

Legislative Council

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Wednesday, 21 September 1988

THE PRESIDENT (Hon Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 2.30 pm, and read prayers.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES STANDING COMMITTEE

Country High School Hostels Authority

HON MARK NEVILL (South East) [2.33 pm]: I am directed to present the twentieth report of the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, which is a report on the operations of the Country High School Hostels Authority. I think I can safely say that all members of the committee found this to be one of the most interesting and valuable inquiries undertaken by the committee. Some members may not be aware that the Country High School Hostels Authority provides boarding accommodation for over 900 country students through hostels in Albany, Esperance, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Katanning, Merredin, Moora, Narrogin and Northam.

Hostels provide the only means for many country students to continue high school education other than by correspondence. Each hostel has a direct impact on its town's economy through the consumption of goods and services. However, the hostels have a greater impact through the collateral benefits which they provide. In many cases it is hostel students who make the local high school viable, thus directly affecting the quality of education available to their community. In addition, the increase in population provided by hostels makes other community facilities viable. Properly managed hostels also provide services and facilities to the wider community, and provide their students with worthwhile social and academic support not otherwise available to country students.

Committee members visited each of the authority's nine hostels during the course of the inquiry and found a number of impressive hostels and dedicated staff. The committee also found a number of significant problems which need to be rectified if the country high school hostel system is to prosper. The major areas of concern related to finance, management and communication, but the committee's 33 recommendations cover a wide field. I will not go through all the recommendations contained in the report; however, I would like to highlight some of the major recommendations. The most important recommendation is that coordination of country high school hostels should remain the function of the independent Country High School Hostels Authority and should not be transferred to the Ministry of Education as was proposed by a number of witnesses. In addition the committee recommended that -

The Country High School Hostels Authority should be renamed the "High School Residential Colleges Authority" and all existing hostels should be renamed "Residential Colleges";

the Country High School Hostels Authority should enter into negotiations with the Rotary Club of Victoria Park and Kent Street Senior High School with a view to forming a joint venture to establish a hostel adjacent to the Kent Street Senior High School for country students attending specialist courses at Kent Street and other senior high schools;

the Government should examine the financial requirements of Swanleigh Anglican Hostel in Middle Swan and make a grant of funds to the hostel sufficient to ensure its long term viability as an independent metropolitan hostel;

the State Government Boarding Away from Home Allowance and the per student grant to hostels should be abolished and the State Government should assume the responsibility for paying the salaries of all hostel supervisory staff;

the Country High School Hostels Authority should use local trades people and professionals for capital works projects whenever possible; and

the Ministry of Education should pay the Country High School Hostels Authority a commercial rate of return for all the authority properties used by the Ministry.

The report represents the unanimous findings of the committee, and I commend it to the House and the Government. On behalf of the committee I would like to record the full cooperation of the hostels authority and its staff and to thank those people who assisted in the inquiry, particularly the board members, staff and students of the hostels who met with the committee and greeted us with hospitality and forthright comments, and my fellow members on the committee. I would particularly like to pay tribute to the many people who give up their valuable time to serve on the local boards of management of our country hostels. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the very competent and highly professional work of our principal adviser, Mr Garry Newcombe, who has served the committee for four years and who plans to leave soon: I wish him every success. Mr President, I move -

That the report do lie upon the Table and be printed.

Question put and passed.

[See paper No 440.]

HON N.F. MOORE (Lower North) [2.38 pm] - by leave: I second the motion, and thank the House for allowing me to say a few words in support of Hon Mark Nevill in presenting this report to the House. It demonstrates for all to see that the Standing Committee on Government Agencies is a very worthwhile operation. It has been operating for a number of years and I think that I am the only member who has been on that committee since its inauguration. It has been a worthwhile committee which has demonstrated quite clearly to me the importance of having a Standing Committee of this House set up in the way in which this committee is. It has access to a full time executive officer, in this case Garry Newcombe, who has proved to be an outstanding officer of undoubted capacity. It is regrettable, as Hon Mark Nevill has said, that Mr Newcombe is going to greener pastures, but I trust that when we are given an opportunity to appoint a successor we will be able to find somebody of equal capacity and competence, although it will be difficult.

The report itself has taken quite a long time to compile, and that in itself is a sensible approach, because it was important for the committee to be able to conduct an in-depth inquiry into the activities of just one of the 600 odd statutory authorities which come within its jurisdiction. It has taken 12 months to look at one authority; one wonders how long it would take for a committee such as ours to look at all the authorities which are commonly called quangos.

Hon P.G. Pendal: There are only about 800, I think; fortunately you are still very young.

Hon N.F. MOORE: It demonstrates the problems the Parliament has in keeping track of the authorities which it sets up and which come under its jurisdiction. This inquiry produced a very good report. The committee unanimously agreed to all the recommendations. The recommendations we have made in respect of the Country High Schools Hostels Authority will lead to that authority becoming a better and more efficient organisation, and will ultimately lead to the hostels in our country towns providing a better service for the students and parents who use them. The report mentions that the authority has been starved of capital funds in recent years. While the present Budget allocates \$120 000 for the Esperance Hostel, which is long overdue, I hope the Government will acknowledge the need for some capital injection into other country hostels.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I must remind the honourable member, and indeed the House, that in regard to the tabling of reports, the procedure is very clear. A report can be moved without notice, but Standing Order No 366 clearly indicates that the reports can be tabled without any discussion or comment. In recent times there has been a tendency for the chairman of the committee who is tabling the report to make some short explanatory comment about the mechanics of the preparation of that report. That has been condoned in the knowledge that the contents of the report are not discussed. Hon Mark Nevill today made such an explanatory comment, and although it was a long one I do not believe he actually spoke about the contents of the report, although he many have drifted on to it on a couple of occasions.

I am now concerned that in an endeavour to circumvent Standing Order No 366 members are seeking leave to make a statement. I do not believe that leave extends to allowing discussions of the content of the report. I believe that leave does nothing more than permit the member to make a statement about the preparation of the report. In this place at least, if

members want to discuss the content of the report, there is a procedure to be adopted, and that is that somebody moves for notice to be taken of the paper, in the same way as we are dealing at present with the Budget papers. I intervened on Hon Norman Moore because I believe his statement is proceeding beyond that for which leave was granted, and he is endeavouring to discuss the contents of the report. I suggest he ought not to.

Hon N.F. MOORE: Far be it from me to transgress the Standing Orders. I want to make the point, Sir, that I did suggest the course of action you talked about - that is that it be made an Order of the Day for the next sitting of the House - but it was suggested to me by persons who have more authority or say about what goes on in this place than I that that was not what was wanted, and I was asked to do it in this way. I accepted that advice. However, I accept your ruling, and I will simply commend the report to the House and hope members will read it. It is a worthwhile report, and the recommendations will make a far better Country High Schools Hostels Authority.

HON E.J. CHARLTON (Central) [2.47 pm] - by leave: I commend to the House the report which Hon Mark Nevill has tabled and to which Hon Norman Moore referred because I think it is such an important report. It addresses a very critical situation which confronts so many country parents. I trust this report will have the opportunity to reach a great many people, and in particular members of Parliament who may be in a position to take advantage of it, so that the Government can respond to its recommendations. Those parents and people involved in education are no doubt under severe stress at this time, not only as a result of the financial responsibilities involved, but also as a result of the human resources necessary to provide adequate education for their children, or country students as a whole. Many parents are involved in educating children in isolated areas, to use the common term, and the report which has been laid on the Table today is something that I hope the Government of the day will pick up very quickly and respond to. I hope the people who had an input into the report will see that that input is kept up and responded to. I commend the people involved.

BILLS (9) - INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

1. Spent Convictions Bill
2. Acts Amendment (Spent Convictions) Bill
3. Evidence Amendment Bill
4. Taxation (Reciprocal Powers) Bill
5. Equal Opportunity Amendment Bill
6. Miscellaneous Amendments and Repeals Bill
Bills introduced, on motions by Hon Kay Hallahan (Minister for Community Services), and read a first time.
7. Local Government Amendment Bill (No 2)
8. Veterinary Surgeons Amendment Bill
9. Acts Amendment (Stock Diseases) Bill
Bills introduced, on motions by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Consumer Affairs), and read a first time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

On motion by Hon Fred McKenzie resolved -

That leave of absence for three consecutive sittings of the House be granted to Hon Robert Hetherington (South-East Metropolitan) on the ground of parliamentary business.

