we have seen the result of that. Now it sits quite comfortably with the Opposition to blame the Government of the day. I do not see it like that. I see it as a cumulative thing, and the blame should be spread evenly.

Mr J.L. Bradshaw: The reason we are sort of blaming the Government is that we actually started to fix the problem.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: I did not notice that too much around my area; that is all I can say. I have been in Harvey in recent times. The people of Harvey think that the member for Murray-Wellington is a great bloke, but they ask what he has done over the past few years. It is time for change down on the flats as well, and I believe that will happen.

As I said, we were ignored by the previous Government. We never saw the Premier or a minister come to town in those difficult times. I was on the Collie Shire Council on the one occasion on which the now Leader of the Opposition came into the town. We asked for a hand. He said, "I govern for all WA. Don't think you're special just because you have unemployment rates up around the 15 per cent mark." At that time we were desperate, and we really needed a hand. However, that was rejected out of hand by the now Leader of the Opposition.

Mr C.J. Barnett: We built a power station for you.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: Half a power station. We would not have the problems we have now if the previous Government had built a full one. We all know about that. However, that is not a country issue; that is a state issue.

Mr C.J. Barnett: We delivered for Collie what Premier Gallop could not deliver. We built a power station.

Mr M.P. MURRAY: At the time I was on the shire council, the shire president, Rosanne Pimm, begged the minister to give us a hand. We needed just a bump to get out of the hole that we were in. We did not get that at that time. However, with the change of government, we have had that. I can say with confidence that things have changed. Real estate in Collie has gone up by 50 per cent. The appearance of Collie has changed dramatically. People who come into the town now say, "We thought it was a grubby little coalmining town." However, it has changed, because people put their shoulders to the wheel and said, "If we don't change, we will die anyway. Let's get out there and do something, and see if we can get some help from the Government." We have had that help. The number of students at school has increased. I say with real pride today that the unemployment rate has gone down. The last published figures showed a three per cent reduction in

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unemployment rates. I think that is tremendous. It means that the Government is supporting country towns. That helps them, and it makes me feel quite proud to serve in a Government that is willing to go to the country.

Mr R.F. Johnson: What do they do in Collie?

Mr M.P. MURRAY: The member would not know. He has not been out of the city to take a look.

There are some projects on the table at the moment. In the future, Pinetec Ltd will relocate from the city to Collie. That will happen because, again, the Government came in to help. The federal Liberal Government certainly did not help. The State Government had to fund nearly all the relocation process for Pinetec. That will create 30 jobs. That may not sound like very many jobs, but in a country town - I am sure my National Party colleagues opposite will agree - one job counts, let alone 30. That will bring unbelievable benefits to the Collie region.

Along with that, Collie has the call centre, which again was established with the help of the State Government. One was also opened in Albany. These issues were not even considered under the previous coalition Government. The jobs at the call centre are mainly part time. However, that helps those people who need a few bob. I know that a lot of the people who work at the Collie call centre were previously unemployed. It is great to walk in there and see the pride that they have from just having a job. Some people would say that it is a terrible, menial job, but by gee they are proud to have a job. That also makes me feel proud.

Further down the line we will have a plant that will extract collagen. That plant has now been granted Environmental Protection Authority approval. That may help me in the future, or even now - a bit of collagen on my face may help to get a few wrinkles out of it! Due to mad cow disease, that plant will process sheepskins instead of cowskins; it is a new technology. It will employ between 15 and 20 people. Those are welcome jobs within our region. We often wonder where can we go next, and do we have the infrastructure. We have the infrastructure for about 12 000 people. However, that infrastructure is a bit run down. Therefore, we need to look at the next step - not only the jobs, but also the infrastructure that goes along with that. I am working very hard with the relevant ministers to improve the standard of the infrastructure in Collie.

The state housing in Collie is in a deplorable condition. When I first came into the Parliament, the maintenance program budget for the more than 200 state houses in Collie was only \$36 000. That would not fix even half of one house. That amount is now up to \$500 000, again because this State Government is willing to listen and to work. That may not appear much to city people, because that may be only enough to buy one unit in the city. However, it is a lot for the people who live in the south west, because they need that boost and that help, and that is what this Government is doing.

The State Government has provided \$1.5 million for a Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Mine Lakes in Collie. That is supported strongly by the coal industry. Again, that will lead to jobs in the technology area and will lead to greater development in my region. I would have liked to have spoken for another hour on that matter, but I have run out of time. I thank members very much for the opportunity to speak today.

MR B.K. MASTERS (Vasse) [4.11 pm]: I am sorry the Minister for Health is not in the Chamber at this time, because I want to remind the minister that in an earlier life, when he was the Minister for Peel and the South West, he said during an estimates committee hearing that my electorate and neighbouring areas were the "chardonnay coast" and were in no need of further government funding.

I have tried many times in this Parliament to remind people on both sides of the political fence that my electorate is one of the fastest-growing electorates in Australia. For about five or six years, the Shire of Busselton had a population growth rate of six per cent, which made it the fastest-growing municipal area in Australia. For a number of years, Dunsborough, in the Shire of Busselton, had a population growth rate of 17 per cent. The most recent figures from the Australian Bureau of Statistics show that the fastest growing town in Australia is Dalyellup, in the Shire of Capel, which has a population growth rate of 17 per cent.

