Legislative Assembly

Thursday, the 1st September, 1966

CONTENTS

The SPEAKER (Mr. Hearman) took the Chair at 2.15 p.m., and read prayers.

QUESTIONS (33): ON NOTICE

NAVAL BASE AT COCKBURN SOUND

Effect on Town Planning

1. Mr. RUSHTON asked the Premier:

(1) Will the investigations to be carried out by the Federal Government regarding a naval base in Cockburn Sound delay decision on current planning for Cockburn Sound, Rockingham, and Safety Bay?

(2) When the final decision is taken in this planning, will the present ban on development without reference to town planning at Rockingham and Safety Bay be lifted, or the area affected by the ban be reduced considerably?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) No.

(2) Yes. The area affected will be reduced to that directly involved.

SHIPPING

"Tanais" and "Wangarra": Purchase Price and Tonnage

2. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) Was the purchase of the *Tanais* for the State Shipping Commission considered when this ship was offered for sale at Fremantle?

(2) Was a price submitted on behalf of the State Shipping Commission?

(3) If so, what was the amount?

(4) What price was ultimately paid for the *Tanais?*

(5) What was the tonnage of the *Tanais?*

(6) What is the tonnage of the *Wangarra* recently purchased from the Australian National Shipping Line?

(7) What was the price paid for this vessel?

(8) What are the respective ages of the two vessels?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

(1) Yes.

(2) No. The owners were demanding a price for the vessel as is. The assumption in the absence of being denied dry dock examination was that all the double bottom of the vessel would have to be renewed. The assumption of cost and conversion of accommodation from foreign-going crews to Australian crew demands made purchase a not worth-while proposition.

(3) Answered by (2).

(4) The vessel was salvaged from the reef and towed down to Fremantle Harbour and was berthed in the

harbour on the 23rd December, 1965. It rested in the harbour until the 21st April, 1966, and during that time the owners were trying to sell it as is. The price of £25,000 sterling was the maximum offer they received.

(5) Registered gross tonnage is 2848.16.

(6) 2459.24 gross.

(7) Aus.$263,000.

(8) *Tanais* was built in 1959.
Wangarra was built in 1953.

SEWERAGE

Carlisle: Extension to Small Goods Factory

3. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Is the sewer main serving Talbot Lodge State Housing Commission flats in Marchamley Street, Carlisle, at present being used to maximum capacity?

(2) If not, what is the possibility of having this main extended to serve the small goods factory on the corner of Marchamley and Mercury Streets —

(a) as an economic venture by the Metropolitan Water Board;

(b) by financial arrangement with the proprietor of the small goods factory?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) The sewage pumping station serving Talbot Lodge State Housing Commission flats in Marchamley Street, Carlisle, was provided and is operated at the expense of the commission. It has at present reserve capacity which was provided for future development by the State Housing Commission.

(2) (a) and (b) A gravity connection from the smallgoods factory site on the corner of Marchamley and Mercury Streets to the pumping station is not practicable.
Provided the proprietor is prepared to pay the cost of a pumping station on his property he can be given a connection to the board's sewer. This would not be an economic venture for the Metropolitan Water Board and would have to be the subject of a financial arrangement with the proprietor.

ROADS

Yanchep-Two Rocks: Use of Main Roads Department Funds

4. Mr. GRAHAM asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Were any Main Roads Department funds or other Government moneys used for the construction of the road from Yanchep Beach northwards to Two Rocks?

(2) If so, how much?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Yes. Main Roads Department funds.

(2) Total cost was $70,912 towards which the Wyagee Pastoral Company contributed $6,000.

HOUSING

Exmouth: Rental Components

5. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Housing:

Will he supply the amounts of each of the following components which make up the rental of $17.80 for a three bedroom house at Exmouth—

(a) amortisation to pay interest and repayment of capital cost;

(b) maintenance;

(c) rates and taxes;

(d) insurance;

(e) allowances for vacancies and defaults;

(f) administration?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

(a)	$393.36	per annum.	
(b)	$252.85	"	
(c)	$126.00	"	
(d)	$ 80.07	"	
Subtotal	$852.28	"	
(e)	$ 42.61	"	(=5% of subtotal)
(f)	$ 30.00	"	
Total	$924.89		

Weekly rent = 7/365 × $924.89 = $17.80 to next higher 5 cents.

GRIFFIN COAL MINING CO. AND WESTERN COLLIERIES LTD.

Advances Outstanding to Government

6. Mr. MAY asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines:

What amount is still owing to the State Government by the Griffin Coal Mining Company and Western Collieries Ltd. in connection with advances made by the State Government?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

Amount owing from actual advances—

Griffin Coal Mining Company	$13,500
Western Collieries	$56,250

RAILWAYS

Freights on Bauxite, Iron Ore, and Coal

7. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Railways:

(1) What are the rail freights on bauxite from the Serpentine-Jarrahdale area to South Fremantle?

(2) What are the rail freights for the transport of iron ore in this State?

(3) What are the rail freights on coal from—

(a) the Centaur siding to Collie;

(b) the Western No. 2 mine to Collie;

(c) Collie to Bunbury power house;

(d) Collie to South Fremantle power house?

Mr. COURT replied:

(1) The rate is dependent upon the tonnage hauled in each operating year (in accordance with the Alumina Refinery Agreement Act No. 3 of 1961) and is currently 54c per ton for 750,000 tons per annum.

(2) (a) From Southern Cross to Wundowie—$4.54 per ton plus $1.50 per four-wheel wagon siding haulage.

(b) From Westmine to Geraldton (in accordance with the iron ore agreement Act No. 104 of 1964)—currently $1.60 per ton for 600,000 tons per annum.

(c) From Koolyanobbing to Kwinana (in accordance with the Broken Hill steel works agreement Act No. 67 of 1960 which provides for rates per ton mile in accordance with tonnage hauled) for the haul of approximately 313 miles, the scheduled rates are:—

In tons per financial year. Up to but not exceeding:

	Per ton
	$
1,000,000	3.73
1,500,000	3.34
2,000,000	3.21
2,500,000	3.10
3,000,000	3.00

See note about cost escalation since 1960.

Note:

(i) These B.H.P. freight rates are subject to variation with respect to cost increases since 1960.

(ii) The freight rates given in answers (2) (b) and (2) (c) are governed by the respective ratified agreements and include special conditions such as volume, provision and type of rollingstock, method of operation, etc.

(3) (a) No coal is consigned by rail from the Centaur mine to Collie.

(b) 60c per ton.

(c) $3 per ton.

(d) Consigned from Western Collieries Ltd. (No. 2 siding) Collie Cardiff—$4.70 per ton plus $1 per 4-wheeled wagon haulage from siding.

COAL

Freight Subsidies: Application in Other States

8. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Industrial Development:

Has he any information as to the extent that coal or coal by-products receive freight subsidies in other States of the Commonwealth; if not, will he arrange to procure such information?

Mr. COURT replied:

I have no current information on any subsidy on rail freights paid for coal or coal by-products traffic in other States.

Special commercial rates are given for regular, large volume movements of coal. This is similar to the practice in this State of giving special consideration for negotiated large movements of commodities such as iron ore and bauxite. In most cases in Western Australia such special arrangements of a major nature would be the subject of agreements ratified by State Parliament.

I will seek additional information.

9. *This question was postponed.*

NURSES

Recruitment

10. Mr. FLETCHER asked the Minister representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Is he aware of the Royal Australian Nursing Federation's comment (*The West Australian*, the 7th March, 1966), in part: "If we are to attract people to nursing we must make it worth their while financially, that the value of nurses to the community was much more than shown by their pay"?

(2) Will he, with a view to nurse recruitment to overcome the shortage in metropolitan and country areas, recommend to the Government the granting of benefits including—

(a) equal pay for male and female nurses;

(b) service pay for each year of service in Government employment;

(c) annual percentage of the male nurse rate for each year of training;

(d) away-from-home and district allowance?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) Yes, but it should be pointed out to the honourable member that it is not entirely a question of emolument. Nursing shortages are Commonwealth wide and, indeed, world wide.

(2) (a) The Goverment's policy in regard to equal pay is as indicated in a Press statement appearing in *The West Australian* newspaper on the 9th February, 1966.

(b) No. The question of which workers will receive service pay and the amount to be paid has already received consideration.

(c) Rates of pay and working conditions are essentially a matter for the consideration of the Western Australian Industrial Commission.

(d) Country service allowance is already paid to nurses outside a radius of 25 miles from Perth. District allowance is already paid where applicable.

BRIDGE OVER CANNING RIVER

Maddington: Upgrading of Priority

11. Mr. ELLIOTT asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Has there been any upgrading in the priority accorded the suggested bridge across the Canning River at Herbert Street, Maddington?

(2) If "No," will he undertake to review the position in the light of present and future development in this area on either side of the river?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) No funds are provided in the Main Roads Department's 1966-67 construction programme for this bridge.

(2) The position will be reviewed before finalisation of the department's 1967-68 programme.

MEAT

Branding of Lamb, Hogget, and Mutton

12. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Agriculture:

(1) Is he aware that mutton is being advertised and sold in the metropolitan area as hogget?

(2) Would not this practice be one of false advertisement and misrepresentation?

(3) If "Yes", is there any action that can be taken—

(a) to prosecute the offenders; and

(b) to have the practice stopped?

(4) Is there any likelihood of genuine hogget being passed off and sold as lamb?

(5) When is it anticipated that a decision will be made in respect of the branding of lamb, hogget, and mutton so that the public will be protected?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) to (3) The whole matter of the branding of hogget meat is being investigated by the Government.

(4) No.

(5) An early decision is anticipated.

ROAD MAINTENANCE TAX

Interstate Road Hauliers: Collections

13. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Transport:

(1) In *The West Australian* of the 27th August he is reported to have informed the Dalwallinu Shire Council that interstate hauliers did not pay any fees to licensing authorities in Western Australia. Is the House to understand from this that interstate hauliers are not "caught" by the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act?

(2) If "No", what amount—

(a) has been collected from interstate hauliers under the Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act up to and including the month of July, 1966; and

(b) what percentage does this amount bear to the total collected during this period?

Mr. O'CONNOR replied:

(1) No. In speaking to the Dalwallinu Shire on the 26th August, I said "Prior to implementation of road maintenance charges, most interstate hauliers made no contribution to roads in W.A." For the information of the honourable member, if interstate hauliers licence their vehicles in W.A., the fee is $2, but as many are licensed in other States we collected no-

thing from them prior to implementation of road maintenance charges.

(2) (a) $25,557.
(b) 4.3 per cent.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS

Automatic Data Processing: Displacement of Staff.

14. Mr. CORNELL asked the Premier:

(1) What is the number of staff expected to be displaced when the central automatic data processing service for all State Government departments is in full operation?

(2) When is it expected that this service will be fully operative?

Mr. BRAND replied:

(1) The process of converting Government systems to automatic data processing will be a continuous one. Over a period of 10 years it is expected that 280 new positions will be necessary in all departments to operate the new system and 750 existing positions will become redundant. However, no officer will lose employment as a result of the introduction of automatic data processing. It is expected that normal wastage through resignations and retirements combined with a lower rate of recruitment will enable absorption of staff displaced.

(2) It is anticipated that the computer will be installed and operative in mid 1968 and thereafter its operation will be progressively widened as staff can be trained and systems converted.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Loan: Underwriting

15. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Electricity:

(1) What was the total issued amount of the last S.E.C. loan?

(2) What amount was required to be taken up by the underwriters?

(3) Has the unsubscribed portion of this loan left with the underwriters since been placed; if not what amount is still in the hands of the underwriters?

(4) Did the underwriters find it necessary to market all or any of the unsubscribed portion of the loan at a discount; if so, what was the average price received by the underwriters for that part of the unsubscribed portion subsequently disposed of?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) $1,830,000.

(2) $797,060.

(3) Applications have been received for this amount.

(4) Of this stock, $4,000 has been sold at a price of $99.70 per $100.

NORTH WEST COASTAL HIGHWAY

Sealing of Sections between Carnarvon and Onslow

16. Mr. NORTON asked the Minister for Works:

(1) Have contracts been let for the forming and sealing of sections of the North West Coastal Highway between Carnarvon and Onslow?