On motion by Hon Margaret McAleer resolved -

That leave of absence for six consecutive sittings of the House be granted to Hon A.A. Lewis (Lower Central) on the ground of parliamentary business.

**APPROPRIATION (CONSOLIDATED REVENUE FUND)
BILL**

Consideration of Tabled Paper

Debate resumed from 20 September.

HON S.M. PIANTADOSI (North Central Metropolitan) [3.00 pm]: I rise in full support of the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure as presented by the Government for 1988-89. The areas on which the Government has concentrated, areas such as housing, community services, health, education, transport and public order, concern a large number of the problems which exist not only in my current electorate but, even more so, in the electorate which I will represent after the next State elections, the Province of North Metropolitan.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: Where did you get the ticket?

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: Hon Philip Lockyer should not worry about where I got the ticket; we will still be here and he will still be on the Opposition side.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: That is not true.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: Interjections from the Opposition have attacked the Government's Budget and the current problems, but we have not heard one word about the benefits which have been provided by the economic package brought forward by the Government - benefits to areas such as public order, which was a big issue.

Hon Max Evans interjected.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: I am sorry to hear that, because we will share the same area next year. The member has made no mention of the problem areas. The Opposition seems to think North Metropolitan exists only as far as Dalkeith.

Hon Max Evans interjected.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: That is what I am saying. I do not know whether the member is aware of the problems which exist in that area.

Hon Max Evans: I am aware of the problems.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: The member should look at the problem areas and see what the Government has done to overcome them. Law and order is one problem.

Hon P.G. Pandal: You are joking.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: If members do not want to represent the areas of Balga, Girrawheen and Koondoola they should say so. If they want only to represent Dalkeith, Nedlands and Peppermint Grove they should say that as well. Instead of attacking the Government package, members should look at it in terms of the areas they represent and see what that package will do for them.

Hon W.N. Stretch: Law and order in Balga is a disgrace.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: There are problems, we acknowledge that and are addressing them.

Hon P.G. Pandal: You are two years too late.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: We have heard about the problem of education. I am proud to say that there is funding for at least seven new schools. The North Metropolitan area is one of the fastest growing areas in the State, including Wanneroo. Even members opposite will recall that Mayor Bradshaw outlined some of the difficulties the City of Stirling experienced in coping without certain services because it was expanding at such an alarming rate. I am glad to say that moneys for those facilities will be made available, and I hope the Opposition will take that into consideration.

Hon P.G. Pandal interjected.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: A member of the Opposition's own party has stated that problems in his area need attention. Assistance has now been given and members opposite should acknowledge that.

Hon P.G. Pandal: The Malibu school says the assistance has not been given.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: I am talking about the North Metropolitan area. The South Metropolitan area is a matter for Hon Phillip Pandal, and I did not hear him refer to that -

Hon P.G. Pandal: That is because I haven't spoken yet.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: Hon Phillip Pandal has not referred to that matter at all; obviously his area does not extend past Mt Pleasant.

Hon P.G. Pandal: You wait, I can assure you I will speak on the Malibu school, where you have robbed the kids blind.

Hon Kay Hallahan: You really are obnoxious.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: The member had an opportunity in his own speech to mention this, and he did not.

Hon P.G. Pandal: I have not spoken yet, you silly man.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: As I said, there will be seven new schools, some preprimary schools, and funds for the redevelopment and maintenance of others.

Another initiative is the allocation for family centres, and I return to the statement made by the Mayor of Wanneroo.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: Two broken election promises.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: The mayor has said there is a need for these because the area has expanded -

Hon P.H. Lockyer: You said in two elections you were going to build these preschool centres.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: I do not mind if the Opposition wants to score points, Mr President. The supply of water to Western Australians in many centres was provided not by a Liberal-National Party Government, but by a Labor Government.

Hon P.H. Lockyer interjected.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: The Opposition was in power in the past and neglected its own people and sold them down the drain.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order! I call the honourable member to order, and we will set a few rules. Interjections are out of order and I will not tolerate them. It is equally intolerable for the member who is supposedly addressing the Chair to neglect to do that and to carry on a private argument with people who are out of order. By doing so he tars himself with the same brush. I have always considered the honourable member to be a stickler for obeying the rules, and he is allowing himself to be conned into breaking them. I suggest that he direct his comments to this Chair; there is no chance that I will interject on him.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: Thank you, Mr President. I agree 100 per cent with some of your remarks.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Which ones don't you agree with?

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: One can see why Western Australians will not accept the Opposition as an alternative to this Government. I am glad to see that you, Mr President, have assessed the situation and that that is your opinion also.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: That is not what the polls say.

Hon P.G. Pandal: The mates of the millionaires.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: I will endeavour not to disobey your ruling, Mr President, and

will direct my statements to you. I know that I will be granted your protection from the likes of Hon Philip Lockyer.

The other area relevant to North Metropolitan is that of housing. Areas of Koondoola, Mirrabooka and Girrawheen have benefited over the last few months from the Government's housing program, and the Government is continuing to expand in that area. I am not sure whether all members in this House have experienced requests for State housing. I wish to inform those that have not that there are backlogs in certain areas of up to two years for people waiting for houses. Those people who need emergency housing are given assistance by way of rental relief in the private sector. The State Government is treating the need to house people as an ongoing project. The Government considers it a priority and the provision of funds to continue the housing project is a major factor in this Budget. An amount of \$102 million has been allocated to the Government's home lending program. The allocation for the purchase of additional rental units has increased this financial year by 52 per cent. The Government's land expenditure program has been increased to \$69 million and it will double the number of lots available for the first home buyers' scheme or for the construction of Homeswest accommodation. An amount of \$6.76 million will be available for bond and rent money and I have already outlined to the House that there is a need for the provision of these funds. In my province of North Central Metropolitan the availability of land is minimal and the price of land has skyrocketed. As a result, the prospect of buying a home has been put beyond the reach of many families, especially those families on a low income and the aged. One thousand additional units will be provided by the Government over the next few years to provide housing for the aged and invalid pensioners.

[Quorum formed.]

Hon S.M. PLANTADOSI: A great deal of discussion has taken place over the last few weeks about immigration and multicultural and ethnic affairs. Notwithstanding that publicity, I am glad that the Government's commitment to multiculturalism will continue. The funds allocated have increased in this year's Budget and will help to implement the proposed initiatives. The actual increase in the budget of the Multicultural and Ethnic Affairs Commission is 20 per cent. The funds will allow for the further development of multicultural access, an examination of discrimination against people of migrant background and the dissemination of multilingual information, especially in regard to health issues. The funding will provide for the migrant and ethnic health scheme which is a community based program to ensure equal access to health care services. The most important item in the package is the overseas accreditation unit.

During the debate on multiculturalism a lot has been said about the problems which exist and how we should be looking toward skilled migration. One area which the Federal Government has failed to consider in making its assessment of proposed immigrants was its outdated accreditation system with respect to overseas qualifications. It had become a real problem. If there is any criticism of the Federal Government in respect of immigration packages and meeting the needs for the future it is that before it commissioned the Fitzgerald inquiry it should have recommissioned the Downer committee to investigate the accreditation of overseas qualifications. The accreditation unit will help to allay the fears of many Western Australians. Many immigrants coming into this country are skilled workers, ranging from doctors and engineers to skilled tradesmen, but their qualifications are not recognised in this country. Many prospective immigrants are misled by immigration officers overseas. They are of the opinion that they will not have problems with their qualifications and as you know, Mr President, that is not the case. On arrival in Australia they become disappointed because of the non recognition of their qualifications, which has an immediate impact on their plan to stay in Australia. I am very interested in this subject and I am disappointed at the response from members opposite. The Leader of the Opposition in this State has been sitting on the fence - initially he supported Mr Howard, but then he took a softer option and decided not to comment on the subject.