Mr A.J. Dean: That is in Bunbury.

Mr B.K. MASTERS: It is near, but not in, Bunbury. The point is that the people who are fuelling this population growth are not retirees, as they might have been thought to be some years ago, and they are not the yuppies that the former Minister for Peel and the South West believed they were when he made that silly statement about the chardonnay coast. They are the typical Australian battlers. They are the ordinary mum and dad families that all of us are well aware of in all of our electorates. These families have chosen to move into my electorate, and, for better or for worse, they are bringing with them some very important needs that must be met via government funding.

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One area of need is education. I commend the Minister for Education for being very interested in the education problems in my electorate. There is an area in central-south Busselton that for want of a better word I will call the education precinct. It comprises a government primary school and government high school, and three private schools. There are 2 800 students in the geographic area of those five schools. That creates significant problems, such as school bus access, facilities for the high school, bridges over drains, and safety. There are enormous problems. I commend the Minister for Education for giving serious consideration to a number of important educational issues as a result of the local area education plan that is under way. I am sorry the minister is not here right now, because even though he has been supportive of the LAEP process in the past, one issue has not been properly dealt with - I will be raising this with him shortly - and that is the needs of the TAFE college in Busselton, which I understand is at capacity and is designed to be picked up and moved to a larger area. I do not believe that the LAEP process has considered the long-term needs of the South West College of TAFE.

I could go through a long list of needs for my area. They include: energy - dairy farmers desperately need three-phase power; agriculture - I am disappointed with the response by the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries on various aspects of the Legislative Assembly dairy industry inquiry, of which I was a member; health - the Minister for Health has unfortunately not yet put into effect certain actions relating to a study to determine whether Busselton needs a new or upgraded hospital. I point out to the minister that as of Thursday of last week the three senior nursing staff who he told Michael Moodie were not to be spilled from their positions had still not been told that their status, at least in the short term, had been protected. There are also ongoing problems with mental health nurses and staffing in both Bunbury and Busselton regional hospitals. Unfortunately, I believe that this motion is absolutely spot on when it calls for this Labor Government to be less city-centric and more country-centric.

MRS C.A. MARTIN (Kimberley) [4.17 pm]: I oppose this motion. As a country member, I am offended that this sort of motion is allowed to be put on the Table, especially on such a historic occasion as this - the first Parliament to sit outside the metropolitan area. City-centric, this Government? What an indictment! How ridiculous! What a ridiculous statement to make! I cannot believe it actually. However, I thought it was time that somebody chucked a bit in about talking from the heart. Country people know about talking from the heart. Country people know what it is like to live in a community that suffers from the tyranny of distance. Most importantly, we find ways to work together. I will refer to a couple of points raised by speakers before me from the National Party. I agree: certain things need to be worked on. However, this Government has a policy called "Giving a fair go to regional Australia". It is a policy; it is a beginning. We are actually working towards making a difference. I have heard lots of amazing statements. I would have loved this Parliament to have sat in Kununurra - can members imagine - but, no, it is sitting in Albany. It is historic, and it is the right and decent thing to do, but maybe next time we can look at the other end of the State, maybe the Kimberley, Kununurra, Broome or somewhere like that - somewhere where people will show appreciation. People have come here to witness history, to celebrate their community and to show off the amazing things that they have achieved. Their local member is an amazing person.

On its inaugural trip, the Country Labor Alliance went to the other end of the State. Its purpose was to form an alliance to work together. More importantly, this Government has a Cabinet that listens. When we have issues, we take them to our Cabinet, and it follows through and does a brilliant job. When we have a need, we support each other and we take issues to the appropriate ministers. There is a bit of misinformation about and I want to correct part of it.

I am a part of this history. Parliament has come to Albany, not to Perth. This is a regional centre. This is not about being city-centric; this is about bringing Parliament to the people. This is the people's House, and it is in the country. A few statements, but, more importantly, the mean-spirited and spoilt attitude of some members opposite have clouded all the wonderful things that have been experienced here. Many children have come through the gallery. When asked about what they saw in here, they said, "Those people are really crabby." Well, yoo-hoo, they are right. What behaviour!

Mr R.F. Johnson: That's what we think about you lot.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: These kids thought it about members opposite; so good on you! However, there are some realities to this issue. As I said, this is history so we need to celebrate it. This is not just about holding Parliament in Albany. We need to start celebrating diversity. I have heard the mucky things that have been said in here about the previous legislation and about providing a foundation for a good society that celebrates the difference in others. I know about difference, so I will always support that sort of thing. It is not hard to celebrate that. People will not be harmed by anything that is different, and that is what I want -

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Mr R.F. Johnson interjected.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: No, statements have been made. I challenge people to go back and read *Hansard*. The mucky things that were said by members on the other side about the legislation - things that members opposite did not feel comfortable with -

Mr C.J. Barnett: What, taking "God" out of the oath?

Mr R.F. Johnson: And the gay and lesbian legislation?

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: And the adoption legislation.

Several members interjected.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: There you go; that is what members opposite were talking about when they were carrying on.