(2) If "Yes", what was the price per mile that was accepted for—
(a) forming, and
(b) sealing?

(3) To whom were the contracts let?

(4) What will be the extra cost per mile to the Main Roads Department to have the above work carried out by private contract as compared with using their own plant?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON replied:

(1) A tender has been accepted for the construction of 25.2 miles of this road extending northwards from the Minilya River bridge. It does not include sealing.

(2) (a) The contract provides for clearing, forming, earthworks, and ancillary works costing $6,800 per mile.
(b) Sealing was not included in the contract.

(3) Caratti Bulldozing Company Pty. Ltd.

(4) The departmental estimate for this work was higher than the tender submitted by Caratti Bulldozing Company Pty. Ltd.

17. *This question was postponed.*

PASTORAL LEASES

No. 395/1014 and No. 33/1059

18. Mr. TOMS asked the Minister for Lands:

(1) What special conditions were imposed when—
(a) pastoral lease 395/1014, and
(b) special lease 33/1059,
were granted?

(2) To whom were they granted, and on what date?

(3) Have the conditions imposed been fully completed; if not, what remains to be done?

Mr. BOVELL replied:

(1) (a) No special conditions were imposed on pastoral lease 395/1014 when approved in 1964 under section 95 of the Land Act, other than those provided in sections 102 and 103 of the Land Act.

I might say that the honourable member, in his question, has referred to special lease 33/1059 but as far as I am aware, the lease he is referring to is lease 332/1059.

(b) Lease 332/1059, being a lease of Reserve 10305 comprising an area of 25,900 acres in the Ngalbain district, was approved under section 32 of the Land Act for a term of one year at a rental of ten pounds per annum for the purpose of grazing.
The following conditions were imposed:
(i) The lease shall be renewable at the will of the Minister for Lands, determinable at three (3) months notice by either party after the initial term of one year.
(ii) No compensation will be payable at the determination of the lease for improvements effected by the lessees.
(iii) The public shall at all times have free and unrestricted access over the demised land.
(iv) Mining conditions.

(2) Both leases were approved to Maurice Holman Halford, Sophia Emily Halford, and William Henry Halford, all of 36 Victoria Street, Kalgoorlie.
Lease 395/1014 was approved to the above lessees as from the 1st October, 1954.
Lease 332/1059 was approved to the above lessees as from the 1st January, 1956.

(3) Arrangements have been made for a pastoral lease inspector to inspect lease 395/1014 to ascertain the position regarding the stocking and improvements of this lease.
Lease 332/1059 was approved for grazing purposes only and does not require the lessees to effect any improvements or to carry specified numbers of stock thereon.

CARAVAN PARKS

Compliance with Model By-laws: Report of Departmental Committee

19. Mr. GRAYDEN asked the Minister representing the Minister for Local Government:
(1) Did the departmental committee which was set up to consider caravan park by-laws submit a report dated the 5th March, 1965, to him?
(2) Did the report contain the following: "In Victoria the proposals are a minimum of 900 square feet with entrance roads 20 ft., normal internal roads 16 ft., and one way traffic roads 12 ft. For existing parks a minimum of 600 square feet is permissible but 10 per cent. of the sites must be increased to 900 square feet immediately and any extensions or additional sites laid down on existing parks are all to be 900 square feet."?
(3) How does he reconcile the above with his answer to my question 27 (3) (b) on this matter on Tuesday, the 30th August?
(4) Do Western Australian model by-laws contain a provision similar to the above for existing caravan parks?
(5) As all Western Australian caravan parks could conform to the above Victorian requirements in respect of minimum site areas, will he amend our model by-laws accordingly; and if not, why not?
(6) Has he made any attempt to ascertain—
(a) if it is economically possible for the Starhaven Caravan Park at Scarborough, and Mrs. Gracie's caravan park at Watermans Bay to comply with the provisions of the model by-laws; and
(b) the truth or otherwise of the assertion that some caravan parks will be forced out of business if the model by-laws or similar by-laws are enforced?
(7) If so, with what result?
(8) If not, will he make such an investigation and inform the House of the result?

Mr. NALDER replied:
(1) Yes.
(2) Yes.
(3) The references quoted in (2) were proposals by Victoria. The Victorian regulations, approved by the Executive Council on the 7th December, 1965, did not include all of these proposals. The relevant portion in the new Victorian regulations is quoted hereunder—
A camp site shall be at least 600 square feet in area, and for every ten camp sites in a camping area one at least shall be not less than 900 square feet.
(4) No. Neither do the Victorian regulations.
(5) It is not known whether all Western Australian caravan parks could conform with the Victorian standards.
(6) (a) My information is that it is possible to meet the Perth Shire Council's requirements.
(b) No. It has never been necessary.

(7) See (6).
(8) No. Each case should be treated on its merits.

FIRE BRIGADES

Fire Station at Bunbury: New Structure

20. Mr. WILLIAMS asked the Chief Secretary:
(1) Is it intended to build new fire station premises in Bunbury?
(2) If so, when and upon what site?
(3) Is it considered that the present fire fighting equipment is adequate to service the increasing number of multi-storied buildings?
(4) If not, will early attention be given to this matter?

Mr. CRAIG replied:
(1) This matter is being considered by the W.A. Fire Brigades Board.
(2) In line with normal forward planning practices a site has been acquired in Forrest Avenue.
(3) Yes. Before a new multi-storied building is erected, the Uniform General Building By-laws require the Chief Fire Officer to prescribe requirements for internal fire services and secondary escape provisions. Meanwhile, the adequacy of brigade equipment is kept constantly under review.
(4) Answered by (3) above.

21. *This question was postponed.*

TRAFFIC

Local Authority Inspectors: Authority over Police Traffic Officers

22. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:

In what circumstances is the authority of local authority traffic inspectors paramount to that of the police beyond the metropolitan area?

Mr. CRAIG replied:

The attention of the honourable member is invited to section 22 of the Traffic Act. It will be seen from a perusal of such section that the powers of traffic inspectors are not paramount to those of police officers outside the metropolitan area.

YOUTH CENTRE AT ALBANY

Trust Fund Held by Police and Citizens Federation of Youth Clubs, and Bequest

23. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Police:
(1) How much money is held in trust by the W.A. Police Boys' Federation including interest for the purpose of building a police boys' club at Albany?
(2) Of the amount held in trust how much was as a bequest from the late Mrs. D. G. Thomson and how much was as a result of committee action in raising money?
(3) Was the bequest made by the late Mrs. D. G. Thomson precisely for a police boys' club at Albany or for the youth of Albany?

Mr. CRAIG replied:
(1) $6,766.29.
(2) The bequest from Mrs. Thomson was £1,187 13s. 3d. ($2,375.32). The balance is as a result of committee action.
(3) I have not been able to sight a copy of the will of the late Mrs. Thomson, but records at the federation office of the Police and Citizens Youth Clubs indicate that the bequest was specifically for a police boys' club at Albany.

IRON ORE

Agreements: Number and Implementation

24. Mr. JAMIESON asked the Minister for Industrial Development:
(1) How many agreements have been approved by this Parliament in respect of the mining of iron ore since the beginning of 1959?
(2) How many of such agreements have been implemented?

Mr. COURT replied:
(1) Eight.
(2) All have complied with the progressive requirements of the agreements. In the case of Scott River 1961 agreement, the company is not able to proceed owing to the changed general availability of high grade iron ore in the north as compared with the position when the company commenced to explore and develop on the lower grade and comparatively limited deposits at Scott River.

Three companies have completed mines, railways and ports, etc. to get into production and export, and are exporting. Another company (B.H.P.) is ahead of the agreed requirements in developing its blast furnace processing commitment at Kwinana and the development of its mine and town at Koolyanobbing.

SCHOOL AT EATON

Commencement, Classrooms, and Age Groups

25. Mr. I. W. MANNING asked the Minister for Education:
(1) When is it intended to commence construction of the proposed school at Eaton?
(2) What number of classrooms will be built initially?
(3) What age groups will attend school at Eaton?

Mr. LEWIS replied:
(1) It is expected that construction will commence during October.

(2) Three.
(3) Six years to nine years, and perhaps ten years, depending on the numbers offering.

ORD RIVER SCHEME

"Weekend News" Article

26. Mr. RHATIGAN asked the Premier:
(1) Did he read an article in the *Weekend News* of the 27th August, 1966, with the heading "Canberra Commentary, Mock Meeting, Rigged Jury, for the Ord"?
(2) If "Yes," will he advise the House if this comment is correct?
(3) If "No," will he read this article and then advise the House?

Mr. BRAND replied:
(1) Yes; although this really was not under the heading of "Canberra Commentary."
(2) and (3) Speaking as one who attended the meeting, I can say there was no evidence of it being "rigged" or being a mockery of any kind. I felt that some progress was made in answering the queries raised by the Commonwealth Government prior to further consideration by the Federal Cabinet.

STATE ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

Amounts Owing by Coalmining Companies

27. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Electricity:

What is the amount of money owing to the State Electricity Commission by the Griffin Coal Mining Company and Western Collieries of W.A. Ltd.?

Mr. NALDER replied:

There are no current accounts owing by these companies.

South Fremantle Power Station: Contract Price of Oil Fuel

28. Mr. MAY asked the Minister for Electricity:
(1) Has the contract for the supply of oil for the South Fremantle power house, which terminates this year, been renewed?
(2) If such contract has been renewed, will he state the price the Government will pay for fuel oil for the South Fremantle power house?

Bunbury Power Station: Retention at Full Capacity.

(3) Having regard to the increased consumption of electrical power in this State, will the Bunbury power house be retained at its full capacity or will it still be reduced in accordance with the schedule produced by him in his statement to the House on the 24th September, 1964?

Coke: Establishment of Plant.

(4) Now that a new gas plant is to be installed at East Perth using a by-product from the Kwinana Refinery called "Naphtha", has the Government considered how firms relying on the East Perth gas works to supply coke will be able to obtain this product after the conversion takes place?
(5) Accordingly, does the Government propose to give consideration to establishing a coking plant at Collie using Collie coal?

Mr. NALDER replied:
(1) The contract for oil for the South Fremantle power station does not terminate this year.
(2) See (1) above.
(3) The Bunbury power station is being given second priority in loading after the Muja power station and cannot be retained at full capacity.
(4) The plant that is being replaced by the new gas plant does not produce coke.
(5) See (4) above.

ART GALLERY

Construction of New Building

29. Mr. DAVIES asked the Minister for Education:
(1) Are there any proposals for construction of a new art gallery in the foreseeable future?
(2) If so, where will the new building be constructed?
(3) If not, is any action proposed to improve the present building and facilities?
(4) If not, why not?

Mr. LEWIS replied:
(1) Yes.
(2) No decision has been made.
(3) and (4) It is proposed to provide storage facilities, rewire and install exhaust fans in the upper gallery and heating units in the lower gallery.

30. *This question was postponed.*

FERTILISERS

Bulk Storage at Merredin

31. Mr. CORNELL asked the Minister for Agriculture:
(1) What negotiations have been carried out and with whom, and/or what arrangements, if any, have been made by CSBP and Farmers Limited to use the ex-R.A.A.F. hangar buildings at Merredin for the purpose of bulk fertiliser storage and distribution?
(2) If the reply is "None," has this company taken any other steps or made any other approach and, if so, what is the nature and extent

thereof, in connection with the setting up of this type of facility at Merredin?

Mr. NALDER replied:

(1) and (2) None that I am aware of.

ONIONS

Kalgoorlie Growers: Exemption from Board Surcharge

32. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Agriculture:

Having regard to the fact that growers of white onions in the Kalgoorlie area are at an economic disadvantage compared with their counterparts in the metropolitan area *(qua* costs due to water and rail freights) will he give consideration to having such first-mentioned growers exempted from the Onion Board 5 per cent. surcharge?

Mr. NALDER replied:

Kalgoorlie growers benefit from the policy of the board in respect of orderly marketing and stabilised price. They enjoy a monopoly of the Kalgoorlie market at the board's stabilised price even when supply is in excess of demand. The board forwards no metropolitan supplies to Kalgoorlie until local growers are unable to supply. It is logical, therefore, that they contribute to the funds of the board.