Hon T.G. Butler: He put his foot in it.

Hon S.M. PLANTADOSI: He certainly did. Not one member of the Opposition in this House or in the other place has spoken in support of Asian people who were coming under attack by Mr Howard and Mr Stone.

Hon P.G. Pental: Did you castigate Graeme Campbell?

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: We did.

Hon P.G. Pental: Tell us about that. You did not think he had the right to discuss the matter in public either.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: We have distanced ourselves -

Hon P.G. Pental: He thinks you are fascists.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: Hon Phil Pental should get his facts right.

Hon P.G. Pental: Sorry.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: The Western Australian State Caucus of the Labor Party distanced itself from the remarks made by Mr Campbell. We did not at any time say that he should not have made those remarks. We distanced ourselves from those remarks and did not try to silence him.

Hon P.G. Pental: His endorsement is under threat.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: He made a statement and the Caucus moved a motion to disagree with it. We did not say that Mr Campbell was not entitled to his opinion.

Hon P.G. Pental: You are trying to interfere with his endorsement instead.

Several members interjected.

Hon S.M. PIANTADOSI: The biggest problem in respect of multiculturalism, ethnic affairs and immigration is that the Opposition has been found lacking. I dare say that after the next election not one member of the Opposition will have the knowledge or will show sufficient interest to handle matters of this kind. Accreditation for qualifications is a must, and the quicker that scheme gets off the ground the quicker many people within our community will be able to secure employment. Currently courses are run at the North Perth Migrant Resource Centre and the Fremantle Migrant Resource Centre where these people are given assistance in job seeking skills and gaining employment in their related fields, even though many of their qualifications are not recognised. Their chance will come as soon as that unit is established. This will eliminate much of the discrimination against those people; discrimination that in part has been created by Government policies in the past and the misinformation given to migrants before they come to Australia.

The proposal in respect of State water supplies was greatly overdue. The Minister, Ernie Bridge, has a great commitment to his portfolio and his personal interest in it has been responsible for the supply of water being extended into many towns within the State which previously had no supply of scheme water. The Harris River Dam, which will supply high quality water, will replace the Wellington Dam supply, which has very high salinity levels. It is estimated that 14 000 connections will be made in 31 towns in the great southern in the vacuum which existed from the goldfields water scheme to the Wellington Dam, which covered the area. I certainly hope that the suggestion that water be brought from the Ord River in the north west to the south of the State will be considered by this Government. I hope Mr Bridge follows through with that proposal because, although a large capital outlay is involved in the short term, the long term benefits, not only to this State but also to South Australia and possibly part of the Northern Territory, will be immense. It will secure a future for Western Australia, which future at the moment is very uncertain. When a State relies more and more on ground water, there is a pressing need to develop such a project to ensure that it has a continued source of good water.

Notwithstanding that aspect, I support the Government's initiatives with regard to a plant to take up the toxic and liquid wastes within the State. A certain area will be affected by the plant proposed in the goldfields. However, a solution must be found for the disposal of the many wastes in the city area. Currently there are problems within the City of Stirling as a result of the liquid transfer station mooted by the council. A few residents are concerned particularly about the disposal of toxic wastes. Even though the proposal is only for a transfer station many problems are associated with it. My interest in this subject goes back many years to when the liquid waste disposal site was established above the Gngangara mound. I expressed concern at the time and was promptly told that it would last forever and that no problems would arise with the ground water supply. Within a year three bores drawing water for the Mirrabooka treatment plant had to be closed because the liquid waste

had seeped into the watertable and polluted it. Therefore, water could no longer be drawn from that area. Sixty per cent of the water supply for the northern suburbs is derived from ground water and we need to protect those areas.

The Government should carefully consider the proposal that septic tanks should be phased out and we should convert to deep sewerage in the metropolitan area. Our reliance on ground water is such that we must ensure that the water supply does not become polluted. Once the pollution gets into the underground streams a large area will be affected, none more so than in the north metropolitan area, particularly Wanneroo. During past summers after several days of temperatures above 40 degrees I have observed that the Wanneroo ground water supply cannot cope with the demand, and as a consequence, the quality of the water from the treatment plant declines. Many problems are associated with this area, and I support the Government's initiative. I am sure that the Government will continue to take a strong interest, especially in that area, for the reasons I have outlined.

HON P.H. LOCKYER (Lower North) [3.27 pm]: I too rise to support the motion, and I congratulate the Governor of Western Australia, Professor Gordon Reid, on the way in which he presented the Government's initiatives to the Parliament. Although, naturally, I do not agree with all the areas into which the money will be diverted, Western Australia is blessed by having a very good Governor. I hope the Government is seriously considering the proposal I read in the Press recently to extend the Governor's term for a further 18 months. Professor Reid and his charming and gracious wife do the State proud, and it would be politically wise of the Government and it would receive the total acceptance of all people in Western Australia, particularly the political parties, were his term to be extended.

I want to speak this afternoon on a subject that relates to part of my electorate, and which has been in the news in the last few months; I refer to coastal surveillance in the Western Australian waters and the problem that is arising with the ever increasing intrusion of Indonesian fishermen into our waters. I make it very clear from the outset that I believe the surveillance methods available at the moment are stretched to their very limit, and the people involved are doing the best they can with very limited resources. A variety of expert opinions have been given in the past, particularly in the last few weeks, and this afternoon I will put to the Parliament and the Government a constructive proposal for a method by which to solve this problem of coastal surveillance.

Hon Tom Stephens: We will put you in the area on a 24 hour surveillance. That would get you out of here, anyway.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The member can be my spotter, and I shall loosen the doors. I am confident that even Hon Tom Stephens will support what I am about to suggest to the House in a serious effort to improve the surveillance of our coast. In 1978 a leading fishing entrepreneur in this State, Mr Michael Kailis, along with another group of companies, developed a boat known as the P150. A number of members of Parliament of all political persuasions have inspected this project, and I regret to say that the proposal which was put to the Australian authorities has not yet been picked up. I know that the Government of the Solomon Islands and other Governments within the Pacific region have taken the opportunity to purchase this economically built boat. On 15 December 1987 the then Minister for Transport, Senator Gareth Evans, who is now the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, decided there should be a fundamental re-examination of the northern coastal surveillance requirements. He arranged for the coastal surveillance arrangements to be examined in the first instance by Hon Hugh Hudson. I have read carefully the report put forward by that gentleman and believe it was a very good report.

The background to surveillance in Australia is that Australia's coastline stretches over a total distance of 12 000 miles. That is a considerable amount of area to cover, and when one considers this tremendous expanse one realises we have a limited coastal surveillance capacity. At present the coastal surveillance activities are coordinated by the Coastal Protection Unit of the Australian Federal Police in five ways. The first way is by civilian littoral aerial surveillance patrols between Karratha in Western Australia and Cairns in Queensland, which is virtually the top end of Australia. The second way is by the Royal Australian Air Force Orion P3 long range patrol aircraft based in South Australia, which are used principally to monitor foreign fishing vessels. The third way is by Royal Australian Navy patrol boats, which are mainly the Fremantle class boats. The fourth way is by the use

of Australian Customs Service launches, and the fifth way is by the use, when necessary, of chartered aircraft and vessels.

It is no secret that the northern Australian coastline is particularly vulnerable to drug running and the movement of illegal immigrants. A constant threat, and the most important one, is that of exotic diseases, which threaten our agricultural and pastoral industries, which are the most important part of the Australian export economy. The recent spate of Indonesian vessels entering Australian waters off the north west coast is a prime example of the illegal and potentially dangerous activity I am referring to. One does not have to be an Einstein to know that every one of these small boats that comes across has on it some form of animal life, whether that be chickens, cats or dogs, that is potentially dangerous to our agricultural industries. The greatest concern we have is that the ability of the surveillance aircraft to detect these small wooden boats is limited. I have spent a considerable amount of time checking to see for how many hours the surveillance aircraft operate. What should worry us the most is the fact that the Australian fishing zone was cut to only 700 hours of surveillance by the RAAF this year, compared with 1 200 hours last year and 1 450 in 1985-86. I was dismayed to read recently in *The Canberra Times* of 18 February 1988 that this was to allow additional patrols in the south west Pacific and because of crew shortages. I can understand that we need to direct these sorts of civil arrangements by the RAAF to defence capabilities.