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mrs C.A. MARTIN: Excuse me, I will get back to the point now. I challenge the Albany community to do a couple of things. The most important thing to do is to check the web site and read *Hansard* to find out who said what in this place. This is history. It is something to be celebrated; it should never be denigrated. There is a wonderful man called the member for Albany. Do members know what he does? He inspires people. He is here to make a difference, and this community is represented by a person who will see them through. On that note I thank the House.

MR R.A. AINSWORTH (Roe) [4.22 pm]: Earlier the Minister for Education and Training made a very good point in part of his speech when he talked about the need for vision. That is very pertinent regardless of which Government is in power. I have felt for a long time that government departments and Governments generally have lacked the vision they need to see development on the scale that should be happening in regional Western Australia. One of the things that they seem to lack is the ability to look outside individual government department budgets when making decisions about investment in regional Western Australia. For example, decisions have been made on the expansion of the electricity supply system in the region. I know that Western Power is not a government department but it is a government instrumentality. When the Government takes money out of that government instrumentality - an extra dividend of \$20 million - it should invest some capital into expanding Western Power's infrastructure and perhaps seeing the development of other industries in the regions. Flowing from that will be the development of other industries and some social benefits for a range of people in the regions, rather than just the customers hooking onto that expanded electricity supply system. If that type of approach were taken, we would see a different view of regional communities. At the moment, they are being held back by this narrow focus on individual budgets within government instead of taking a whole-of-government approach.

Yesterday, an announcement was made that the Ravensthorpe nickel operation would go ahead in my electorate, which was a wonderful announcement and something I have been waiting for for some time. The Premier flew to my electorate without asking me to go with him or even telling me he would make a big announcement on the scene. In today's edition of *The West Australian*, Chris Pointon, BHP Billiton's Stainless Steel Materials President, is reported as saying that this was largely a China story, and I think that is correct. Of course, Governments have to play a part in making sure that this whole process gives the best social benefit to our region, which will include things like further money for the upgrade of the Esperance Senior High School. I acknowledge that money has been earmarked for upgrading now. Part of that was money the previous Government earmarked from AlintaGas sale proceeds to place a junior school in Esperance. Also, some money from the current training budget that had been combined by the minister for an upgrade was included. However, that upgrade was required, regardless of the Ravensthorpe nickel project. Now the additional population is coming into our region, and being the only senior high school for 400 kilometres in any direction, funding additional to that already in the pipeline will be needed. Again, a broader approach is needed rather than one looking only at the education budget; the whole economic and social benefit to my region must be considered when putting money into those basic infrastructure requirements.

The other area that requires the same broader vision is the supply of water to the goldfields. A private project has been proposed for quite some time to desalinate sea water at Esperance and pipe it to Kalgoorlie. A recent review of that prospect was undertaken by government, and it was rejected on the basis that the water would be too expensive for the Water Corporation to purchase as the main customer from this private company. However, the sad thing - apart from the water issues relating to Perth that could have been alleviated to a small degree by

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taking water from Esperance to the goldfields instead of from Perth to the goldfields - is that the report stated that other social and economic benefits, outside the specific water issues involved with the project, had not been taken into account. Their presence was acknowledged, but they had not been taken into account in the decision to not support this private project. That is where the vision that the Minister for Education and Training was talking about should come into play. We should not consider only the very narrow issue of water itself, and the Water Corporation's desire to have control of everything within that department and not be a partner with a commercial enterprise. We should consider not only the cost of water to the Water Corporation under this project, but also the broader social and economic benefits that would have flowed from that project. Everything should be considered from the aspect of security of supply of high quality water, as opposed to the current poor quality in Esperance, right through to other benefits to flow from that commercial opportunity from Esperance through to Kalgoorlie and beyond. I support the minister's statement concerning the need for vision; I would just like to see some.

MR A.J. DEAN (Bunbury) [4.27 pm]: I start by stating that one shall know people by their colours: how members opposite acted in the past is how they will act in the future. I will run through a few things members opposite did in Bunbury.

Mr J.L. Bradshaw: Oppositions always act the same.

Mr A.J. DEAN: I know opposition members will act the same. I thank the member for his comment. I will outline what members opposite did in Bunbury and why the previous local member was chucked out.

Mr M.J. Birney: Is he going to get chucked out too?

Mr A.J. DEAN: Not me, sir - not me.

A bit of rubbish has been spread around in Albany over the past couple of days; namely, that the sole reason the coalition lost government at the last election was the finance brokers situation. That is not true. The record indicates that a bit of a depression was taking place at the time of the last election. State gross product was minus 1.6 per cent that year. When I doorknocked at the time, I found that the depression was impacting on the suburbs. People were hurting. There was unemployment in Bunbury, and people were feeling the pinch. In few families did all members have jobs - one or two members were unemployed in each family. That hurt people. That is one of the main reasons that members opposite were chucked out. It is the economy, stupid, that matters - nothing else.

Mr M.J. Birney: The economy is stupid, is it?

Mr A.J. DEAN: It is a quote, the origins of which I am not sure. I think it was Paul Keating - another great man. "It is still the economy, stupid - nothing else."