33. *This question was postponed.*

QUESTIONS (2): WITHOUT NOTICE

LOCKYER HOUSING AREA, ALBANY

Proposed Drainage Scheme

1. Mr. HALL asked the Minister for Housing:

(1) In view of the deplorable conditions being experienced by tenants of the State Housing Commission homes in the Lockyer area, Albany, brought about by the lack of drainage, can he advise what remedial measures are being taken by the State Housing Commission to rectify this unhealthy state of affairs?

(2) Has finality been reached between the State Housing Commission and the Albany Council relative to the proposed $60,000 drainage scheme in the Lockyer housing estate, Albany; and, if so, what are the terms of the agreement?

(3) Would he agree to have surveys made of the Lockyer housing estate so that a complete assessment can be made of the needs of the tenants as to requirements for filling, sand, and gravel needed to place the Lockyer housing estate in a more livable condition?

(4) Have representations been made by the State Housing Commission to the Albany Municipal Council to have footpaths formed, and regular inspection and cleaning of drainage scheme effected?

Mr. O'NEIL replied:

I thank the member for Albany for giving me short notice of this question, and also for providing me, by means of the question, with an opportunity to explain, fully, the situation that exists in Albany. This, in particular, will answer some of the publicity which has been appearing in the Albany newspaper of recent times. The reply is as follows:—

(1) to (4) In April, 1964, the chief administrative officer of the State Housing Commission conferred with the mayor and the other councillors representing finance and works committee of the Town of Albany. The town clerk and town engineer were also present at the discussions which had been arranged to resolve, financially and physically, the problems of the drainage of the Lockyer housing estate.

After full and frank discussion, agreement was reached as follows:—

1. Town of Albany would agree to retain the existing open channel drainage, which had been installed by the Government at a cost of £12,777 6s. and the local authority £3,375. The town would agree to carrying out new drainage works as defined in a plan at a cost estimated at between £8,500 and £9,000.

   It would declare the Lockyer estate drainage area and levy rates to cover the cost of new drainage works and maintenance of existing works.

   It would take early action to improve existing drainage in the road reservations.

2. On the other hand, the State Housing Commission agreed to lend the Town of Albany the estimated cost of new drainage works—between £8,500 and £9,000—on a long-term low-interest-rate basis. The commission would agree to pay rates levied by the Town of Albany to repay the loan, and for the maintenance of the drainage would create drainage easements to enable the Town of Albany to carry out any new works.

The commission also undertook to connect, at commission expense, all house downpipes and such site drainage as was necessary to alleviate conditions on residential sites.

The commission also arranged with its local officer to request tenants to clear site sumps and open drains.

In July, 1964, a further meeting was held with the council to clarify details. At that meeting the commission agreed to increase the amount to be lent to the local authority to £10,000 so as to cover rises in costs and technical variations.

In November, 1964, the council replied that it would like details so that it could proceed with the necessary formalities.

In January, 1965, the commission submitted documents covering the proposed loan of £10,000 to the council.

On the 30th March, 1965, the council advised that the new engineer was making alterations, which he considered necessary to the drainage layout previoulsy negotiated with the commission. In November, 1965, I, as Minister, together with the General Manager and other senior officers of the State Housing Commission discussed in detail with the Albany Council the drainage plans for the Lockyer area.

These discussions were held in the Albany Council Chambers and on the site, and subsequently further consultations took place in my office in Perth.

Since then, the Albany Council has periodically negotiated with the commission to amend the drainage proposals to cover more underground piping, which Government drainage engineers do not deem to be necessary, and to increase the amount of the commission's capital contribution and loan.

The commission has reviewed each request and as a result of a further meeting with a council deputation in Perth agreed in March, 1966, to increase the loan to a maximum of $40,000 (£20,000) and this was conveyed to the council in April, 1966.

The Council has, more recently, asked that the commission meet the full capital cost of certain pipe works. This has been examined and the commission has declined because it is not in keeping with local authority practice or policy when dealing with drainage of any housing estates, private or governmental, in this State.

Following the initial meeting with the shire, the commission has had a comprehensive survey carried out by Government drainage engineers on the overall problem; has had detailed levelling carried out for every house site and plans prepared to run off storm water and seepage; contracts have been progressively let to install site drainage works at full commission expense on the worst sites in the estate. A number of these contracts have been completed.

Mr. Jamieson: Did you say you had brief notice of this question?

Mr. O'NEIL: Yes, the question was telephoned through to me at noon from the honourable member.

Mr. Jamieson: You have a very good department.

Mr. O'NEIL: Yes; I received the answer to the question after I had taken my seat in the House this afternoon. To continue—

In the meantime, there does not appear to have been any reciprocal physical action by the local authority to deal with the drainage problem in Lockyer which has been clearly defined as not being the commission's legal responsibility.

Further negotiations will be continued with the council if it indicates it is prepared to undertake drainage works within the coming summer months.

On the question of filling, the commission does not consider this necessary if all drainage works are carried out as originally planned and agreed to. At the time of the original and subsequent negotiations, the commission, being mindful of the rates paid on this estate, requested the local council to improve the estate by the provision of footpaths, tree planting, etc.

STATE SCHOOLBOYS' FOOTBALL TEAM

Financial Assistance

2. Mr. EVANS asked the Minister for Education:

Did the Minister acquaint himself with question 7 on yesterday's notice paper which I asked of the Minister for Railways and, in particular, the answer the Minister gave to question (2) so that his department could give consideration to providing some financial assistance to parents of country boys who are members of sporting teams in order that they

might meet the rail fares involved; and that such assistance be made either directly or through the auspices of the National Fitness Council or the Western Australian State Schools' Amateur Sports Association?

Mr. LEWIS replied:

I thank the member for Kalgoorlie for some notice of his question, the answer to which is—

No. This is not considered to be the concern of the Education Department, and the Minister has no control over the finances of either of the bodies mentitoned. I might add it has never been the practice of the Education Department to assist children taking part in State elimination contests. Indeed, currently there is being conducted in Perth a country high schools' carnival, and I am informed the department meets no part of the cost of this competition. It is met by the local associations and, in some instances, by the Western Australian State Schools' Amateur Sports Association, but such assistance is naturally a matter for those bodies. They are under no direction from the department.

LESLIE SOLAR SALT INDUSTRY AGREEMENT BILL

Third Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Industrial Development) [2.51 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a third time.

I refer to the information which was requested by the Leader of the Opposition in respect of the manning and labour conditions as provided in the agreement to be ratified. This matter, as I explained last night, comes partly under the Land Act. The reason I could not find the appropriate provision last night is that it is contained in regulation 18 which, in accordance with the powers under the Land Act, sets out the conditions under which the leases for the collection and manufacture of salt are issued in the ordinary course of events, as distinct from a special lease such as the one that will be provided under this agreement. With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I shall table a copy of this regulation for the information of the Leader of the Opposition.

The regulation was tabled.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a third time and transmitted to the Council.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [2.54 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill contains three measures appertaining to the control of apples, pears, and citrus fruits. Firstly, dealing with apples, local market apple sales are controlled by the Apple Sales Advisory Committee which was established under the Agricultural Products Act in 1962. This committee determines the size and quality of specified varieties of apples sold on the local market, with the object of preventing inferior fruit from being marketed. These controls, originally for a period of two years, have been extended from time to time, and the present legislation will expire on the 31st December, 1966.

The activities of the committee have been helpful to the apple industry, and ordinarily some form of permanent control would have been established by now. But, unfortunately, the Western Australian fruitgrowers are still not satisfied that quality control by itself will ensure satisfactory marketing of the apple crop. However, critical as the fruitgrowers may be, they are still unable to put forward some more effective means, and therefore have requested that these control measures be continued for another two years.

The need for these controls to operate over at least the next two years is supported by the uncertain state of the apple export market. The situation regarding overseas markets continues to deteriorate and the next year or two are expected to be difficult years; thus considerable importance is attached to the local market. It is to be hoped that a more satisfactory system for the control of local apple sales may be developed during this period.

In addition to the extension of this control over apple sales, the Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association has requested that pears be made subject to a similar measure. The purpose of this would be to prevent the sale of inferior and undersized pears, which, at times, seriously lower market returns for better quality fruit.

Last season, due to a heavy crop of pears, particularly Bartlett pears, the market was glutted at various times and the overall returns to growers were greatly reduced. In addition to the marketing of small pears, particularly Bartletts, many sold locally were affected with black spot blemishes.

The inclusion of this amendment will provide the means by which the sale of inferior and undersized fruit can be restricted. It will not necessitate additional staff, as inspections both in the country and in the metropolitan area could be carried out by the present market staff

augmented by the same four temporary inspectors as for apples. The control over pear sales would be the same as for apples; that is, for a period of two years from the 1st January, 1967.

The final amendment included in this Bill follows a request by the Central Citrus Council of the Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association. This council asked for legislation to cover citrus sales similar to that under which the Apple Sales Advisory Committee is constituted.

This control measure covers oranges, mandarins, lemons, and grapefruit. It provides for a citrus sales advisory committee to be set up, consisting of six persons: The nominee of the Director of Agriculture as chairman, three growers' representatives, one market representative, and a consumers' representative. The main purpose of the committee would be to stop the sale of immature citrus fruit, particularly oranges, early in the season, and to prevent poor quality citrus fruit from coming on to the market.

The Agricultural Products Act and regulations already give authority to detain and dispose of substandard fruit, and this would facilitate any restrictions imposed by the advisory committee. These measures would be for a period of two years as from the 1st January, 1967, to enable the adequacy of the controls to be ascertained. Finally, as with other Bills, monetary references have been substituted by the decimal equivalents.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Kelly.

FRUIT CASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

As a result of the Bill amending the Agricultural Products Act, it becomes necessary to amend the Fruit Cases Act. The amendments contained in this Bill are similar insomuch as the relevant section of the Act is extended for a further two years, and pears and citrus fruits are included.

The revelant provision of the Fruit Cases Act defines "direct buyer" of these fruits, apples, pears, and citrus, and makes it possible to obtain information regarding wholesalers and retailers who purchase fruit direct, for the purpose of effectively checking grades of fruit prescribed under the Agricultural Products Act. It is possible in this way to maintain uniform standards of quality no matter whether fruit is obtained through normal outlets or from the grower direct.

Again, monetary references have been substituted by decimal equivalents. In view of the Western Australian Fruit Growers' Association's wish that this legislation be continued for another two years —until the 31st December, 1968—I commend the amendment accordingly.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hall.

SWAN RIVER CONSERVATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [3.3 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This is a small but important Bill which was foreshadowed in Parliament last session following discussion on some reclamation works proposed in the Nedlands area.

At the outset I think I should say the Government is fully aware of the aesthetic value of the Swan River and the part it plays now, and the part it will play in the future, in providing enjoyment and recreation for many thousands of citizens. The river is a natural and beautiful heritage of the people, and its protection, conservation, and improvement have always been, and will continue to be, foremost in this Government's planning; and, for that matter, I would think foremost in any government's planning.

I need not elaborate on the extent to which the river is used for aquatic sports. I think most members are aware of these things. Members will have seen, and enjoyed, the spectacle of very many sailing and power craft on the river during the summer months—in total, many thousands—but it is interesting to mention—and be a little more precise—that a recent census of yacht clubs alone indicated a total of some 7,000 members, 1,385 sailing craft, valued at $1,700,000, and 800 powercraft, valued at some $2,850,000. Yacht club land, buildings, and amenities were valued at over $10,000,000. In addition, some 10,000 other power craft have been registered. Add to all this swimming, rowing, and other aquatic sports and we have a very compelling reason to ensure that the river is kept in a clean and pure condition and that everything possible is done to protect and conserve the river, to beautify the foreshores, and to provide clean white beaches for public use and enjoyment.

By way of background, I might recall that the parent legislation was passed in 1958 when the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was Minister for Works. He steered a Bill through this Chamber and through Parliament, generally. When the Bill was introduced there was no provision for Parliamentary approval to reclamation, but Parliament, in its wisdom, inserted a proviso that any area exceeding 10 acres should receive Parliamentary approval.