I want to read to the House a paragraph from the Dibb report, titled "Review of Australia's Defence Capabilities". Members will remember that Paul Dibb was commissioned by the Federal Government to prepare a report on our defence capabilities. I quote -

Peacetime civil commitments at home raise difficult resource issues. . . . Over time these national needs have become more demanding of scarce resources to the detriment of other defence tasks. While these activities are nationally important, the extent of the commitment requires careful monitoring so that ADF capabilities and priorities are not distorted.

It was perfectly clear that we should direct all our defence efforts primarily towards defence. Paul Dibb was saying that the level of commitment by the armed forces to coastal surveillance activity is based on defence priorities unrelated to the real needs for coastal surveillance. As far as I am concerned there seems to be a fallacy in the belief that air surveillance will cover all intrusions. In my view the boats, because of their smallness and type, are exceptionally hard to detect by air, and the worst part about it is that there is no suitable surface backup available for a ready response if the air surveillance people find these boats. As I said at the beginning of my speech, the surveillance aircraft and the backup units on the ground that are available to them do their very best.

I am concerned also that the capability of the J class customs boats based on the Western Australian coast is considered by local mariners to be so limited as to be disregarded in terms of a useful and reliable response/patrol capacity. Mariners believe also that the craft of the Royal Australian Navy have limited use because of some severe problems with their capability. Navy patrol boats are unsuitable for towing arrested vessels at low speed because of their engine limitations, and in fact they can do damage to their craft every time.

Hon Graham Edwards: What does the Navy say?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The Navy is also concerned. It is difficult for the Navy personnel to make comment because of the oath they take, but I believe a comment should be made.

Hon Graham Edwards: What does scuttlebutt say?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: It is very interesting that the Minister should say that. The scuttlebutt from the Navy people that I speak to, is that the Fremantle class boats are unsuitable for the type of job they are being asked to do at the moment, which is to tow in small wooden craft. For a start, the small wooden craft are difficult to find and their crews are not exactly unintelligent. They go into shallow water, seek out the reefs, and use every method to avoid surveillance by hiding in mangroves, etc; and when they are detected they try to get outside the area in which they can be arrested. I will go through in a moment what the P150 craft is all about, but I believe this craft is the perfect boat to offset this problem. The proposal is as follows: There are two areas of Western Australia - one at Broome and one at Exmouth - where we should use a three year pilot program to demonstrate the efficiency of the surface surveillance and the response capability and concept of the P150 craft. It would be necessary

to have four P150 vessels; two stationed at Broome and two at Exmouth. The P150 craft was designed and built specifically for the role of being at sea for the maximum time; its design includes low building costs and minimum crewing costs.

To give members some background of the P150, it was conceived originally in Western Australia by the Western Australian Marine Services Association in response to concern about the lack of surveillance in the Australian fishing zones. The Project 150, as it was called at the time, was a consortium formed in 1978 by Agnew Clough Limited, M.G. Kailis Group and Wigmores Limited for the exclusive purpose of constructing a prototype vessel to be used for Australian coastal surveillance. The P150 is built of fibreglass, and the objective was that the vessel must provide a real alternative to the traditional warship approach. That meant that the people in the fishing and maritime industries believed we needed a vessel that was not a warship type patrol boat but a lightweight patrol boat that was able to do coastal surveillance with a high attendance rate and low cost. It had to be structurally competent and lightweight and the construction was vital if exceptionally low operating costs were to be maintained. For instance, the present Fremantle class boat has difficulty getting into shallow water and also has a crew of 25 as opposed to a crew of five on a P150. The vessel was developed from this concept and, therefore, is uniquely suited to these requirements and features a very shallow draft, a deck cargo carrying capacity, while retaining a low cost structure with extreme ease of maintenance and a readily available supply of spares. The vessels are very flexible and Mr Kailis and his group that developed these boats say that they can be constructed as required. For example, a gun can be placed on the front if required, and the internal parts can be altered to give the best possible construction required. The vessels are designed to accommodate a crew of five, and there is space for two others such as a Customs representative and a person from the Fisheries Department.

It is interesting to note that in 1981 Lieutenant Commander B.W. Wilson of the Royal Australian Navy attended the sea trials of the P150. I quote from what he had to say about them in his report. He said he was -

... extremely impressed with the high standard of craftsmanship and quality control exhibited in the construction of this craft.

He also said that -

... it is a well found craft with excellent seakeeping qualities.

We have the capacity to build this vessel in Fremantle. The ballistic tests carried out on the hull which is made from the GFP sandwich material were carried out by the Special Air Service and they demonstrated that when a bullet pierced aluminium or steel, water could enter through the hole; in contrast, bullet holes in this sandwich material were found to be self sealing in the foam centre due to the heat generated by the bullet passing through the material, which makes the craft virtually unsinkable. The cost of all this is most important and, obviously, the cost needs to be considered by the Federal and State Governments. The cost of setting up the pilot scheme is \$6.4 million for the four boats. The running costs will be \$4.5 million. That means that for a cost of \$11 million each boat can be brought into active duty for 6 000 hours a year which will result in 24 000 hours of cruising a year over a three year period. This gives the capability for the four boats to well and truly assist what is happening in the north west at the moment. It is my belief that the current coastal surveillance arrangements are simply not meeting the need to protect the nation. The recent spate of illegal Indonesian fishing boat intruders is a testament to that fact; I believe that the economic and social consequences of these intrusions will cause the State great pain.

It has come to my notice that the Federal Minister for Defence, Mr Beazley, is about to make an announcement about a patrol boat base in the north of Western Australia. I understand that the two locations that are placed highly on the list of considerations are Broome and Exmouth. It is my view, and I tried not to make it a parochial view, that Exmouth is the best place to locate the base. There are several reasons for this: Exmouth is positioned roughly halfway between Darwin and Perth and if a patrol base was placed there, the cost of a marina could be shared between the Royal Australian Navy and the Western Australian Government. Also, the marina structure is a facility that will be used to the maximum in the area. Without doubt, Exmouth has a large number of tourist attractions and at the moment it does not have any marina facilities. Another reason is that there are joint facilities already there for the Royal Australian Navy and the US Navy.

Sitting suspended from 3.45 to 4.00 pm

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I have been approached by several members from the different political persuasions, pointing out the difficulty in satisfying all towns on the north west coast. As I pointed out to members, to be a statesman in this State one should put aside personal views and look at what is best for Western Australia and Australia as a whole. Many good arguments can be made for choosing Exmouth. First of all, considering the shape of the State, Exmouth is the most northern place in the State. I explained that the need for a marina in the town is a cost cutting exercise for the Royal Australian Navy. More importantly, we should consider the present facilities in the town - the joint facilities base manned by the RAN, and the US Navy base Harold E. Holt. A considerable proportion of RAN personnel is already in that town; a communication base exists; housing is in place, and in my view it makes good sense to consider Exmouth for the siting of the control base. Hon Tom Helm approached me and pointed out the suitability of Port Hedland. I will admit that in my years as Shire President of Port Hedland, prior to 1980, it was indicated by Federal Governments of two different persuasions that Port Hedland was being seriously considered. The mucking around by all Governments and the indecision involved indicate that there may be reasons for not choosing that site. If Exmouth were not chosen then the next place to be considered should be Port Hedland, with its harbour facilities and back-up facilities, housing, and the access to light industrial areas.