What did the Liberal Government do in Bunbury? First, it closed the Bunbury power station. An active power station was closed in 1999-2000, and the coalition half-built a coal power station. I have respect for the previous Leader of the National Party for his long-term views, member for Cottesloe. What did he tell the Liberal Party when it built the Collie power station?

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.W. Andrews): The Leader of the Opposition and the member for Collie will be able to discuss coal at a future date, as I am sure the member for Collie will bring it up again, but I ask them to leave that discussion until some other stage.

Mr A.J. DEAN: What did the Leader of the National Party tell his Government at the time? He said that he did not trust Western Power's estimates and that it should build Collie A and B power stations. It did not listen to him and now we are paying for the consequences. This Government is a Government of the future. We are starting to build the Kemerton power station in Bunbury - a \$250 million job, which will be an enormous boost to the local economy - and in the near future we will be releasing plans for another coal-fired power station in Collie.

Let us look at health. A lot of rhubarb has been spoken about health boards. Let us look at the Bunbury health board. There is an urban myth that the Bunbury health board existed for all time and delivered great decisions to the people of Bunbury. It did not exist until 1994. Bunbury Regional Hospital did not have a health board before then. In 1994, under the previous Government, the board was constituted to build a new regional hospital.

Mr C.J. Barnett: Who built it?

Mr A.J. DEAN: Any moron knows that the blokes opposite did.

Extract from Hansard
[ASSEMBLY - Wednesday, 24 March 2004]
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Mr Mike Board; Mr Peter Watson; Deputy Speaker; Mr Monty House; Mr Alan Carpenter; Mr John Day; Mr Larry Graham; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Bernie Masters; Mrs Carol Martin; Mr Ross Ainsworth; Mr Tony Dean; Acting Speaker; Mr Arthur Marshall; Mr Matt Birney; Mr Dan Barron-Sullivan; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr John Kobelke

Mr C.J. Barnett: Thank you.

Mr A.J. DEAN: So, big deal. The hospital was built under the auspices and direction of the hospital board and the Government thought it was such a good board that it kept it going. The Bunbury hospital board therefore did not exist before 1994. Up to that time Bunbury Regional Hospital - which was and probably still is the largest regional hospital in WA - had existed without a board for 100 years. In 2002-03 the south west health budget was \$100 million; this year it is \$108 million. In anyone's terms, that is a significant increase of eight per cent. These are the sorts of things this Government is doing. It is getting on with improving the health system in the south west.

I want to mention health boards again. A fellow by the name of Steve Thomas, a veterinary surgeon, has been endorsed by the Liberal Party as a candidate for Capel. I have met him a few times and he seems quite a respectable fellow. Under the auspices of the previous Government, Steve Thomas conducted a task force and wrote a report on a strategic plan for health in the south west from 1998 to 2004. I have plenty of copies of the report in my office if members want to read it. His blueprint was for one board. I suggest that if the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Murdoch want some interesting reading, they have a look at it.

Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan: So you think there should be a board?

Mr A.J. DEAN: No, I did not say that. When did I say that?

Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan: Why are you pushing for a board?

Mr A.J. DEAN: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition has selective hearing. The member for Mitchell is called 10-2. At his preselection the other night, when there was one candidate, 10 people voted for him and two voted against him.

Steve Thomas wrote a report on a strategic health plan for 1998 to 2004. The day after Hon Bob Kucera released a report on the Bunbury Health Service back in 2001-02, Steve Thomas rang and congratulated Hon Bob Kucera and me for having the vision to put into practice what he had strived to do in his report. The next time the Leader of the Opposition visits Capel or when he sees Steve Thomas, he should ask him about that phone call and about the strategic plan. I would be happy to provide a copy of the plan to the Leader of the Opposition.

The City of Bunbury and the south west are going through an enormous boom. Only today I had faxed to me the front page of the *Bunbury Mail* headed "High hopes". I want to read some stuff from that paper, because what is going on down in the south west is astronomical, such as a \$250 million upgrade to the Worsley Alumina Pty Ltd refinery. That upgrade will increase production of aluminium by only 50 000 tonnes, but the infrastructure will be there to increase it in the near future by another 600 000 tonnes so that there will be no need to go back and rebuild. That upgrade will create a lot of jobs. The Bunbury Port Authority, in conjunction with Alcoa World Alumina Australia, will put in a new loading berth at a cost of \$60 million. About nine months ago I turned the first sod at the Hansol Australia Pty Ltd chip-mill, which is now up and running. Most people in Bunbury do not know that it has been running for two weeks. It is efficient and quiet. I went out to the mill a couple of weeks ago. I parked at the gate, wound down the window and then got out of the car and listened. I could not hear a thing. There was no dust and no noise. It is environmentally sensitive. That mill has been working for more than a month. A vast heap of white gum chips is there.

The south west has heavy industry, light industry and tourism businesses. An announcement was made last week, or the week before, about the outer harbour development in Bunbury. The chief executive officer of the Bunbury Chamber of Commerce and Industries has estimated that it is a \$250 million job. That is not my estimate; I do not have a clue about that. The Welcome Inn Motel has been granted planning approval and approval from the Bunbury City Council for its 150-unit site. That is another \$15 million job. Tourism in the south west and Bunbury in particular is booming.