The board set up under the principal Act has functioned since 1959, and since that time it has acted as a co-ordinator of river interests and the watchdog of

river purity. I understand that the Statute is the only one of its kind in Australia; and, so far as Western Australia is concerned, the setting up of this authority was timely because, in a rapidly developing State, it has been able to combine with planners to ensure that urban development would not be inimical to the interests of the river. It has been instrumental in providing new white beaches and renourishing existing beaches which have, perhaps, been eroded—all in the interests of beautification and improved facilities for aquatic sports. Of course, there has been some reclamation which has been done outside the categories about which I have just spoken, and I suppose there will be some groups of people who will violently disagree with the general sentiments I have expressed so far, but I would imagine this to be expected in such a matter.

I need not go into detail in outlining the work of the board since its inception, but I think members are well aware of most of the work done—the beautification factor and the improved facility factor—and the results achieved; and many saw ample evidence of the improvements effected when they joined the board members on a recent river inspection trip. Suffice it to say, the river is now in a better condition than it has been for many years. The beaches are cleaner, bigger, and better than ever before; and the water is purer and freer from snags—particularly in the upper reaches—and algae, it will surely have been noted, is almost non-existent.

Mr. Hawke: You might be right.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The Leader of the Opposition, of course, makes his presence felt in directions other than those about which I have spoken. Only the algae makes its presence felt on the beaches.

Mr. Hawke: You had better check with the member for Dale.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: When this nuisance does occasionally find its way on to our beaches it is very promptly removed before it becomes a public nuisance or a possible health hazard.

In explaining the amendment now before the House I want to say that the Government has given careful consideration to the problem of reclamation. I think it is a matter which exercises the mind of every member in the House, to a greater or lesser extent. The Government appreciates that projects of this nature engender great public interest and that in the light of present-day development the existing limitation of 10 acres without parliamentary approval could well be reduced. It feels, however, that it is essential the Swan River Conservation Board should be given the responsibility of approving every minor reclamation, most of which would be in the nature of beach restoration; foreshore wall protection; minor dredge and fill to improve a foreshore, to provide a beach for a yacht club or for swimming purposes; or for some other purpose which I cannot specify at the present time.

In winter months, during periods of heavy rain, serious erosion can take place and urgent work is often necessary to restore badly eroded sections. These are "housekeeping" jobs which the board has had to take in its stride, and it should be given some freedom of action and decision. I would like to remind members of this House, particularly since this is where the legislation was first presented to Parliament, that Parliament entrusted the Swan River Conservation Board with the prime responsibility of protecting and conserving the river in the interests of the people. So we must not forget this prime function of the board, which it has respected since its formation. The work which it has done has been, in my view—and in the view of many other members—outstanding.

The Bill, therefore, provides that any area exceeding two acres normally covered by water shall not be filled in or reclaimed except by resolution passed by each House of Parliament. Further protection is given by providing that parliamentary approval is required if the area is part of a scheme involving a total area of more than two acres, or is contiguous to an area reclaimed within the previous 12 months. These provisions ensure—if it is necessary to ensure—that there can be no piecemeal reclamation to avoid the necessity for parliamentary sanction.

Those two matters are the essence of the prime amendment contained in the Bill. At this stage, I think it is appropriate for me to mention some of the work done by the board, or some of the decisions the board has had to make in the past seven years. Those decisions were more or less, of an urgent nature and were as follows:—

(1) In the Rossmoyne area of Riverton, the Shire of Canning wished to reclaim a small bay probably less than a quarter of an acre, in order to straighten out a foreshore road. The road was formed to this point from both ends and the board had to make an almost immediate decision. The request was refused and a new alignment had to be created. The refusal was made because the natural beauty of the foreshore and the native vegetation would have been affected, and other arrangements could easily be made.

(2) Abernethy Road drain outlet, Belmont, had to be cleaned. About 2,000 cubic yards of sand had to be dug out of the river and deposited ashore. It was placed in front of three blocks of land in a strip a few yards wide. It created a narrow strip of foreshore in an area where property

rights went right down to the high water mark.

(3) About 50 square yards of fill had to be placed in a dangerous area at the foot of Wauhope Street, East Fremantle. The job was done almost overnight.

(4) About 50 to 100 yards of fill is placed each year on the foreshore at Harvest Road, North Fremantle, in the swimming area.

(5) It has been necessary to restore parts of the foreshore at Como and Point Walter. To do this a few square yards in area has to be filled, usually by scraping it from some other point at the edge of the river.

(6) The Melville Town Council and the Canning Shire Council have found it necessary to dump several hundreds of yards of fill on eroding foreshores. It involves a few score yards of reclamation in the strict sense of the word.

(7) Practically every yacht club has had to remove sand from its mooring areas from time to time. This is usually placed in areas where it has eroded away, and so those areas are reclaimed.

(8) The Raffles Hotel beach is another "housekeeping" job of less than one-third of an acre.

(9) The Perth City Council has many areas of swampy foreshore above the Causeway which have been filled to the great improvement of the area, and as the years go by this improvement will be noticed more and more.

(10) The eroded beach at Claremont Yacht Club has required several hundreds of yards of fill. A formal request has been made for additional reclamation here. That request is in common with others from local governing authorities. If the area is beyond two acres, the proposal will have to come to this House for a decision.

(11) Chidley Point was a created beach, done more or less as an afterthought and fitted in between dredge movements. The Nedlands foreshore in front of the Nedlands Yacht Club and the Perth Flying Squadron was another.

(12) The Maylands Swimming Club has had to be treated in three successive years as a result of flood conditions. The greatest amount of sand filled was 2,000 yards over an area of 55 yards x 6 yards. This sort of work, as I indicated earlier, is normal good "housekeeping" and has to be done when and where required. It cannot be planned ahead. Most major reclamation can be planned ahead and often has to be talked about one or two years in advance.

In matters such as this, large and small areas, there is a necessity to be as precise as possible as to the measurement of the areas proposed to be reclaimed. The river is subject to a rise and fall variation of tide of about 3 feet and on occasions when high winds bank up the water, the variation can be up to 4 feet. It therefore follows that on occasions of high tide the areas are covered to some distance back from the normal shore line. So it is proposed that the reclaimed area shall be calculated on a mid-tide when the river is running its normal course.

Engineering advice is that there is a recognised low water mark at Fremantle which can be related to a tide gauge at Barrack Street jetty—a convenient central position for river measurement. Two feet six inches above Fremantle low water at Barrack Street jetty represents a mean tide level, and it is possible to define and peg proposed areas of reclamation using this medium as the basis.

This is the means taken to arrive at some standard whereby areas can be measured in order to establish an area. Argument could probably be raised in regard to this way of measuring, but it seems to me that it is a rather logical way to measure the areas involved.

One of the clauses in the Bill, clause 8, seeks to repeal two very old Acts—one of them is particularly old—which have been on the Statute book for many years. The Melville Water and Freshwater Bay Road Act, 1912, gives the Minister authority to undertake some reclamation and resumption to construct roads on the foreshores in Melville and Freshwater Bay. No action has ever been taken to give effect to this proposal, and I want to make it clear that the Government does not feel bound to adhere to planning which originated in 1912. We feel that in the light of the provisions of this Bill, any proposals for Freshwater Bay or Melville will be considered on present planning needs, and if reclamation of over two acres should be involved, then a submission will be made to Parliament.

Much the same remarks apply to the Swan River Improvement Act, 1925-1960, except that some of the work envisaged has been completed, and a section is currently under construction. This is the area on the eastern side of the river just upstream from the Causeway. Low-lying foreshores are being raised by material dredged from the river, and when the mud has consolidated the Perth City Council will top with sand and beautify the area. However, the Swan River Improvement Act provided for much more than this: it provided for the filling-in of the river from both sides a little further upstream from this point to an extent which would have turned the river almost into a narrow gutter in this region. Of course, the Government will not support the lines drawn as a result of

this Act, and any honourable member can have a look at the proposals contained in this Act.

The Government's view is that where possible the river should be widened in its upper reaches, and a tentative plan has been prepared which provides for such future widening treatment.

Mr. J. Hegney: Are the upper reaches you speak of just beyond the Causeway?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes, and in the Maylands loop, and even further on. However, there is a plan for improving the river in this vicinity: for cleaning it out and making it wider in certain places, and putting some fill in others. The total result will mean an increase in the acreage of water.

Mr. Brady: We are very badly in need of a dredge in the Midland and Bassendean areas.

Mr. J. Hegney: In another 25 years they will get up there.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: A great deal of work has already been done, but money is not unlimited. As time goes on I hope further work can be done in the upper reaches of the river.

Mr. Davies: What about organising a trip up the river?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Was the honourable member on the last trip?

Mr. Davies: No. I went down the river, but I have not been up the river on one of these trips.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: One of these days we may be able to arrange a trip up there but we would not be able to use the *Challenger*—certainly not at this point of time.

It is considered, therefore, that the old Act to which I have referred should be repealed, and any new proposal in this area, planned on the basis of river widening rather than narrowing, should be considered on its merits. I cannot say now whether there will be a necessity to present it to the House, but if I am still Minister I give an assurance that the proposal will be given plenty of publicity and members will be given an opportunity to discover the nature of the plans.

The Bill also contains provision for the appointment of two additional members, one an additional representative from local government, and the other a biologist nominated by the Minister for Fisheries and Fauna. At present the Local Government Association nominates four members to the Swan River Conservation Board, two of whom are selected from areas below the Causeway and two from areas above the Causeway. This district representation is not written into the Act but is a domestic decision of the association, and has the advantage of ensuring that the board is served by representatives having local knowledge.

The proposal to add an additional member has arisen from an extension of the board's area of control in the Canning River—it is now extended to the Nicholson Road bridge—and the need to undertake improvement work in this area. If the amendment is agreed to the Local Government Association will nominate a representative from a shire bordering the Canning River.

The proposal to appoint a biologist stems from the neeed for technical and professional advice on the board in respect of fish and bird life. Representations have been made in past times about this and the matter has received a great deal of consideration. Originally it was felt that the advice needed could be sought by the board; but finally it was decided to submit to Parliament the fact that it is desirable for the board to have a biologist as a member.

Mr. J. Hegney: Did the Duke, when he was out here, make any representations in this regard?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: No, he did not. Changing conditions brought about by river and road traffic, river usage, and foreshore improvement—in brief, the effects of civilisation—have all had an effect on bird and fish life, and it is felt that a member qualified to express a view on these and associated problems could assist the board in its deliberations. As the city grows from its present population of 500,000 to 1,000,000 people, or more, in the next quarter of a century or third of a century, this will have a further effect on the natural life of the river. Similar experiences have been noted in many parts of the world and the protection of our heritage, the river, will depend very largely on the Swan River Conservation Board, and on Parliament, when this Bill passes.

The addition of these two members will increase the size of the board to 18 members. When the principal Act was introduced some concern was expressed by members that the board was too unwieldy with 16 members. I have a recollection that some members of this Government, when in opposition, criticised the size of the board.

Mr. W. Hegney: It is to be 18 members?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: Yes.

Mr. W. Hegney: What about the two reserves?

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I could not think of a better nineteenth man than the honourable member.

Mr. Brady: He would be as good as two anyway.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: I was mentioning that there were some members who, when the Act was introduced, said that they felt the board was overlarge. However, I am assured by the board chairman that in practice there have been no problems in this regard and there is co-opera-

tion and co-ordination by reason of the members' dedication to the work, and streamlining is achieved by the allocation of responsibilities to various committees.

The board supports the proposal for the two additional members as, indeed, it supports the other proposals contained in the measure. A close liaison has been maintained with the board in this respect.

Finally, the opportunity is taken by the introduction of the Bill to delete sections in the principal Act relating to the payment of fees. These were fixed by Statute many years ago, and are now out of tune with fees paid to members of other boards and trusts. They are certainly out of line when one considers the responsibility and work involved in the functions of the board.