Problems confront the naval people themselves because of the rise and fall of tides in centres further north, particularly Broome where this problem would entail extensive dredging. If the pilot project were successful and two P150s were placed at both Exmouth and Broome, the project could then be expanded to other places such as Port Hedland, Darwin and Cairns, with two boats being placed in each location. This would release the J class or Fremantle class patrol boats to other important activities; that is, the defence of this country. We should not forget another problem which has come to light with the trochus fishermen entering Australian waters from remote areas of Indonesia. Recently we experienced the arrival of the first boatload of paying illegal immigrants. Apart from the disease problem, illegal immigration represents a danger. On this occasion we were able to detect those illegal immigrants and stop them entering Australia, but I wonder how many we have missed. Many members will realise that the top end of Western Australia is very remote, but I have been advised that those illegal immigrants were well prepared and had contacts. I wonder whether this is just the tip of the iceberg. Governments of all political persuasions have recognised the need to address the problem.

The information which I have given to the House this afternoon about the P150s will allow at least the State Government - and I hope the Federal Government also - to examine the situation. I am advised that Mr Kailis is happy to meet with anyone on the subject and examine the boats from top to bottom. Mr Kailis made the point that the Solomon Islands Government was very happy with the boat supplied to that country. I am not pushing a particular barrow but I believe that Mr Kailis has the capacity to save Australia an enormous amount of money and to provide triple the amount of our present surveillance in the north.

I turn now to recent legislation passed by this Parliament to allow random breath testing in Western Australia. Whilst I respect the right of this House to do so, and I will respect the new legislation, I believe that before too long the Police Force of Western Australia will take advantage of the new legislation.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: After the elections anyway.

Hon P.G. Pendal: To avoid embarrassment to the Government.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Prior to the House passing that legislation, some senior sections of the Police Force in this State made it clear that they believed that the introduction of random breath testing would be the be all and end all of the situation. Some officers were saying that with tongue in cheek and received a shock when this House suddenly passed the legislation. Two or three of those senior officers - superintendents and above - suddenly went into reverse gear by saying, "Maybe, given time" - which reminded me of "Yes Minister" because they were looking for excuses.

Hon Mark Nevill: Is the member reflecting on a decision of this House?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: No. I made it clear that I respect the right of the House to pass legislation. I will obey the rules. That is not a reflection on the House.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: That is common sense.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I do not want members to accuse me of reflecting on the House.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Had there been any suggestion of a member reflecting on the House, the Deputy President would have taken that up.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I thank you, Mr Deputy President. I know that in your senior capacity you would have picked me up on that.

I am reflecting on the comments that are regularly made by some senior police officers in this State who said that if random breath testing were introduced it would be the be all and end all of the situation. Those officers are now in full reverse gear. I am not surprised because they have been fiddling around with internal police politics. In my view, random breath testing will make little or no difference. In the long term it will be an exercise in pure futility as many people well know. Many hard working police officers in the bush will agree because for a considerable time they have had the right to do precisely what we have legislated for. The problem points to the need for education of drivers. We have the situation in this State where the young people of this State do not have the ability to handle a motor car, and this problem is exacerbated when they drive in wet weather, after drinking alcohol, or speed. Two people were killed within hours of each other, two or three trees apart in Kings Park. That has brought enormous grief to their families and the fatalities will take a long time to be erased from their memories. I regret also that people who live in Narrogin and who are known to me lost their 17 year old daughter in an accident and I know the enormous grief that those people are suffering. In my view, random breath testing will make no difference to these sorts of accidents occurring.

Hon Mark Nevill: Don't you think it will change people's drinking habits?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I hope it does. I know that the police will do all they can to implement it in the next few months.

There has also been a call to lower the blood alcohol limit from 0.08 to 0.05. Attacks were mounted on hotels and liquor outlets in Western Australia. However, no-one seems to direct any sort of anger or blame towards the drivers who simply do not pay enough attention to what they are doing and who are not trained well enough and cannot handle road conditions at the time. The combination of youth and powerful cars is a major cause of many of the accidents that occur. Obviously, as I said, in the months ahead we will see random breath testing implemented all over the State. The police will have to try it as much as they can. It will certainly alter some of our drinking habits - perhaps even Hon Mark Nevill's and mine. Most responsible people have altered their drinking habits over the last few years. I believe that hoteliers and taxi drivers should be patted on the back because no-one has done more to educate drinkers than they have. The line "Catch a cab" is an extremely catchy one.

Hon J.N. Caldwell: Unfortunately, country people can't do that.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: That is right. I believe that country drivers are more capable of handling cars on dirt roads than are city drivers. However, I fear that random breath testing will affect country drivers more than city drivers. In Narrogin, the police are smart. They park outside the bowling club. They have had plenty of success there before.

Hon Tom Helm: They will now be able to look for drivers who drink, when previously they pulled people up for broken headlights and that sort of thing.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I know the member now has his tongue firmly in his cheek.

Hon Tom Helm: I was stopped twice for a licence check that I did not have. I was not stopped for drinking.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The police got the member on an off day, did they? The member knows he has his tongue firmly in his cheek because police soon find excuses to stop drivers they want to stop.

Hon Tom Helm: They don't need an excuse any more.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I know.

Hon Tom Helm: It is a waste of time.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am glad the member said that because it is my view, too, that it is a waste of time. I am pleased that the member agrees with me.

Those of us who have a passing interest in the racing industry, including the Minister for Sport and Recreation, have carefully watched the debacle that has occurred over the drug Depo-Medrol. While I have great respect for the Western Australian Turf Club committee, I think it has handled this matter very badly. When the drug was detected in a horse, one of the State's leading trainers was fined \$20 000 in the first instance and disqualified for two years. Subsequently, the WA Turf Club backed down and has set a penalty of three months' suspension and a fine of \$1 000 for the first offence.

Hon J.N. Caldwell: I thought it was \$3 000.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: No, it is \$1 000. Frank Maynard got caught for three offences.

I think it should be made clear that Depo-Medrol does not make horses go faster. It is used to ease inflamed joints. I believe the matter should have been handled as it was handled in the Eastern States; that is, by declaring an amnesty for three months. Today, I heard that one of the State's leading trainers has had a race taken from him and been fined for using the drug. He swore to me that he simply did not use the drug. He said he used another type of medication because his horse had a bronchial problem. Apparently, that drug was not detected in the swab.

Hon T.G. Butler: What drug makes a horse go faster? Do any of them?

Hon P.G. Pandal: The whip.

Hon T.G. Butler: Drugs tend to make horses do their best, but not necessarily go faster.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Obviously, the member was not around when the drug known as elephant juice was detected, because I am informed that it makes horses go faster. I am also informed that caffeine makes horses go faster. I do not want to compare those drugs with Depo-Medrol because one is a medication for inflamed joints and the others are drugs which should not be used. I do not want people to believe that I support giving drugs to horses; I do not. I also do not support the use of Depo-Medrol while that drug is illegal. However, trainers have used it for many years. The veterinary profession in Western Australia has only just found a way of detecting that drug in horses. It is only now that it has become a problem, whereas trainers have been using it for years. They are losing substantial amounts of money because of the detection of the drug in their horses. The owners of Placid Ark had \$30 000 taken from them because of its detection in that horse.

I believe that the Western Australian Turf Club should have outlawed the drug, declared an amnesty, and told the owners of the horses in which the drug was detected that they could not race them until all traces had gone. Some trainers did that, and the medication was detected in the swab 31 days after it had been used. I do not think this could have come at a worse time for the racing industry. It will not be long before we have legislation in this House to deal with this matter which will be debated at length. I think the WA Turf Club was wrong in the way it handled the matter. I know that there is considerable support in the racing fraternity for that point of view. I am sorry it has happened. It will cause financial hardship for many people who can ill-afford it.

Finally, last weekend I had the opportunity to attend Exmouth's twenty first anniversary celebrations. The guest of honour was the Governor General of Australia, the Rt Hon Sir Ninian Stephen and his very charming wife, Lady Stephen. The Exmouth Shire Council, led by the well known shire president, Bob Burkett, went to considerable trouble to make the celebrations worth while. The people of Exmouth took the opportunity in the bicentennial year to have some celebrations such as the opening of a park named after the Lefroy family; the opening of some new facilities by the Department of Conservation and Land Management at Myoleering; and the annual Navy ball of the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy. The arrangement between the US Navy and the Royal Australian Navy at Exmouth is one of the great examples of cooperation in the world today. That is why I feel very ashamed when a scruffy bunch of protesters foist upon ships visiting Western Australian ports the minority point of view. I also resent the method in which they do so. I do not object to people protesting about things they do not like; we fought wars to protect their right to do so. However, I object to protesters placing themselves and these ships in some danger.