Mr C.J. Barnett: It sounds like the mayor is doing a good job.

Mr A.J. DEAN: No, the mayor congratulates the Government. I have written down many times that the mayor has said that Bunbury is a fantastic place in which to live, because Bunbury is booming. Why is Bunbury booming? It is booming because of the Gallop State Government.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.J. DEAN: I refer back to the front-page article of the *Bunbury Mail*, which states -

BUNBURY business confidence is high for a big year ahead . . .

Mr Mike Board; Mr Peter Watson; Deputy Speaker; Mr Monty House; Mr Alan Carpenter; Mr John Day; Mr Larry Graham; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Bernie Masters; Mrs Carol Martin; Mr Ross Ainsworth; Mr Tony Dean; Acting Speaker; Mr Arthur Marshall; Mr Matt Birney; Mr Dan Barron-Sullivan; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr John Kobelke

That's the opinion of more than 400 local businesses surveyed by Bunbury Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

BCCI chief executive Allan Birrell told the *Bunbury Mail* the high level of local business confidence took him by surprise.

"Overall we were surprised by how positive the feedback from the survey was. People are very optimistic about the next 12 months in Bunbury" he said.

"We are pleased business proprietor confidence is strong. Business confidence will play out in a willingness to invest."

He went on to say -

"With previously announced projects (such as the \$275 million Worsley expansion) job prospects for the next 12 months are good,"

Businesses in Bunbury back the Gallop Labor Government. It is evidenced there.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Are you sure?

Mr A.J. DEAN: Yes, they do.

Mr R.F. Johnson: Not the ones I have spoken to.

Mr A.J. DEAN: I have never seen the member in Bunbury.

Mr R.F. Johnson: I have been there many times, my friend. I have had many cappuccinos.

Mr A.J. DEAN: Like a thief in the night.

Withdrawal of Remark

The ACTING SPEAKER (Mr P.W. Andrews): Member for Bunbury!

Mr A.J. DEAN: Yes, I withdraw unreservedly.

Debate Resumed

Mr C.J. Barnett interjected.

Mr A.J. DEAN: Only three. In light of what I have said, Bunbury is booming and will continue to boom under a state Labor Government. I propose an amendment to the motion.

Amendment to Motion

Mr A.J. DEAN: I move -

To delete all words after "House" and insert instead -

recognises the Gallop Labor Government's efforts and achievements in providing essential services across all regions of Western Australia, which is evidenced by what has been done in Albany.

MR A.D. MARSHALL (Dawesville) [4.38 pm]: Some projects, essential services and government facilities have been ignored or discontinued in my electorate. The seat of Dawesville is the largest country electorate in Western Australia, with 20 000-plus constituents. In my heyday I was known as a bit of a bullduster. I never believed that. I like to make the truth sound better than it is, and to give people a lot of pleasure. Now I have to summarise the facts to show that this Government has let down regional areas, and particularly the Peel region. The Aboriginal affairs office in the Mandurah-Dawesville area was closed only two years ago. All this has happened in the past three years. The senior administration of the Fremantle-Peel Education District Office was moved to Beaconsfield. That was a disaster. The senior administration of the Water and Rivers Commission was moved from my area to Rockingham. That was another disaster. Construction of the Mandurah to Perth rail link has been delayed for two years and could be delayed longer than that. That has cost our businesspeople.

Ms A.J. MacTiernan: You have said that you don't even want it!

Mr A.D. MARSHALL: I have never said that. We got it. There has been no attempt to start the Peel deviation before 2010, yet it is the most needed, number one project in our area. There is no funding for a much-needed new aquatic centre because, I guess, there has been no pork-barrelling. A new two-lane bridge across the estuary is needed, but it is not even being considered. The Old Coast Road resurfacing needed because of the

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tremendous use it has had with vehicles travelling to the south west has been said to be too costly. The Peel Health Campus does not receive the same funding as the Rockingham Family Hospital because the Government says it is a private hospital and we know that this Government has a phobia about private versus public hospitals. Sewerage to Falcon was canned - a disaster.

Mr A.J. Carpenter: What did you say?

Mr A.D. MARSHALL: I know the minister is listening now. I said it so that he would listen. The police station at Falcon promised to me by the then deputy police commissioner, who is now the Minister for Tourism, has gone into limbo since this Government came into being.

Mr R.C. Kucera: You did not deliver in the same way that you did not deliver a police station to the people of Albany!

Mr A.D. MARSHALL: The legal services program has been shelved - listen and learn! Underground power has been placed in the too hard basket. Extensions to the Kwinana Freeway were classified as not being important. When the Court Government was in power, more money was spent in the Peel region than in the history of the area. Over the past three years, there has been zilch for country and regional areas. People ask me what the Government has been doing. I will tell people what it has been doing. It increased water, sewerage and drainage charges, motor vehicle registration fees, probate fees, payroll tax, court taxes, land taxes, stamp duty and motor vehicle third party costs. What is it doing with all that money? It is not putting money into regional areas.

Several members interjected.