It is proposed in the amendment that the remuneration be fixed by the Governor in Executive Council, as is the case now for most other boards. This will be done on the advice of Cabinet. The views of the Public Service Commissioner will be obtained on the matter of trying to keep some uniformity in regard to the board fees. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

PLANT DISEASES ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. NALDER (Katanning—Minister for Agriculture) [3.33 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

The amendments contained in this Bill mainly concern the operations of fruit-fly foliage baiting schemes. This is a form of community fruit-fly control, and since its introduction in 1948 in the south suburban area, there has been greatly increased activity in dealing with fruit-fly in this way. I might say here that since that time there has been a considerable amount of interest shown by community baiting schemes, of which I will give some details as I proceed.

A total of 32 baiting schemes have been established and are operating in country districts. There is one operating in the metropolitan area. In addition, although not yet in operation, four more have been voted for; one of these, in the Shire of Belmont, should be in operation during the coming fruit season. A number of other areas are showing interest in having this type of scheme.

These baiting schemes are administered by the appointment of independent committees nominated by the local authority, or the fruitgrowers in the particular districts where the scheme is desired, and the necessary provisions are contained in the Plant Diseases Act.

As a result of the great increase in community fruit-fly control through these baiting schemes, the number of active committees has increased. This has led to difficulties that can only be remedied by amendments to the Plant Diseases Act. I will now outline each amendment as it occurs in the Bill.

Firstly, in regard to the many independent fruit-fly committees now in operation throughout the State, there are numerous details of procedure involved in the appointment and qualification of their members, and it is to be expected that errors and omissions will occur.

In order that the subsequent proceedings of a particular committee are not invalidated because of such a technicality, it is considered necessary to provide in the Plant Diseases Act for all acts and proceedings of a committee to be validated, even though some defect in the appointment or qualification of a committee member may be discovered at a later date.

Secondly, the usual method of fruit-fly control is by the baiting of fruit trees, but sometimes it has become advisable to cover spray as well as bait the trees. This is usually to give added protection, particularly in the metropolitan area, where the limits of the baiting scheme area are adjacent to a district where no scheme operates, and where there are infestations of fruit fly. The spray will provide a more drastic and immediate effect on fruit fly on the fringes of a baiting scheme's district.

At this stage, I would like to inform the House of the situation in the metropolitan area. About two years ago, I think is was, the Melville Shire Council decided to approach the Government to take a poll in the Applecross area. This poll was duly taken, and the Applecross area has been baited for this two-year period. The only demarcation of the Applecross area is the main highway; it is only the road running through this area which causes the committee to operate on one side of the road but not the other.

For this reason it is necessary to introduce the type of amendment contained in the Bill. It will cover the situation I have outlined. To allow baiting committees to use the method of fruit-fly control most suitable, the Bill provides for the addition of the words "or spray" to the various references to baiting fruit trees.

Thirdly, the Bill includes a provision relating to fruit-fly foliage baiting schemes being introduced or operating within districts adjacent to one another in the same municipality. This amendment provides that the Minister, if in the circumstances he considers it expedient to do so, may direct that a particular scheme be extended to an adjacent district and be amalgamated with a scheme already operating there, or to be introduced. In this way the administration of baiting schemes will be improved and the duplication of committees and activities within a municipality where separate areas desire a scheme will be eliminated.

Here again I might refer to the area I mentioned a moment ago. I understand the Mt. Pleasant section of the Melville Shire is interested in coming in on the baiting scheme, and rather than have another committee operate on the other side of the highway it is considered advisable to amalgamate the committees so that they can operate in one area. It will only be necessary to increase the number of people who carry out the baiting.

Finally, the opportunity has been taken in this Bill to substitute decimal equivalents in monetary references, and also to include a number of machinery amendments. The introduction of these fruit-fly foliage baiting schemes has been a very successful method of combating the fruit-fly menace. Naturally the more successful they are, the more popular they become, and this has led to an increase in the establishment of these independent baiting committees.

The provisions included in this Bill will greatly assist these committees and thus contribute to the success of the war against the fruit-fly. I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Norton.

BUILDERS' REGISTRATION ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. ROSS HUTCHINSON (Cottesloe—Minister for Works) [3.42 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill proposes a number of amendments to the present Act, some of which are of a minor nature and can more satisfactorily be dealt with during the Committee stage. I refer mainly to the variations in fees and penalties which have been altered to bring them more into line with present-day monetary values.

Provision has been made in the Act to permit builders who are not registered under this Act to build a home for their own use. Unfortunately, unregistered builders have been taking advantage of this provision in that they erect buildings of a value greater than $1,600 each, ostensibly for their own use, occupy the building for a very short period, and then sell it and immediately start the same procedure all over again. Quite obviously they are using this as a method of circumventing the provisions of the Act.

To overcome this problem it is proposed to amend the Act to provide that where an unregistered builder wishes to build a house for his own use, before he can obtain a permit to build from the local authority, he must first submit a statutory declaration stating that he has not within the preceding 12 months obtained a similar permit from any other local authority. Some unregistered builders have also built blocks of flats, and have lived in one flat and then sold the whole block. It is felt that this provision will overcome these methods which are being used at the present time to get around what is obviously the intention of the Act.

This Bill proposes to allow an unregistered builder to construct a two-unit building, but both units must be built at ground level. There is no intention to allow an unregistered builder to erect a block of flats.

Because of a change in monetary values, it is proposed that the value of building construction, such as maintenance work and additions, which an unregistered builder may undertake, other than for his own occupancy, should be raised from the present $1,600 to $2,400. Costs of building have been increased over the years and it is considered desirable that while amending the Act provision should be made to increase the figure of £800 at present featured in the legislation.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.5 p.m.

Mr. ROSS HUTCHINSON: The next amendment about which I will speak concerns naturalisation.

The Act as it stands at present provides that, before a person can be registered as a builder, he must be a naturalised British subject. Many people who have skills which can be of great advantage to us in our present state of growth are migrating to this country, but if they are to be prevented from using those skills until they have resided here sufficiently long to be naturalised, we may lose them altogether. I know of at least one qualified builder who has returned to his own country because he was not a naturalised British subject and therefore could not practice his craft. So, it is submitted that we can ill-afford to lose such people.

In any case, such a restriction does not apply in other Acts for the registration of other master tradesmen, and it is considered most undesirable to discriminate against builders in this way. It is therefore proposed in this Bill to remove the clause which restricts the registration of builders to people of British nationality.

When building work is carried out by a partnership, or company, or a body corporate, the name, the registered number, and the class of the registered builder, and a statement that the builder is managing and supervising the work, must be inserted in all advertisements issued by such organisation; and, in addition, a sign showing all this information must be erected on the building site.

The Builders' Registration Board has found from experience that the exhibition of the registered number of the partnership, company, or body corporate on signs erected on the works and in advertisements is sufficient for the purposes of the Act, and it is therefore proposed to delete the necessity for a statement to be made that the builder is supervising the works.

Provision has been made in this Bill to increase the charge for the examination fee. The examination fee was set in 1940 when the examination comprised six subjects, but it has now been increased to 10 subjects and examination in these subjects usually takes place over a period of from three to four years for each student.

It has been found that the costs incurred in holding these examinations far exceed the total of the fees received and consequently it is necessary that the fees be raised. At the same time, because of the period of years during which a student may sit for all of the examinations, it is considered desirable that the fees be charged per subject rather than that a total sum should be charged for the whole of the examinations. In future the fee will be $2 per subject or $4 for each supplementary examination subject.

In section 20 of this Act, mention is made of the president of the board. However, the board consists of a chairman and four other members, and there is no other reference in the Act to the president. It is felt that this term was used inadvertently in drafting; obviously the word should be "Chairman" and it is proposed to amend the Act accordingly.

As I said at the beginning of this speech, there are a number of other amendments which deal with fees and penalties, and one which defines a building supervisor. As they are only small amendments, I think they can more satisfactorily be dealt with during the Committee stage.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

BILLS (2): RECEIPT AND FIRST READING

1. Cemeteries Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Nalder (Deputy Premier), read a first time.
2. Poisons Act Amendment Bill.
   Bill received from the Council; and, on motion by Mr. Ross Hutchinson (Minister for Works), read a first time.

BILLS (3): RETURNED

1. Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill.
2. Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Fund Act Amendment Bill.
3. Potato Growing Industry Trust Fund Act Amendment Bill.

Bills returned from the Council without amendment.

GRAIN POOL ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 18th August.

MR. KELLY (Merredin-Yilgarn) [4.12 p.m.]: This Bill proposes to establish yet another board. For some years, we have had the experience of wheat coming under a special board and, in more recent years, both oats and barley have been passed into the keeping of various pools. All of these pools have functioned smoothly throughout the years.

Mr. Nalder: They are run by the one organisation—it is not another board.

Mr. KELLY: Yes; I misused the word. I think it can be claimed that, at all times, the results have been very satisfactory from a rural point of view. As I have said, this Bill seeks to establish yet another pool—the linseed pool—and this action is being taken at the present time because of circumstances that intruded into this particular section of grain production.

As the Minister told us, previously the linseed produced in Western Australia was handled in the metropolitan area by a private firm which, I believe, finally discontinued operating with linseed as one of the commodities it handled. Consequently, no longer is that avenue of disposal available to this rather limited industry. Currently, the industry is limited, although it could expand in the foreseeable future.

It became necessary to take some action to protect this section of rural industry, particularly in view of the fact that Australia's requirements are already being catered for by, I think, the State of New South Wales. At this point of time, the demand within Australia is not so strong that more States producing linseed could go on to the market without disturbing, in some way, the local State markets for linseed. Apparently the Government found it necessary to bring this legislation before the House. The only way to cater for the linseed growers was to introduce a Bill to control the linseed produced in Western Australia, and this is what the Government has done.

It appears that the pool can only dispose of the linseed grown in Western Australia by export, because it certainly cannot dispose of it locally. It is because of this that the Bill's enactment is necessary; and, when it is enacted, it will have a beneficial effect on those people engaged in the growing of linseed and will give them added heart, because they will know their production will be disposed of at world parity price. So this Bill will serve a useful purpose and the rural industry generally will benefit greatly by it. I support the second reading.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee, etc.

Bill passed through committee without debate, reported without amendment, and the report adopted.

STATE HOUSING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from the 18th August.

MR. GRAHAM (Balcatta) [4.18 p.m.]: The Bill seeks to make three amendments

to the principal Act, one of which is to upgrade the cost of a house for which supplementary assistance may be given. This, of course, reflects the upward trend of building costs. Other provisions are to authorise the State Housing Commission to operate extensions of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement. With both of these moves I can find no complaint.

However, all members should bear in mind that the State Housing Act is the child of the original Workers' Homes Act. In other words, the legislation was designed to enable persons on moderate and low incomes to acquire homes for themselves by lodging a small, indeed a token, deposit, and thereafter paying instalments over an extended period so as not to impose too great a burden on the family budget. I mention that because at all times we should keep the prime purpose of this legislation firmly in mind and should examine carefully any proposition which tends to water down the intention of this legislation and allow the Act to provide easy terms for all and sundry, irrespective of financial circumstances.

I am not opposed to the utmost assistance being given to those who desire to build and acquire homes for themselves; but whilst there is a housing shortage prevailing and the long, and everlengthening waiting period continues for people who come within the definition of "worker", we should closely examine any move that would make the qualifications for a State Housing Commission home easier; or, in other words, increasing, perhaps substantially, the number of those seeking assistance from the State Housing Commission.

If the qualifications for a State Housing Commission home are to be relaxed, such a policy should be accompanied by a firm undertaking by the Government that it will provide additional funds so that those who are on the lowest rung of the economic ladder will not be further penalised.

We now come to clause 3 which is perhaps the only possible controversial provision in the entire measure. I have stated shortly the purpose and the objectives of the State Housing Act from its very inception. I am speaking on behalf of the Labor Party this afternoon, rather than submitting my own views which, incidentally, coincide with those of my party—I want to make that perfectly clear. The Labor Party in Western Australia believes there should be greater emphasis placed on that much used word "decentralisation".

Members may recall that at the last State general elections the Labor Party undertook that if returned to office—and we can now say "when we are returned to office"—it would form a ministry for decentralisation. Accordingly many pieces of legislation will be trimmed with a view to giving practical effect to such a declaration, and administrative steps will be taken in accordance with that outlook. So, whilst bearing in mind the desire—which should be the desire of all of us—to keep this legislation intact in order to assist those on moderate and low incomes, we adhere to that viewpoint, but at the same time we are prepared to give additional consideration to those people who reside in country districts.