In Albany recently the captain of a US warship was forced to turn a high pressure hose on a scruffy bunch of costumed people to give them perhaps their first wash in some considerable

time. More importantly, the hose was turned on the protesters to stop them being crushed between the wharf and the ship. Obviously these people do not read history books. Had they read of the Battle of the Coral Sea, they would know that one of the reasons they have a free and democratic country today is because the United States, then our most powerful ally, assisted us. The majority of Australians would deplore the fact that these people try to stop our friends from visiting us in our bicentennial year or at any other time. The protesters should find something more useful to do. Americans will always be welcome in Australia, particularly service personnel, because only a generation ago they came to our aid.

Hon B.L. Jones: Don't you think it is strange that we allow nuclear powered ships into our ports when the Americans themselves do not allow them into some of their ports?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am not interested in what they do overseas. I do not mind what ships come to Australia, providing the appropriate precautions are taken. The Americans assure us that such precautions are taken. I am concerned that if there is to be another stoush - a third world war - or if Australia becomes involved in a confrontation with some other nation, we can rely on our friend, the United States, to protect us.

Hon B.L. Jones: Do you think so?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am absolutely sure of that.

Hon G.E. Masters: Don't you like these ships visiting our shores?

Hon B.L. Jones: I am not sure of the benefits of having nuclear powered ships in our ports.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am concerned that the protesters who so vehemently oppose visits by United States ships are the same protesters who with open arms welcome our friends from the "Red Bloc". It is a well known fact that a large proportion of them have great sympathy with that area.

Hon B.L. Jones interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order!

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Anyone in Exmouth some months ago when the Australia-US treaty with respect to land at the Harold E. Holt base at Exmouth was renewed, would have been absolutely appalled to see the bunch that turned up to protest about that renewal. It was forecast that hundreds, perhaps thousands, would turn up. In fact, fewer than 100 protesters put in an appearance. I do not agree with the Premier very often, but I agree with the description I heard him give of protesters at Albany the other night. The rent-a-crowd people had moved to Albany to protest against woodchipping. The Premier said that they looked remarkably like pixies. He is quite right because they get done up in weird and wonderful outfits and paint their faces on one side.

Hon B.L. Jones: A few of them.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Most of them do so.

Hon B.L. Jones: Not a whole crowd. I know some of them. I believe they were very well behaved actually.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I remind Hon Beryl Jones that until her interjections some time ago this was an orderly debate. Interjections are disorderly.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I am delighted that the honourable member knows some of these people because I will give her a present for them. I have a few blocks of soap that I would like her to hand out to them.

Point of Order

Hon B.L. JONES: Is it necessary to malign those people and say that they are dirty just because they are a crowd?

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: There is no point of order. The member is allowed to make an observation.

Debate Resumed

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I assure the House that they were not dirty; they were filthy. I was not the only one who made the comment. They were a disgraceful, motley bunch lead by a

bearded doctor who would be the recipient of a white feather if it was war time. It was like a little military operation that went totally wrong for them. First, most of them did not turn up. Secondly, when they got there they found out that they were totally unwelcome in the town. They became the laughing stock of the large contingent of Press representatives. The only ones to do well out of the exercise were the hotels. We all went to the hotels and laughed about the protesters. They made some attempt to talk to the locals, but they were absolutely spurned.

Hon T.G. Butler: There may have been a certain amount of pig headedness.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: It was the flop of the century. They achieved nothing good for their cause. However, they succeeded in one thing: They put the Federal and State Governments to great expense. The Western Australian Government sent 100 policemen and the Federal Government sent 80 policemen.

Hon Tom Helm: Against pixies?

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The base people were forced to heighten their fences with barbed wire at great cost.

Hon Tom Helm interjected.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: We fought wars for the right to protest, but the couple of million dollars spent to prepare for the protesters would have been much better channelled into housing. People with children are living in caravans; they would like to have access to Homeswest houses.

Hon Graham Edwards: It may well be that a number of those people protesting fought in the most recent war in which Australia participated, the Vietnam War.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: I do not think that is right.

Hon Graham Edwards: I am sure it is because I know some of them.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: They were too young. I assure the Minister that the females in the crowd would not be eligible.

Hon G.E. Masters: Would not be eligible for what?

Hon P.G. Pandal: Don't spoil a good speech.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The protesters merely brought disgrace upon themselves. Any other protesters who went there would be laughed at. Anyone walking into the Potshot Inn at Exmouth would see an honour board headed "Australian Democracy vs Protesters". It gives the score for 1974 as being Australia 1, Protesters Nil; the same score is given for 1988. Protesters in Exmouth are very unwelcome. I hope that word will filter down to them that next time they should find some other spot at which to protest, as far away as possible, perhaps on the eastern seaboard.

I support the motion.

HON MARK NEVILL (South East) [4.29 pm]: The previous speaker made a few remarks which require some comment. I am a strong supporter of the Australian-United States alliance and I am one of those people in the Labor Party who does not particularly mind US warships visiting Australia. However, I also point out that these 19 or 20 warships were actually invited here by the Australian Government as part of our bicentenary celebrations. I point out to Hon Phillip Lockyer, in view of his comments about the protesters, that the Americans on the ships could teach us a few things about civil liberties, particularly freedom of speech and assembly. I think it is well within the rights of the people to protest, whether for or against an issue, and I certainly support that right to protest, although in this case I do not particularly agree with their view. I discussed the protest that was held in Esperance when USS *Ingersoll* berthed there with the Commander, Captain Joe Frank, and I asked him how the protest went on the Saturday. He told me that there were about 60 people there, that it was a good natured protest, and that they made their point and no problems were caused. Occasionally people do things that catch the eye of the media and those sorts of people play to the media to get publicity, as Hon Philip Lockyer was doing a little while ago - he was desperately trying to get a line in the Press with his comments about these people being dirty or grubby. It is a fact that many people who oppose nuclear warships coming into our ports

would oppose them if they were Russian or any other nuclear warship. A lot of people oppose nuclear warships coming here. The view that they are anti American only is something I thought went out in the Menzies era. The other thing to note is that it is quite correct, as Hon Graham Edwards pointed out, to say that many of these people are exservicemen protesting here and in other parts of the world. Therefore, the generalisations were invalid and some of the slurs uncalled for.

I turn now to the redistribution, which has left me stranded outside my electorate. I will be losing the Shire of Esperance from my electorate, one I have represented for five and a half years and the area in which I live, as I live in the town of Esperance. It is a great disappointment to me to be losing that area as it is one I have been proud to represent. I suggest that anyone who has not been to Esperance should go there for a holiday to enjoy the scenery and the other attractions that it has to offer.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Your gain was my loss.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Mr Wordsworth experienced the same thing in 1983.

Hon J.N. Caldwell: And your loss will be my gain.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I will be a constituent of the honourable member for Merredin, so if I have problems I know where to go.

I will now go over some of the things that the State Labor Government, the Federal Labor Government, the Shire and the people of Esperance have achieved in the past five and a half years. I do this to document them for historical purposes. We have made significant advances in relation to environmental matters in the Esperance area, which now has a magnificent system of cycleways running along the foreshore to the schools. Many hundreds of thousands of dollars were spent on those cycleways. There was a big coastal vegetation program under the CEP which controlled a lot of the previously uncontrolled access to the southern coast beaches. If one drives along the beach areas now one sees that there is a lot less erosion and sand blowout because these areas have been sealed off and allowed to revegetate.

Much money was spent on the museum park in central Esperance which is a significant tourist attraction. New buildings have been erected and funds expended on an open area auditorium. Generally, the park has been upgraded and every month during the summer a fun day is held called "Sunday in the Park" which is enjoyed by many people in the town, particularly those with young families. The CEP scheme also saw the upgrading of the Esperance Youth Hostel, the biggest one in the State, and the one with the highest occupancy rate. If anyone is going to Esperance and is short of a few dollars that is a good place to stay, although one has to be a member of the Youth Hostels Association to stay there. The work in relation to upgrading the Esperance Youth Hostel was done by two long term unemployed women who did a magnificent job under that program redeveloping the kitchen and bedrooms.