Mr A.D. MARSHALL: Because I have only three minutes and I am a professional, I want to say in closing that it has been a delight to hear the Minister for Education and Training relive his heydays in Albany. My wife reiterated everything he said. We have loved holidaying here and when we get more time we will be back. In closing I acknowledge Andrew Partington, who is the Liberal candidate for Albany, and his young family. Andrew Partington is a former league footballer for Claremont - I have his gift-wrapped handbag here to give to him later!

Several members interjected.

Mr A.D. MARSHALL: Andrew's 10-year-old son is also here today. He is a champion young tennis player in the making. If he likes, Andrew can send him up to Perth and I will have a look at him. I have been inspired over the past two days by meeting Andrew and if there is anything I can do to help him win the seat of Albany, he need only give me a call.

MR M.J. BIRNEY (Kalgoorlie) [4.43 pm]: I was not going to contribute to this debate but the member for Albany has inspired me to do so. Sadly, I have only a few minutes to speak. I like the member for Albany as a person and I enjoy his company from time to time during the late nights in the Parliament. However, that is where it starts and stops. I certainly do not have the same level of professional respect for the member for Albany. When the member held up information about the \$20 million police and justice complex that the Government is going to build in Albany as some sort of Holy Grail, I was reminded of the debate that took place a year ago in Parliament when the Liberal Party moved to immediately build a new police station in Albany. The Labor Party voted against that. One would expect the local member to vote in favour of such a proposition. When the division took place, Liberal Party members voted in the affirmative and Labor Party members voted in the negative. At that time, the member for Albany voted against it simply because his political party was voting against it.

Arguably one vote, one value is the issue that has the most potential to devastate country Western Australia. There is no other issue like that. The member for Albany also voted in favour of one vote, one value. He voted himself out of a job. He is against the gas pipeline. Sadly, my time has expired and I would like to have explored those issues further.

MR D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN (Mitchell - Deputy Leader of the Opposition) [4.45 pm]: We will give the whole House the opportunity to do one very positive thing for Albany in the wake of these two days of parliamentary sittings. We have had a lot of political debate but, quite frankly, not a great deal of constructive work has been done for the community of Albany. We will move an amendment to this motion. It will give every member of this Parliament an opportunity to do something very constructive for the community of Albany.

Amendment on the Amendment

Mr D.F. BARRON-SULLIVAN: I move -

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Mr Mike Board; Mr Peter Watson; Deputy Speaker; Mr Monty House; Mr Alan Carpenter; Mr John Day; Mr Larry Graham; Mr Mick Murray; Mr Bernie Masters; Mrs Carol Martin; Mr Ross Ainsworth; Mr Tony Dean; Acting Speaker; Mr Arthur Marshall; Mr Matt Birney; Mr Dan Barron-Sullivan; Mr Rob Johnson; Mr John Kobelke

To delete all words after “recognises” and insert the following -
the need to -

- (a) support the extension of the south west gas pipeline to Albany;
- (b) reopen the 10 recently closed beds at Albany Regional Hospital; and
- (c) commit to meeting the \$500 000 shortfall for the new swimming pool in Albany.

If we agree to this amendment to the Government’s amendment, we will have done something constructive for the community of Albany. Let us put politics aside and work together in the interests of the local community.

The ACTING SPEAKER: The question is that the member for Bunbury’s amendment to delete all words after “House” in the original motion be agreed to.

Amendment (words to be deleted) put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (29)

Mr J.J.M. Bowler	Mr J.N. Hyde	Mr A.D. McRae	Mr E.S. Ripper
Mr A.J. Carpenter	Mr J.C. Kobelke	Mr N.R. Marlborough	Mrs M.H. Roberts
Mr A.J. Dean	Mr R.C. Kucera	Mrs C.A. Martin	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr J.B. D’Orazio	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr M.P. Whitely
Dr J.M. Edwards	Ms A.J. MacTiernan	Mr A.P. O’Gorman	Mr P.B. Watson (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr G.I. Gallop	Mr J.A. McGinty	Mr J.R. Quigley	
Mrs D.J. Guise	Mr M. McGowan	Ms M.M. Quirk	
Mr S.R. Hill	Ms S.M. McHale	Ms J.A. Radisich	

Noes (19)

Mr R.A. Ainsworth	Mr J.L. Bradshaw	Mr M.G. House	Mr P.D. Omodei
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mr J.H.D. Day	Mr R.F. Johnson	Mr M.W. Trenorden
Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan	Mrs C.L. Edwardes	Mr W.J. McNee	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr M.J. Birney	Mr J.P.D. Edwards	Mr A.D. Marshall	Ms S.E. Walker (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr M.F. Board	Ms K. Hodson-Thomas	Mr B.K. Masters	

Independent Pairs

Dr J.M. Woollard
Mr P.G. Pandal
Dr E. Constable

Amendment thus passed.

Motion, as Amended

The ACTING SPEAKER: Under Standing Order No 61, I now interrupt debate to take private members’ statements.