In other words, we wish to broaden the scope of the legislation with a view to giving additional inducement to people who wish to go to the country, or added encouragement to others to remain in country areas. So we disagree with the proposition of the Government as it would be expressed in legislation that the lid should be removed entirely so the State Housing Commission could declare any figure it wished to be the eligible income for persons to become entitled to assistance under the State Housing Act. We do not think that is a fair proposition; because, irrespective of the intention of the Minister for the time being, he or his successors could be tempted to go to extremes or to show favours to particular persons or classes of persons who have ample resources to build homes for themselves.

So we resolved on a figure. First of all, in the north-west, north of the 26th parallel, as has been the case since 1948, it has been decided that there shall be no income limit. That has been recognised since 1948, and still is, because, in the far-flung parts of the State there are particular problems; and perhaps every piece of legislation should be used to encourage people who desire to make their homes in that area, and, in partciular, their permanent homes.

Mr. O'Neil: There is a limit set by policy rather than by Statute.

Mr. GRAHAM: That is so, but the Minister decides the policy and we in Parliament decide the law, and we think the Minister—whoever he might be—should at least know what the thoughts of Parliament are; and the only way by which Parliament can express its thoughts, of course, is by setting them out in clauses of a Bill which subsequently becomes an Act or part of an existing Statute.

So we of the Opposition have reached the conclusion it would be a fair and reasonable proposition to allow a 50 per cent. excess on the existing salary limit. That is to say, at the present moment the income limit for a person to become entitled to a State Housing Commission home in the metropolitan area is $2,632. It shall still be the automatic right of any person residing in a country district who is in receipt of an income less than that figure to obtain a house from the commission; but the Minister, on the recommendation of the commission, may declare a figure anywhere between $2,632

and a figure 50 per cent. higher, which is $3,948, to be a permissible income.

I understand the Minister, at the moment, has a figure somewhat less than that which I have mentioned. In fact, the figure is $3,146. However, we of the Opposition consider there should be a certain flexibility, and perhaps the allowable income should be different in some of the more remote parts of the country or agricultural districts from what it is in country centres in closer proximity to the metropolitan area.

I want to say here that to a large extent the Minister for Housing and I formed a two-man committee; and, if members care to have a look at the amendments on the notice paper, they will find there are two amendments, one in the name of the Minister and the other in the name of the member for Balcatta, which are designed to achieve the same object. Perhaps there is something unique in that, but I thank the Minister for his co-operation in the discussions we had.

The position will be amply met if Parliament agrees to the amendments to the Bill now before us. I agree that the lengthy wording of the Minister's amendment in relation to the income limit meets the position more adequately than the amendment standing in my name.

Mr. O'Neil: It is longer than I thought it would be.

Mr. GRAHAM: Here it is a case of the Parliamentary Draftsman being a better draftsman than the member for Balcatta. I repeat that our intentions are similar. In respect of the second amendment, I shall, during the Committee stage, maintain that the term I use,"the figure 1956," is more appropriate than the term used by the Parliamentary Draftsman, "the passage 1956." My understanding of the meaning of "passage" is a number of words used in a sentence; however, we need not fall out over the difference, as long as we achieve the same purpose.

It will be appreciated that by and large there is unanimity on this matter between the Government and the Opposition; and both recognise the desirability of doing something to give an added advantage to people who choose to reside in country districts.

MR. HALL (Albany) [4.31 p.m.]: I would like to make a few comments in respect of housing in rural areas. I noticed that the member for Balcatta dealt with the subject of decentralisation, and I shall also deal with it briefly. The intention of the Minister in introducing the Bill which is now before us is rather commendable, in that it is an effort to overcome the difficulties of middle-class workers in obtaining or purchasing houses in country areas.

I am aware of one glaring instance in this respect. When the southern division of the P.M.G. was transferred to my electorate, the employees found the housing position to be chaotic, but by now many of them have been successful in obtaining houses of a sort. As one can predict, under such circumstances they had to pay high rentals; consequently they sought homes at a lower rental through other avenues, The overall effect on this class of worker is worthy of recognition.

Workers in another field have also been affected. I do not know whether the Minister is aware that on many occasions transport workers are engaged for long and extended hours. As a result the incomes which they earn fall into a rather high bracket. Even when these workers are engaged during normal periods on the overhaul of vehicles they receive an income which is above the ceiling that is provided for in the Act. This class of worker should also be considered. Although during part of the year such workers earn a wage above the amount that is permissible under the Act to enable them to obtain houses through the State Housing Commission, if we take into consideration the rate on an hourly basis, they would not be ineligible.

Yet other workers who are affected are the whalers. They work long hours, and, with the addition of bonuses, their wages also exceed the ceiling that is allowed under the Act. These two groups of workers are ordinary workers; they are not really in receipt of high incomes, except through exceptional circumstances arising in the course of their work. For that reason I say they should receive consideration from the Housing Commission. I am sure the measure before us will enable them to overcome the obstacle, because the definition of "worker" will become more elastic.

I now wish to refer to a matter that was also dealt with by the member for Balcatta; that is, decentralisation. If we are to succeed in attracting industries and population to decentralised areas and towns, the provision of adequate housing will be an important factor. I am sure people are not prepared to live in decentralised areas unless they are able to get housing. Lack of housing would be an absolute deterrent to the establishment of industry in decentralised areas. Another drawback is the inadequacy of funds channelled to decentralised districts to enable houses to be purchased or rented.

This would apply to civil servants, teachers, the managerial staffs of industries, and the office workers engaged in those industries. They can be attracted to the country if the requisite amenities are provided. One of the most important needs of the worker is the housing of his family in the country district where he works; if he cannot find a house he has the double expense of keeping two homes. I think the measure before us will achieve a desirable objective and will be an aid to the provision of houses in country areas.

There is also another aspect to the provision of housing. The landlords of the past are fading away, through increased rates and the high cost of installing amenities, such as sewerage. Where previously they were able to live reasonably by owning several houses and renting them, at the present time they would not be able to make ends meet. Many of the old houses are being demolished and are not being replaced with new ones. That means there are fewer houses available for rental.

I daresay that rental houses are at a premium. Apart from those made available by the State Housing Commission, it is almost impossible to obtain one; it is difficult to get one through private sources. The person on a low income or on the basic wage is placed at a great disadvantage in seeking a second mortgage, as compared with the person who has some means. The latter is generally able to arrange the necessary finance, because the amount that he requires is less than that required by the basic wage earner; furthermore, his repayments will be higher, and the loan will be repaid quicker. A person with that advantage will certainly be able to obtain housing easier than the person on a low income.

People on low incomes or on the basic wage are not able to compete in the purchase or the rental of homes, despite the provision made in the Bill to discount the income ratio for each child of the applicant. I would like the Minister to introduce a method under which the basic wage earner with a large family is given consideration in the purchase of a home. At one stage the Australian Labor Party aimed at a scheme which reduced the cost of a house by £100 for each child born to parents purchasing the home. If this principle were adopted there would be some incentive for the birthrate to be stepped up, and the cost to the Commonwealth for bringing in migrants to the country would be reduced. It would also be a stimulus to maintaining purer blood lines in the Australian, and to bringing about a more balanced Australian way of life. This would be an advantage to the country.

If we give consideration to reducing the overall purchase price of a house by £100 for every child of a marriage it will be of great assistance, and will prove a tremendous incentive to the people concerned. If we are to consider the middle-class man in this matter, then we should also take cognisance of the poorer person —the man in less-fortunate financial circumstances—and give him some relief by reducing the cost of a house for every child that is born to a marriage. Poor people who are prepared to bring children into this world, should be given some assistance in this matter of housing. There are several young people who are trying to obtain houses, and some thought should be given to stimulating assistance in their direction.

I know of one family of seven who thought they were puurchasing the house in which they live. They were paying £8 a week rent, and they had carried out £200 worth of renovations. But when they raised the question of buying the house, pressure was applied by the landlord and they were told that he could obtain £2,500 for the house, and unless they were prepared to find that amount he suggested he would foreclose. These people are not even entitled to the £250 assistance under the Commonwealth Act; and yet they have reared their children as best they can. Every penny they had went into the house, and unless they receive some relief from their landlord they are likely to be evicted.

Here we find a family in very difficult circumstances; they have five children to rear, and we cannot give them any assistance at all. The purpose of the measure is to give people in the middle-income bracket an oportunity to purchase a house by means of a second mortgage. There is no doubt that this will stimulate the financial turnover so far as the department is concerned; and, of course, that is what we all desire. The person in the lower-income bracket, however, will receive no relief from this legislation whatever; and I would like the Minister to have a look at that aspect.

I understand there was a time when the Rural and Industries Bank, with the assistance of the Government, advanced loans of £200 for the purpose of home purchase. I believe this has been discontinued. But the Rural and Industries Bank is again coming into the field of housing, and perhaps it could have a look at the matter I have raised to see whether it is possible to assist the people in the lower-income bracket.

I commend the measure to the House. I think it will ease the position for a certain class of people. It will certainly speed up the financial turnover of the Housing Commission. I would ask the Minister, however, to give serious consideration to the people on lower incomes, because at the moment this measure gives them no assistance at all.

MR. RUSHTON (Dale) [4.44 p.m.]: I rise to support the measure before the House, but I would also like to seek the assurance of the Minister in regard to a situation which may develop as a result of one of the amendments in the Bill. The possible difficulty to which I refer is the boundary which is to be considered for the purpose of this legislation; and I refer to the boundary under the metropolitan region town planning scheme.

As members well know, the boundary, certainly on the southern side, extends to possibly 42 miles, though it varies as it moves from east to west. I have no knowledge how it will affect the northern boundary as it stands at present. As we all know, with the changed boundary,

the area considered by the State Housing Commission to be rural now extends from as far down as Keysbrook. For the purpose of this exercise the area in between will be considered the metropolitan area.

I seek an assurance from the Minister that he will give careful consideration to what could be a small number of applications—there certainly will be some—which will come forward, and which are likely to be affected because of this change in boundary. The towns I have in mind, and those now likely to be considered as in the metropolitan area, are Byford, Mundijong, Serpentine, and Jarrahdale. I take it the Minister will review the situation from time to time to ensure that the people in those areas will not lose anything as a result of the amendments in this Bill.

It has been mentioned on a number of occasions—certainly by the member for Darling Range—that these buffer areas in our electorates are constantly being affected as a result of issues such as those contained in the Bill. Accordingly it is with very keen interest that we watch the effects that a decision such as that contained in the measure is likely to have on the people concerned, having regard for the boundary under the metropolitan region town planning scheme.

We are ever watchful to ensure that the people in the areas concerned continue to receive such services as electricity, water and housing; and that they do not lose any of the privileges they have enjoyed in the past. We are certainly very pleased to note that the country areas are to receive greater consideration and further help. With an electorate such as mine, which has an area greater than all the electorates in the metropoliton area put together, there is certainly a tremendous amount of land which is considered rural; and to have it regarded strictly in the same vein as the metropolitan area is contrary to my thinking in the matter. It is certainly not in the best interests of the people who are, after all, purely rural in these areas.

For that reason I seek an assurance from the Minister that he will give every care and consideration to the applications which might come forward in the future.

MR. DAVIES (Victoria Park) [4.48 p.m.]: As has been explained by other members, this Bill seeks to alter money values that have changed with the changing times. I wonder whether the Minister, when he replies to the debate, can tell us whether any action has been taken to lift the means test which applies to particular pensioners who receive a rebate under the State Housing Act.

Some time ago I mentioned in the House that this was proving to be quite a hardship for many pensioners. Where, perhaps, the means test applied previously was reasonably generous, with the changing money values it is found to be far from generous, and should, in fact, be altered in accordance with present-day values.