Another area in which the environment has been significantly enhanced is the national parks with the construction of bitumen roads. There is now a good road into Cape Le Grande National Park. The facilities in the three national parks, including Stokes National Park and Cape Arid National Park, have also been improved in recent years. I think the major significant environmental achievement of the Government in its six years in office has been its moratorium on new land releases. Although we came in for a lot of flak in 1983 when we introduced that moratorium, there is very little argument with that decision now. It was certainly controversial when introduced, but considering the years that followed that and the level of technology in some of those marginal areas and the rudimentary soil mapping and vegetation knowledge, this really highlighted the fact that some of that land should not have been opened up and the moratorium certainly put a brake on that.

Other matters with which the Government has assisted have been revegetation, planting of trees, and the employment of a tree person to service the Esperance region. Significant achievements have been made in the arts and there has been a major upgrading of the old cannery with printing, pottery and photographic workshops and the building of a flat at the old cannery art centre. A music room has also been built which is occupied by a lecturer from the WA Conservatorium of Music. That old cannery complex, including the arts, craft and music centres, is well used by the community and, in my view, that expenditure was money well spent.

We have seen a major upgrading of the Esperance port in the past five or six years with the extension of the groyne and the recent deepening of the harbour, which was completed well under budget and which was opened recently by the Minister for Transport, Hon Bob Pearce. There has also been the construction of the port authority building which now houses customs, fisheries and other Government offices. That is situated on the foreshore in a scenic position. The port authority has done a magnificent job improving the foreshore and parks and has helped to beautify the whole area. It is a very popular playground for families and particularly for visitors from the goldfields and elsewhere.

We have also seen a significant upgrading of the railway line between Kalgoorlie and Esperance. Many millions of dollars have been spent on reballasting and upgrading that line. Additional work has been done at the Bandy Creek boat harbour where boat pens, moorings and offices for the marine and harbours department have been built. There have been the improvements I have mentioned in the tourism field in national parks road access as well as the construction of a loop road which is a very scenic drive; one can drive from Esperance town to Pink Lake and then continue westwards for about 20 kilometres to the coast and then come back through Twilight Cove to Esperance, a very scenic drive that is popular with tourists. That drive was constructed and sealed in the past five years.

There has been a significant upgrading of the State Emergency Services in Esperance; it is one of the busiest, if not the busiest, SES branches in the State. I am not sure of the number of sea rescues in Esperance, but it is probably around about 40. The Esperance centre covers a massive area of coast between Esperance and the border, and the Government contributed significantly to the "shark cat" boat which the Lions Club and other people helped to fund. I want to acknowledge the work of Phil Arlidge, the regional coordinator in Esperance, who passed away a few years ago. He was a pillar of strength in the SES, particularly in the earlier days when I first represented the area.

In the area of law and order there has been a significant upgrading of the Esperance police station and court house. We now have a District Court sitting in Esperance, which is a major improvement. Extra police officers have been stationed in Esperance, and there has been an upgrading of the parole system in the town, which is in keeping with the Government's policy of improving parole services so that we can reduce the imprisonment rate.

The State Energy Commission's Esperance infrastructure has been improved. The Esperance power station has been converted to light diesel oil, which has resulted in a great cost saving. It is the largest oil fired power station in the State - it is not on the grid - and the SEC runs it at a considerable loss. Power in the area is subsidised, but that program has reduced the loss significantly. Esperance also has the first wind farm in the State with six wind powered generators. They have been operating for a year or two, and I have been informed by the regional manager of the SEC in Kalgoorlie, Mr Doug Ayre, that they are performing up to expectations and that project has been successful in contributing about five per cent to Esperance's power.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: They are close to the house of a previous member of Parliament.

Hon MARK NEVILL: It is true they are within a few kilometres of a solitary residence. It is unfortunate, but the first project was already under construction when I heard about the complaint so it was difficult to do much about it.

Another initiative is the construction of a wave power station for Esperance, which is on the horizon. The SEC already has connections in place for that, subject to environmental safeguards or clearances, and it could be in place within the next year or so. Another significant achievement is the completion of the rural electrification scheme. The Cascades scheme has been started and completed; the Salmon Gums scheme, which was also very big, has been completed, and the Mt Howick electrification scheme has been completed, together with a number of smaller schemes in the area. Most of the farms in the Esperance district are now connected to the grid. They have received an extra bonus, as members who know farmers' wives with young babies will appreciate.

Continuing with utilities, the Government has substantially upgraded the water supply of Esperance. Many new bores have been put down well to the west of the town away from areas polluted by septic tanks. We have closed down a number of bores within the town site because of nitrate pollution from septic tanks. We have built a new 900 cubic metre tank on

Wireless Hill, which has significantly buffered the Esperance water supply, particularly during hot summer days when it is necessary to fill the tank twice a day to keep up the supply to the town. Many millions of dollars have been spent on deep sewerage the Nulson and town areas, again to keep the town aquifer free of pollutants from septic tanks. Unfortunately there are no votes in sewerage; people have to pay a lot of money to connect.

Hon D.J. Wordsworth: Not only when they connect.

Hon P.G. Pental: It usually causes a big stink if it is not there.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Unfortunately sewerage works do not receive a high priority from all Governments, but in Esperance I am pleased to say there has been a significant extension to that scheme. It seems to annoy individual people, because their fences and fruit trees are uprooted and their chook sheds moved, and some people find they are not always put back correctly. However, it is an essential service. A report was recently tabled in the other place which has urged us to make further inroads into getting rid of septic tanks, particularly in areas such as Esperance.

The Government has left its mark in the area of community welfare. The Esperance Senior Citizens Centre has been constructed as a joint Commonwealth/State initiative. A number of Homeswest units have been established, and we have successfully had pensioner units relocated closer to the hospital. They used to be at the back of Nulson, which was not very convenient in respect of access to shopping and medical services, but six new pensioner units announced in the Budget will be built behind the hospital, which is a much more sensible prospect. Esperance still has the legacy of these State Housing suburbs where people are quarantined out in the Nulson area. Unfortunately Homeswest has a very large area of land which is difficult to get rid of, but I hope that the days of State Housing estates are now things of the past.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Can they not sell the land?

Hon MARK NEVILL: I do not think there is any buyer for it. Large numbers of blocks have been developed without any significant private market. I do not think there is any immediate prospect, but if possible they should be sold. People on pensions and benefits should not all be lumped together in one area.

In the area of sport we have had the construction of the indoor basketball and hockey stadium. That stadium has proved very successful. We recently held a Careers Expo in Esperance at that stadium, and more people visited it than visited an expo in one of the other major towns in the State - I cannot recall which one. Recently the Minister for Sport and Recreation, Hon Graham Edwards, announced further grants, one for joint clubrooms for hockey, softball and cricket, and another grant to the netball association for clubrooms which will probably be constructed jointly with the Esperance Tennis Club.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Very generous!

Hon MARK NEVILL: It is very generous. It shows that this Government does look after all the people, because Esperance is obviously a seat we will not win. I am pleased to see that Esperance has had fair and equitable treatment from the Minister, and I compliment him on that decision.

Hon Graham Edwards: Another member might not be as persuasive as the current member.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I will not interrupt interjections like that.

In respect of community welfare, another area which has been strengthened by this Government is the area of health, where we have seen a major extension of the Esperance District Hospital. That hospital is one of the finest district hospitals in this State. It seems to me to have everything that opens and shuts; it has tremendous facilities and makes Esperance a place to which people can retire knowing they will receive good medical care. We have a resident surgeon and a number of general practitioners, and this in my view makes Esperance much more attractive as a place to retire to.

Hon E.J. Charlton: They are likely to stay there, too.