Suspension of Standing Orders

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys) [4.53 pm]: The motion that is before the House at the moment is a nonsense. All it says is “That this House” because the House has agreed to delete all the words after “House”. I will move that so much of standing orders be suspended to allow the voting on these amendments to be concluded. I know we want to complete proceedings at a certain time, but I do not want to see this Parliament in a stupid situation in which a ridiculous motion is before the House because of the way that the Government moved to delete all the words after the word “House”. That is all we have before us. I move -

That so much of standing orders be suspended as would allow the proper processes of voting on the amendments, which the Government insisted on putting, to proceed all the way through.

MR J.C. KOBELKE (Nollamara - Leader of the House) [4.54 pm]: Although it would be good to bring this to a conclusion, if standing orders are suspended, there are still considerable speaking rights, and the whole matter

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would continue for some time. Some people have made plans to do things, take up other duties or return to their own electorates. That being the case, the effect of the suspension motion would mean that we would go well beyond the time designated under the sessional order. We will have the opportunity to continue this debate at another time. That has happened with the other business we have dealt with in the past two days. Those matters will continue when the Parliament reconvenes in Perth. Similarly, this matter - which has involved a very good debate - will continue when it is brought on by the Opposition at another time. However, if we support the suspension of standing orders, all the time limits would be swept aside and we could still be here until 8.00 pm or 10.00 pm if the debate continued. That is not in keeping with what has been a very well planned and executed sitting of Parliament in Albany. This has been a historic first. However, this suspension motion has the potential to bring crashing down the excellent debate and organisation that has gone into this sitting, because members would have to continue sitting well beyond the acceptable time that was laid down in the essential order of business. Therefore, the Government will not support the suspension of standing orders.

MR M.J. BIRNEY (Kalgoorlie) [4.56 pm]: That is probably one of the worst arguments I have heard in the past two days. The member for Hillarys has made a very good point: the motion before the House now reads something to the effect "That this House recognises". Is that right, member for Hillarys?

Mr R.F. Johnson: Yes.

Mr M.J. BIRNEY: The motion before the House is "That this House recognises". Which Government in its right mind would want to conclude a day's sitting with a motion that says "That this House recognises"? It is imperative that we deal first with the member for Bunbury's amendment followed by the member for Mitchell's amendment. The member for Mitchell's amendment is particularly important in light of the fact that we are sitting in Albany today. The member for Mitchell has moved that this House should support the extension of the south west gas pipeline to Albany. He has said that 10 recently closed beds at the Albany Regional Hospital should be reopened and that the Government should be committed to meeting the \$500 000 shortfall for the new swimming pool in Albany. I remind government members in particular that we are in Albany. The member for Mitchell's motion deals with three very important issues that should be dealt with here publicly in front of the people of Albany. If the Government is prepared to walk out of this place and leave a motion on the table stating "That this House recognises", I am afraid that is an absolute indictment on all government members.

Let us deal with the issues. If the Government does not want to reopen the 10 hospital beds, support the extension of the gas pipeline or provide the \$500 000 shortfall for the new swimming pool, government members should have the guts to say so in front of this audience. The motion should not be left hanging. The Government should have the guts to say it.

MR R.F. JOHNSON (Hillarys) [4.58 pm]: I moved that so much of standing orders be suspended to allow all the votes to be taken in relation to this motion and the amendments that have been put forward. Although my colleague the member for Kalgoorlie said that the motion says "That this House recognises", in fact it says only "That this House". The rest of the motion after that has been deleted. It is an absolute nonsense. We have played the game down here. We have cooperated with the Government. We have kept our speeches to a minimum to enable as many members on both sides of the House to speak. We could have hogged private members' time but, because I suggested to the Leader of the House that we should split the time in a matter of public interest type style, that is what we did.

Mr E.S. Ripper: The Deputy Leader of the Opposition just mismanaged his speaking time.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, he did not. If the Government were serious about this amendment, it would have moved it earlier, but it wanted to be sneaky and move it as the last speaker spoke. It realised that there was no way it could get all the votes done.

Mr E.S. Ripper: Your deputy leader just mismanaged his speech.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No, the Leader of the House mismanaged the time. Members opposite are the Government, and the Minister for Consumer and Employment Protection is the Leader of the House. I do not think he has done his job properly in this situation. This is a very important motion that was put forward by the Opposition. It is a very important motion about services in Albany in particular. The Government moved its amendment at the last knockings. Now we must have a vote because the Opposition has since moved an amendment to the Government's amendment. We do not believe it is right or fair that the Government should try this trickery to try to obfuscate and not allow the people of Albany to hear what we believe should happen in Albany and what the Government believes should happen in Albany. All the Government wants to do is say what a wonderful opportunity the Gallop Labor Government has had and what a wonderful job it is doing. We

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do not agree with the Government. We want the people of Albany to judge for themselves, on the merits of the motion and the amendments put before this House.

Mr A.D. McRae: You are already two out of 10 and you are going backwards.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: I will keep talking for as long as the member likes. If he wants to keep interjecting on me, that is fine. However, I am saying that I want this Parliament to run properly. This is the most historic parliamentary sitting for 100 years because it is in Albany. I want the people of Albany to see how this Parliament should work. They will see now the sorts of tricks the Government gets up to. It just uses its numbers to bully and get its own way.

Mr J.N. Hyde: That is democracy.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is not democracy, my friend; that is dictatorship. We are seeing the dictatorship of the Premier and his right-hand man.