Anyone who has received complaints from people who are on a rebate, and who as a result of the Federal Budget received a slight increase of, perhaps, 5s., knows that they will lose, possibly, 25 per cent. of this increase to the State Housing Commission. I am mindful of the fact that the State Housing Commission made a considerable profit last year, and I am sure that in this financial year its profits will again be quite substantial. But this is one field in which the State Government, without jeopardising its financial situation in any way, could make some concession to a section of our community which deserves it, namely, the pensioners; and if the Minister could say whether any attention has been given to alter the means test, I would appreciate it very much.

MR. O'NEIL (East Melville—Minister for Housing) [4.50 p.m.]: I thank members for their contributions to this debate and would like to endorse the fact that this Government will abide by the principle of the State Housing Act in that it is mainly an Act to encourage the ownership of homes by people of low and moderate income. Members need have no fear in this regard. It is not intended to go beyond this point and assist people outside it.

The member for Balcatta made some reference to the matter of decentralisation. I might add that the increasing demand for housing in the country is a sure indication of the effectiveness of the Government's policy in decentralisation; and further, in my view, the more we can encourage people who live in the country to purchase their own homes the more likely we are to stem, to some degree, the tendency for people to drift to the city areas.

The member for Balcatta also made reference to our having had some discussions relative to amendments which appear on the notice paper, both in my name and in his. I think we agreed in principle, but in the view of the Parliamentary draftsman, the honourable member's wording went a little further than was the intention. It went further in the wrong direction, if I may put it that way.

It gave to any Minister for Housing the power to establish the eligibility for country applicants at something below what is placed in the Statute relevant to applicants in the metropolitan area. So a rewording was necessary to ensure that a country applicant must have the same eligibility at least as a metropolitan applicant; but as a matter of policy his salary could be above that of a metropolitan applicant and limited to an amount one and a half times that of a metropolitan applicant. I do not object to that principle, and I think it is fair enough.

The eligibility set for a country applicant to get a Commonwealth-State rental home is $3,146. Under the honourable member's amendment it could be as high as $3,948, which is roughly, $800 more. It is intended to set the figure of $3,146 as a matter of policy. It must also be pointed out that this figure is variable. It does adjust automatically in accordance with the provisions of the State Housing Act.

Before proceeding to deal with the remarks made by the members for Albany, Dale, and Victoria Park, I think I ought to attempt again to make one point clear. Perhaps I did not do so when introducing the Bill. I think members must realise that the State has two main housing activities as far as the State Housing Commission is concerned. It builds houses under the State Housing Act—houses for sale to people of low and moderate income—and it carries out the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement as part of its functions. These are two separate and distinct exercises.

The reason for the amendment in this measure relevant to eligibility in the country is because of an anomaly that exists. The eligibility for applicants to purchase a house built under the State Housing Act is laid down in the Statute, but the eligibility of a person to rent a house built under the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement is variable by policy from time to time.

The situation now exists where a person in the country could be eligible to rent a house built under the Commonwealth-State Agreement, but not eligible to buy a house under the State Housing Act. It is in order to overcome this difficulty that I am asking Parliament, by means of this amending Bill, to allow the Minister, on the written recommendation of the Housing Commission, to vary the eligibility of purchase applicants in the country.

I do not know whether I have made the position any clearer, but there is not much more I can add. So, in fact, it is not intended to make more people eligible. We will still set the salary limit, but where a house is built under the State Housing Act, then ordinary rental eligibles may be able to purchase that house.

The member for Albany mentioned a number of people who, he thought, could be declared ineligible because, by reason of their occupation, they earned great amounts of overtime. It should be pointed out that in determining eligibility, overtime is not taken into account—it is not regarded as the ordinary wage of the person. However, if a person is self-employed as a carrier, or on a whaler, as mentioned by the honourable member, there is a difference. That sort of person is self-employed and his total income is taken into account.

Mr. Davies: How do you assess piece workers?

Mr. O'NEIL: This is difficult to answer, and I would prefer it if the honourable member would put his question on the notice paper or write to me. However, as a general principle eligibility is based on the ordinary income, discounting such matters as overtime.

Mr. Brady: What would be the position of a man who works in the north, with a family in the metropolitan area? If he were earning £35 at Port Hedland, he would not be able to get a house in the metropolitan area because he would be earning over £25.

Mr. O'NEIL: Does he have two houses?

Mr. Brady: No; he does not have a house in Perth or Port Hedland.

Mr. O'NEIL: I do not think this is the time to be covering the many individual problems that arise—and they do, from time to time. If members have specific problems of this nature I think they ought to be submitted to us so we can look at them in greater detail.

The member for Dale raised the point that because of trying to determine what is the metropolitan region for the purposes of this Act, we picked upon that region as defined in the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act. I suppose, when it is desired to give a Minister latitude to operate in certain areas, it is necessary to define the boundary in order to make it as wide as possible. We determined upon the boundary as laid down in the Metropolitan Region Town Planning Scheme Act. We did give some thought to specifying individual towns, but this became rather difficult. However, I do appreciate the problem on the fringes of the metropolitan region where there could be people previously regarded as country dwellers for the purposes of this Act, but who are now regarded as city or metropolitan applicants.

The answer is fairly simple. We sell to these people houses built with Commonwealth-State Housing funds rather than houses built with Housing Commission funds. So this is not a difficult proposition. I think I mentioned in my second reading speech on the Commonwealth and State Housing Agreement Bill that on a number of occasions the commission built houses in country towns with State funds, but we found people were not willing to purchase those houses.

So as an exercise internally in the commission, the houses have been transferred from State Housing Act houses to Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement houses, and thus people have been able to rent them. I want to make the point that basically very little difference exists between houses built under the Act and those built under the agreement. They are all built to the same designs and specifications except that with what we call preselection, an applicant for a State Housing

Act house has an opportunity to request certain modifications and alterations, within limits, provided he undertakes to pay for the alterations in addition to his deposit.

The member for Victoria Park once again brought to my notice a matter he raised during the debate on the Address-in-Reply, concerning the eligibility of pensioners for a rebate if they have a bank balance beyond a certain figure. I undertook, I think by way of interjection, to study the matter, and I now report to him that I have asked officers of the commission to look into the situation and to make recommendations to me.

I think that covers most of the points raised, and once again I thank members for their approval of this Bill.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

In Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Mr. W. A. Manning) in the Chair; Mr. O'Neil (Minister for Housing) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 and 2 put and passed.

Clause 3: Section 6 amended—

Mr. O'NEIL: I move an amendment—

Page 2, lines 6 to 14—Delete paragraph (d) and substitute the following:—

(d) is ordinarily resident south of the twenty-sixth parallel of latitude but not within the metropolitan region as defined by section two of the Town Planning and Development Act, 1928, and—

(i) is, at the time of his application under this Act, in receipt of such an amount of salary, wages or income as does not exceed the amount that would be applicable in relation to him under paragraph (b) of this interpretation; or

(ii) is, at that time, in receipt of such an amount of salary, wages or income as does not exceed by one-half the amount that would be applicable in relation to him under paragraph (b) of this interpretation, and who is, on the recommendation of the Commission and for reasons given by it in writing, approved by the Minister as a worker under and for the purposes of this Act.

This amendment will enable the Minister to declare a different eligibility with respect to the salaries for applicants in the country, and at the same time will mean that that declaration shall not exceed the metropolitan eligibility by more than one and a half times.

Mr. GRAHAM: Naturally I do not intend to oppose this amendment, but I have one or two observations to make. Firstly, I would point out to the Committee that, in addition to this increase of the amount so far as applicants are concerned, they will have a further advantage. Applicants in the metropolitan area are permitted an additional income of $50 per child, but with the insertion of this amendment, applicants in the country districts will be permitted an additional income of $75 a year for each child.

Apropos of this, I would point out it is the desire of the Minister that the operations under the State Housing Act and the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement be parallel. I would therefore ask him, through you, Mr. Chairman, whether it is the intention in respect of the Commonwealth-State Housing Agreement applicants to make an allowance for children. In other words, instead of an amount of $3,146, which is the figure allowed under the Act at the moment, will an extra $75 per child be allowed, so that a State Housing Act applicant with two children and an income of $3,296 will be eligible to purchase?

As I understand the position at the moment, the maximum will be $3,146 for a person seeking to rent a home under the agreement. I repeat that the Minister seeks synchronisation, and I therefore ask him to give an undertaking at least to look into the matter closely so that the same provision will apply in the country districts as in the metropolitan area.

Mr. O'NEIL: I agree with the honourable member. It appears that by making this adjustment, if we do not change the policy slightly, the provision will be operating to the detriment of the rental applicants. I will give an assurance that I will look into this matter and sort it out.

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Clause 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 66 amended—

Mr. O'NEIL: I move an amendment—

Page 3, line 23—Delete the passage "1956" and substitute the passage "1961".

Amendment put and passed.

Clause, as amended, put and passed.

Title put and passed.

Bill reported with amendments.

TOTALISATOR AGENCY BOARD BETTING ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

MR. CRAIG (Toodyay—Minister for Police) [5.11 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to amend the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act on the following lines:—

To establish agencies on racecourses.

To adjust on-course totalisator dividends on Eastern States events.

To adjust the formula of distribution of the board's surplus between racing and trotting interests.

To increase the penalties for illegal betting.

To extend to five years the limitation imposed under the Justices Act against action being taken in retrospect for a longer period than six months; and finally,

Conversion to decimal currency.

The first amendment refers to section 20 of the Act, which does not allow for the establishment of totalisator agencies on racecourses. This Bill proposes to permit this to be done, but only with the consent of the club concerned, and that point is specified in the Bill; and only for the purpose of accepting bets on horse races conducted outside of the State.

At present the board conducts certain quinella, and doubles betting on Eastern States events not always available on racecourses within the State. I feel sure there is no need for me to explain what quinella, and doubles betting mean. Whilst the board has nothing definite in mind on this matter, the passing of the amendment will mean that, with the consent of the racing club conducting the meeting, similar betting can be provided for the benefit of the on-course patrons.

It will, of course, be a local totalisator pool and the closing time before the event will be approximately 10 minutes. There are licensed bookmakers operating on course who handle win and place betting only on Eastern States events; and, if an agency is established, it will not offer this type of betting but will restrict its activities to quinella and doubles betting.

The second amendment, which is quite important, is to paragraph (a) of subsection (2) of section 22 of the Act. Here the Bill proposes to allow the board, when acting as a bookmaker on Eastern States events, to adjust the appropriate on-course totalisator dividends either upwards or downwards.

Members may not quite understand the reference to the board acting as a bookmaker, although it has been raised from time to time in the House. This does occur when the board receives investments on, say, an Eastern States racing event, and it is unable to transfer this investment to the on-course totalisator. Despite this, the board pays out its dividends on winning bets at the same rate as the on-course totalisator. Therefore, it is acting as a bookmaker. I think the Deputy Leader of the Opposition will agree with me to that extent, at any rate,

The only matters likely to be given early consideration, should this amendment be accepted, are the fixing of limits for win and place betting on horse races held outside of the State, and the establishing of a minimum dividend of 55c. This part of the Bill will at least guarantee a 5c win for those investors who take out their ticket on a very hot favourite. In the past they may have only received their money in return without any winnings.

Mr. Norton: What about the tax?

Mr. CRAIG: That is the bettor's concern. To continue, the fixing of limits is considered to be essential by the board. Since the establishment of totalisator agency boards in Victoria and New South Wales, the on-course dividends have, on many occasions, been greatly inflated by the relatively low investment on comparative outsiders. This has substantially increased the risk undertaken by the board in settling bets on Eastern States events at the on-course totalisator odds.

On one occasion last year the board had to pay a winner at odds of 570 to 1. Paying dividends of this magnitude without limits could result in the board facing a payout that would be extremely difficult to finance. Thus, the fixing of reasonable limits on win and place betting is considered to be justified. Of course, it might be thought by some members who have a knowledge of this problem that the solution would be to conduct our own tote pools on all Eastern States events. We do this to a certain extent at the present time.

A similar protection is at present provided for licensed off-course bookmakers where limits of 50 to 1 for a win and 12 to 1 for a place now apply. However, the proposal now submitted by the board, when acting as a bookmaker on Eastern States events, will provide substantially higher limits which will be not less than 100 to 1 for a win and 25 to 1 for a place.