I am very serious about the motion to suspend standing orders. If the Government agrees, we can have the votes taken like that, so that the people of Albany can see exactly where both sides of the House stand.

A member: With no debate.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: No debate. I promise members that we will not be here until eight o'clock or 10 o'clock. We will have no debate. The questions will just be put and we will vote, so that the people of Albany can see what we believe in and what the Government believes in. That is all we are asking, which is our democratic right. What is the Government afraid of? Is it afraid that people in Albany will make a decision on what is being put before this House? Is that what it is afraid of? For goodness sake, it should show a bit of courage. It should stop trying to trick people. Let us have some decency in this place. This is a very historic occasion. Let us not finish the day on this sort of note. The Opposition moved a motion. The Government moved an amendment to our motion. We moved an amendment to that. By moving to suspend standing orders, all I am asking is that we allow enough time for those votes to be taken so that the people of Albany can judge what each side of the House thinks. That is all I am asking. It will take about five or six minutes to have those votes; that is all. Then we can deal with the rest of the program. Those members who are desperate to leave Albany can then go. We are not desperate.

Mr M.J. Birney: Member for Hillarys, how do you think it is going to look when the newspaper reports that the Government came all the way down here to move a motion that states that "this House recognises"?

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Exactly. The motion does not even say "recognises". All it says is "That this House". What a stupid motion. What is left on the Notice Paper? An absolutely stupid motion.

Mrs C.L. Edwardes: The Government can't manage the business of the House.

Mr E.S. Ripper: If you can't manage your own private members' business, you are just showing what a hopeless Opposition you are.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: The Government tried to be tricky and moved its amendment at the last knockings. That is what it did. We saw Labor's trickiness when it was in opposition. Now we are seeing its trickiness in government. We know what those three government members are like. We saw them when they were in government before and when they were in opposition. Now they are in government again. I promise them that we know the whole three of them like the backs of our hands. We know exactly what they are like. They are like the three monkeys. I said it yesterday and I will say it again today. All the Opposition is asking for is to finish this parliamentary sitting in Albany in a correct and proper way. I believe there are now three votes to take place in the House - maybe even four. I am not sure about that because of the stupid nonsense of the Government. I am saying to members, let us leave the people of Albany with a feeling of commonsense. Being a Rhodes scholar does not make the Premier wise, and it does not give him commonsense. Very often that is the problem. He needs a bit of wisdom and commonsense. He is not showing that. He should have instructed his Leader of the House to run this House properly in Albany.

I have moved a motion. We will vote on it.

Mr J.H.D. Day interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: Yes. The gas pipeline, hospital beds and the swimming pool are very important issues. The people of Albany desperately want to know what the Opposition and the Government think about those

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issues. I do not want to delay the House any longer. I have moved a motion to suspend standing orders so that we can vote on a matter we have been discussing today. What a nonsense to go away and not have that vote. We have had time management today, which was agreed to by both sides, so let us not waste any more time. I hope the Government will support my motion to suspend standing orders so that we can vote on this very important issue, rather than chicken out of it and run away and leave on the Notice Paper a stupid motion that means absolutely nothing to anyone. Not one person in the world could make sense of the motion as it stands.

Mr E.S. Ripper interjected.

Mr R.F. JOHNSON: That is because of what it is. I have moved the motion, and I stand by the motion, for very good reason - so that the integrity of this House will remain in place and we do not run this House by trickery and by avoiding a vote on proper issues.

Question put and a division taken with the following result -

Ayes (18)

Mr R.A. Ainsworth	Mr J.H.D. Day	Mr R.F. Johnson	Mr T.K. Waldron
Mr C.J. Barnett	Mrs C.L. Edwardes	Mr W.J. McNee	Ms S.E. Walker
Mr D.F. Barron-Sullivan	Mr J.P.D. Edwards	Mr A.D. Marshall	Mr J.L. Bradshaw (<i>Teller</i>)
Mr M.J. Birney	Ms K. Hodson-Thomas	Mr P.D. Omodei	
Mr M.F. Board	Mr M.G. House	Mr M.W. Trenorden	

Noes (30)

Mr P.W. Andrews	Mr S.R. Hill	Ms S.M. McHale	Mr E.S. Ripper
Mr J.J.M. Bowler	Mr J.N. Hyde	Mr A.D. McRae	Mrs M.H. Roberts
Mr A.J. Carpenter	Mr J.C. Kobelke	Mr N.R. Marlborough	Mr D.A. Templeman
Mr A.J. Dean	Mr R.C. Kucera	Mrs C.A. Martin	Mr P.B. Watson
Mr J.B. D'Orazio	Mr F.M. Logan	Mr M.P. Murray	Mr M.P. Whitely
Dr J.M. Edwards	Ms A.J. MacTiernan	Mr A.P. O'Gorman	Ms M.M. Quirk (<i>Teller</i>)
Dr G.I. Gallop	Mr J.A. McGinty	Mr J.R. Quigley	
Mrs D.J. Guise	Mr M. McGowan	Ms J.A. Radisich	

Independent Pairs

Dr J.M. Woollard
Mr P.G. Pandal
Dr E. Constable

Question thus negatived.