The board is gradually increasing the number of win and place local tote pools conducted on Eastern States events and is thus progressively reducing the risks involved. However, as the board is likely always to continue to discharge bets on at least some of such events at the on-course totalisator odds, particularly on big races such as the Melbourne Cup, the granting of the amendment sought is warranted.

The third amendment is to section 28 of the Act. Here it is proposed to vary the formula for the distribution of the board's surplus to the racing and trotting bodies. I know this explanation will pos-

sibly become very involved but nevertheless I will try to make it as clear and concise as possible.

At the present time, the primary distribution between racing and trotting is on a turnover basis. The racing clubs receive the benefit of the off-course betting turnover on horse races held within the State, and the trotting clubs the benefit from trotting events held within the State. Of the off-course betting turnover derived from events conducted outside of the State, the racing clubs receive the benefit of 75 per cent., and the trotting clubs 25 per cent.

I might also explain that there are very few Eastern States trotting events that are handled by the board. Of the total turnover of the board no less than 49 per cent. is on Eastern States racing. Therefore it can be seen that this is quite a considerable part of the board's operations. When we consider that the turnover last year was something like $36,000,000 we realise how much money is invested on Eastern States events. At least it is one consolation to know it is not going out of the State.

Mr. May: None of that money was mine.

Mr. CRAIG: The annual report from the board was tabled last week, and it makes quite interesting reading. If any member should desire a copy I will be glad to supply it to him. It is considered that should this formula continue to apply, then the racing clubs would enjoy about 61.5 per cent, and the trotting clubs about 38.5 per cent. of the board's surplus.

Of the amount due to the racing clubs, the W.A. Turf Club is permitted to retain 80 per cent. for its own purposes, and the other 20 per cent. is distributed amongst the country clubs on the basis of stakes paid for the previous year.

Of the amount due to the trotting clubs, the W.A. Trotting Association shares 85 per cent. with the Fremantle Trotting Club on the basis of stakes paid for the previous year to the Fremantle Trotting Club, and pays over the remaining 15 per cent. to the country trotting clubs, which is again shared between the country clubs on the basis of stakes paid.

When the T.A.B. legislation was being framed in 1960, it was believed that, under the existing distribution formula, the trotting bodies would receive 33.48 per cent. of the board's surplus and the racing bodies 66.52 per cent. Since then, mainly due to increases in turnover on country night trotting events, the position of the trotting clubs has improved at the expense of the racing clubs.

I have some figures here which show the percentage of the turnover for both trotting clubs and racing clubs. The percentages given for the trotting clubs are those arrived at after taking into account their 25 per cent. share of Eastern States investments on racing. The figures are as follows:—

Year	Trotting Clubs per cent.	Racing Clubs per cent.
1962	35.78	64.22
1963	37.21	62.79
1964	37.73	62.27
1965	38.57	61.43
1966	38.82	61.18

It can be seen from the foregoing that there has been a gradual increase in the turnover of Western Australian trotting, whereas, on the other hand, there has been a gradual decrease in the percentage of the turnover of racing clubs.

It is expected that, for the current year, due to a slight rise in the Eastern States' turnover, 75 per cent. of which is credited to racing, the trotting clubs will receive about 38.5 per cent. and the racing clubs 61.5 per cent. of the board's surplus.

If these figures can be memorised by members, it will be noted that the position so far as the percentage of turnover is concerned has been fairly stable over the last two years, and will be for the ensuing year. On this basis, as the Act now stands, the respective percentages of those concerned would be—

	per cent.	per cent.
W.A. Turf Club	49.20	
Country racing clubs	12.30	
Total racing		61.50
W.A. Trotting Association (about)	26.50	
Fremantle Trotting Club (about)	6.45	
Country trotting clubs	5.55	
Total trotting		38.50

The Bill proposes to amend the formula so that the distribution as from the 1st August, 1966, will be on a fixed basis with 60 per cent. going to the racing clubs and 40 per cent. to the trotting clubs. The country clubs, both racing and trotting, are to receive 20 per cent. of the amounts received by their respective parent bodies to be shared as at present; that is, on the basis of stakes paid for the previous year.

It can be seen that it is proposed to increase the percentage of the country trotting clubs from 15 per cent. to 20 per cent., which is in line with that received by the country racing clubs.

If the amendment is accepted, the new percentages to the total turnover will be—

	per cent.	
W.A. Turf Club	48	(which is a drop of 1.2 per cent. on the present basis of distribution)
Country racing clubs	12	(which is a drop of 0.3 per cent. on the same basis)
W.A. Trotting Association	25	(which is a drop of 1.5 per cent. on the same basis)
Fremantle Trotting Club	7	(which is a gain of 0.55 per cent. on the same basis)
Country trotting clubs	8	(which is a gain of 2.45 per cent. on the same basis)

Based on an annual surplus of $1,200,000 to be distributed by the board, it can be calculated that the Fremantle Trotting Club will gain $6,600, and the country

trotting clubs $29,400 per annum, the gains totalling $36,000 per annum. The losers will be—

W.A. Turf Club	$14,400
Country racing clubs	3,600
Total racing losses	18,000
W.A. Trotting Association	18,000
Total losses	$36,000

Mr. J. Hegney: What is the proposal for the revenue above the proposed fixed amount?

Mr. CRAIG: This is only an estimate based on the fixing of the percentage—that is 60/40, and this is based on the amount available for surplus. This is what the figures would realise monetarily.

The board's decision to recommend an amendment to the distribution formula mainly arose out of a request made on behalf of the country clubs for a greater share in the surplus. I had received numerous requests; and deputations were received by me from the Country Trotting Association for something to be done on the lines of increasing their percentage. On each occasion I had said that I thought this was a domestic matter which should be resolved within the association itself. However, the matter came to the stage that I referred it to the board, which consists of the racing and trotting interests; and, as a result, this recommendation came forward.

For the year ended the 31st July, 1966, the board's turnover on country trotting meetings represented 20.45 per cent. of the total trotting turnover. Thus there does not appear to be any good reason why the country trotting clubs, like the country racing clubs, should not receive 20 per cent. of the amount paid over to the parent body.

It is interesting to note that the increase in trotting turnover within the State has been due mainly to the increase in night trotting in the country. In 1962 the percentage of night trotting to the total trotting turnover was 6 per cent., but it has gradually risen to a percentage figure of 20 per cent. which, of course, strengthens the claim of the Country Trotting Association for an increase.

A slight gain to the Fremantle Trotting Club is also recommended. In arranging for the Fremantle Trotting Club to receive 7 per cent. of the board's surplus in lieu of sharing an amount with the W.A. Trotting Association on the basis of stakes paid for the previous year, some protection is afforded to the Fremantle Trotting Club against a drop in revenue caused by the W.A. Trotting Association paying increased stakes that could not be matched by the Fremantle club.

As mentioned, the expected gain to the country trotting clubs and the Fremantle Trotting Club is $36,000, of which $18,000 will come from the racing clubs and a similar amount from the W.A. Trotting Association.

The view is also held that in fixing the primary distribution between racing and trotting—60 per cent. to racing and 40 per cent. to trotting—and completely ignoring the betting turnover, racing and trotting representatives on the board, in considering board matters, will be more inclined to consider what is best for the board; and racing and trotting interests as a whole, rather than how board decisions will affect their respective bodies. This is one of the reasons for the formation of the board in the first place.

The proposed new formula is based on turnover over the past few years, but, should there be any substantial variation in actual turnover in the future, it will of course be necessary for the position to again be reviewed and adjustments made accordingly.

I hope that explanation has been understood by you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Hawke: How does the Minister justify a formula which will give less to the country racing clubs?

Mr. CRAIG: It is worked out on the basis of the figures for the previous year.

Mr. Hawke: How does the Minister justify that?

Mr. CRAIG: Apparently the racing clubs are willing to make this sacrifice in the interests of trotting. The fourth amendment proposed is the doubling of the pecuniary penalties for illegal betting (first offences) under sections 45 and 46 of the Act. The present penalties are—

(a) for illegal bookmaking—a minimum of $500 and a maximum of $1,000, or a gaol sentence not exceeding two months; and,

(b) for an illegal backer—minimum $100, maximum $500, or a gaol sentence not exceeding one month.

Experience has shown that magistrates invariably fix the minimum penalty. As the existing penalties do not appear to be a sufficient deterrent, it is proposed to double the pecuniary penalties only. In addition, as illegal bookmakers have become so expert in avoiding detection, it is felt that when one is caught, the penalties should be severe. The new penalties are—

(a) for an illegal bookmaker—a minimum of $1,000 and a maximum of $2,000;

(b) for an illegal backer—a minimum of $200 and a maximum of $1,000;

with no increase in the penal provisions.

The fifth amendment is also to section 45. As already mentioned, it has been found most difficult to detect the expert illegal operator. In the past, what might have constituted sufficient evidence to secure a conviction in two or three cases, had such evidence been available in time, could not be used because section 51 of the Justices Act requires that the complaint must be made within six months of the offence having been committed. The further amendment to section 45 proposes to remove complaints for offences under this section from the ambit of the Justices Act so that a complaint for an offence under section 45 of the Totalisator Agency Board Betting Act may be made at any time within five years from the date the offence is committed.

In time, as the period gradually extends from the existing six months up to five years, this amendment could well prove to be a strong deterrent to illegal betting. It is intended that this be retrospective.

Mr. Davies: Are you going to give us any figures to substantiate the need for an increase in the penalties?

Mr. CRAIG: I cannot really substaniate it on figures. I can base it only on the knowledge that the board is aware of the extent of illegal bookmaking.

Mr. Davies: Can you tell us, perhaps at a later date, the number of successful and unsuccessful prosecutions?

Mr. CRAIG: There have not been a great many, but there have been a number over the past few years. I can obtain the complete information and make it available to the honourable member later.

The sixth and final amendment is merely to convert, where necessary, amounts of money into their corresponding amounts in decimal currency.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Tonkin (Deputy Leader of the Opposition).

INDUSTRIAL LANDS (KWINANA) RAILWAY BILL

Second Reading

MR. COURT (Nedlands—Minister for Railways) [5.35 p.m.]: I move—

> That the Bill be now read a second time.

For two reasons there is some doubt in my mind whether the Bill is really necessary; firstly, because of provisions of the 1964 legislation; and, secondly, because of the normal deviation provisions that are inherent in all legislation on new railway construction. However, to avoid any future query it was decided a Bill should be introduced, although it is only for a short length of connecting railway from the Kwinana-Kenwick railway into the fertiliser works. Once the railway is in the area occupied by the works the railway siding becomes entirely the company's responsibility.

The Bill is complementary to the Industrial Lands (Kwinana) Agreement Act, No. 93 of 1964—assented to on the 14th December, 1964—which, under clause 18 of the schedule provides that—

> The State will ensure that Area D (as defined in the interpretation to the Act) will be connected by rail to both the now existing narrow and the future proposed standard gauge railway systems.

Construction of the fertiliser works is well in hand, and to ensure that it will be ready for operation by the time production commences, it is now necessary that the connecting railway be built.

Although the line comes off the main Kenwick-Kwinana link and turns south to the CSBP boundary, it is not a deviation of the former in the true sense, but really a branch railway; and, as such, there being no other suitable legislation under which it could be constructed, to conform with section 96 of the Public Works Act, a special Act for its making is necessary.

The Bill provides only for construction to the CSBP boundary at this stage, the sidings, etc., within the works being the responsibility of the company. As members are aware, further development in the area southwards, and on Garden Island, is envisaged as a long-range project. When this eventuates it will be possible to extend the line and provide essential rail connections to such industries, port facilities, etc., as may develop.

This Bill, however, refers only to the connecting railway, which members will see in the schedule is about 1 mile 65 chains 70 links.

With your approval, Mr. Speaker, I will table the plan required by the Act in respect of the construction of a new railway. It is plan No. 57911. I also seek permission to table a report by the Commissioner of Transport in accordance with the provisions of the State Transport Coordination Act. I doubt whether the tabling of such a report is necessary, but to remove any doubt I will table it if you, Sir, are agreeable.

The plan and report were tabled.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Mr. Hawke (Leader of the Opposition).

House adjourned at 5.39 p.m.