Hon MARK NEVILL: In recent years a community health centre was constructed near the shire library. That centre is getting a lot of use; a physiotherapist and an infant health sister are available, and groups from the health field meet there. That centre is a hive of activity,

certainly in the area of preventive medicine. Another initiative which began in recent years is the establishment of a home and community care program. Here I would like to acknowledge the work of the shire council and Mrs Alva Courtis, who worked very hard with me and the other members, including Graeme Campbell, the Federal member, to get this HACC scheme established. A coordinator is now based in Esperance, and the scheme will help keep people in their homes for longer than at present. Under the scheme, elderly people can have repairs and maintenance, such as clearing out gutters, done and can have their meals delivered at home; they can also be given nursing care in their own homes. This scheme will keep the elderly out of institutional care for as long as possible. I believe that sort of program saves the Government money. The HACC scheme has also teamed up with the Esperance CYSS, of which I am chairman, and we mow the lawns of many of the pensioners in Esperance. That is a great example of a good community initiative, which benefits many people in the Esperance area.

Another initiative we took was to build nurses' quarters in Esperance. When the quarters were built, a number of people came to me saying that they were not necessary. I am pleased to say that those quarters are always full and apparently we should have built more than the six which were originally built. They are used by visiting specialists, by nurses and by all sorts of people in the health field. They have proved to be a great asset in holding staff in Esperance. Many country members know how difficult it is to get and hold trained medical staff in country towns. The Government has also built nurses' quarters in Kalgoorlie and other areas to help solve that problem. Another initiative I was pleased to be a part of was in getting a private orthodontist to visit Esperance. It was difficult to get an orthodontist to visit Esperance because they are as scarce as hens' teeth, to use a pun. Many young people need orthodontic treatment, and previously they had to travel to Kalgoorlie or to Perth -

Hon E.J. Charlton: It sounds a bit false to me.

Hon MARK NEVILL: - or to Albany to get their braces tightened. A visit to the orthodontist means that one goes in and about three minutes later one comes out because all the orthodontist does is tighten the braces. The poor old parents had to drive 1 000 kilometres to have this done. However, I received a guarantee from the then Minister for Health, Hon Ian Taylor, to pay half the air fare for an orthodontist to come to Esperance to see whether it was commercially viable to set up a practice in the town. For the total sum of \$500, we managed to get a private orthodontist to visit Esperance on a regular, six weekly basis. That small initiative may save Esperance parents over \$100 000 over the next four or five years; it is a very expensive business and as members know Medicare only covers oral surgery. It does not cover anything which is classified as "cosmetic" surgery.

Initiatives have been taken also in the area of agriculture. The Esperance district office of the Department of Agriculture is being rebuilt at the moment. The present member for the area, the Minister for Agriculture, Hon Julian Grill, deregulated the cartage from the bins. The cartage had been going to the same people for 17 years at the expense of farmers, and after it was put out to tender prices have dropped significantly. That has been a massive saving to grain growers in the region.

Hon E.J. Charlton: You did do a good job on that; could you get Westrail to reduce its rates?

Hon MARK NEVILL: I think the Government's record on Westrail is excellent. The Government has reduced the number of employees in Westrail by 2 000. If one looks at the three years before the Labor Party came to Government, rail freights went up by 30 per cent one year, 30 per cent the following year and about 15 per cent the next.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: The Government is not on the committee that sets the rail prices.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I think the member will find that -

Hon H.W. Gayfer: They are not on the grain freight steering committee.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I know the Government is not on the grain freight steering committee, but I think the member would be gracious enough to concede that the member for Esperance-Dundas did a first class job as the Minister for Transport -

Hon H.W. Gayfer: That is not my argument at all. He did not set up the grain freight steering committee. Cyril Rushton did that.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The economies that Westrail could undertake were as a result of things like -

Hon D.J. Wordsworth interjected.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The member's Government when in office might have deregulated less than a cargo load of traffic, but that was about the limit. Westrail's work force has been decreased by 2 000 people. Whenever there was an industrial dispute Hon Julian Grill would go and face the people at the Midland Workshops or wherever; he brought in two men crewing without even an industrial dispute, which is the envy of every other railway Minister in this country, whether conservative or Labor. There were many other initiatives, but I do not wish to be sidetracked on that, although I think the Government's record is commendable.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: I was not arguing about that. I meant the actual setting of the price.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The economies in Westrail allowed it some scope -

Hon H.W. Gayfer: I was trying to give your Budget speech a little credence for what they have done.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The member is correct. The grain freight steering committee does a tremendous job; it does the negotiations. Cooperative Bulk Handling is represented on it but Westrail has to have that capacity to absorb those costs. That was why I gave the credit to the member for Esperance-Dundas.

Hon W.N. Stretch: He carried on the work of Hon David Wordsworth and Hon Cyril Rushton. We were well down the track of that plan, and to Grill's credit he has carried it on.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I do not think that is correct.

Hon W.N. Stretch: It is correct. If you look at the redundancies in Westrail, you will see he has continued that.

Hon MARK NEVILL: If the member looks at Victoria and New South Wales, he will find that they would love to be in our position. That is what they are aiming for.

Hon W.N. Stretch: We are not saying that; we are saying it all began before Grill got there. He saw through what Rushton and Wordsworth started.

Hon MARK NEVILL: If the member wants to claim a smidgin of credit, I will give him that, but that is about all.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon MARK NEVILL: I will continue with this litany of achievements.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That sounds like something out of the New Testament.

[Questions taken.]

Hon MARK NEVILL: I will refer now to some of the other achievements by the Government in the Esperance region. First, I refer to the introduction of legislation to permit the use of silencers on rifles in an endeavour to help rid the Esperance area of starlings. In 1983 a Bill to permit the use of silencers was the first Bill the then new Government put through this Parliament. The Bill amended the Firearms Act and I remember when lobbying for the amendment to the legislation there was great resistance by the Police Department to allow anyone to use silencers, even the Agricultural Protection Board's officers. It is now five years since that legislation was passed and I have not heard of any of the problems which were mooted in the spurious arguments put forward against allowing the APB officers to use the silencers.

Hon E.J. Charlton: They have been silenced.

Hon MARK NEVILL: They have been silenced by the silencers. The starling problem has been contained for the time being.

Hon E.J. Charlton: That is not true.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The occasional starling is found, but they are not found in large numbers. The starlings were coming across to the Esperance region in droves in 1983.

The Government has provided many new educational facilities in the Esperance region. It has provided funds for the upgrading of the Esperance High School, which now has a gymnasium which provides a covered area, something which was badly needed. On the

south coast nearly every second assembly day it is raining and it is essential that the children be provided with a covered area for assemblies. The high school has been provided with a new administration centre and a number of other significant improvements have been made.

Hon E.J. Charlton: What about the hostel?

Hon MARK NEVILL: It has already been mentioned by a previous speaker that \$132 000 has been allocated in this year's Budget for upgrading the staff accommodation at the Esperance Senior High School. By anyone's standards the conditions are appalling and I was pleased to learn that the allocation had been made. Hopefully, it will be the forerunner for large capital injections into the Esperance hostel and the other hostels which are highlighted in a report I tabled earlier today in this House. A regional education office in the Esperance region is now in place and I am sure that the concept will bear fruit in the Esperance area. As is the case with many initiatives, results are not achieved overnight. Sometimes it takes up to five or six years for any notable improvement to be made. I am sure that the district education officers in the goldfields and the Esperance regions will be very successful.

Hon N.F. Moore: There are some top class regional superintendents in the Esperance region.

Hon MARK NEVILL: They are both very good superintendents.

Another initiative of this Government was the construction of a covered area at the Castletown Primary School. As I mentioned earlier, a covered area is essential for school assemblies and is somewhere for children to play on rainy days. It never ceases to amaze me how some of the schools in towns in the wheatbelt can have covered areas constructed before some of the schools in the towns on the south coast where it drizzles nearly every second day. Members may argue that it is very hot during the summer months in the wheatbelt, but some of the schools on the south coast should have priority over some of the more hospitable areas. Certainly all schools should have covered areas, but it will take a lot of money and will be some time before every school in the State has that facility. I sometimes wonder how the order of priority for the construction of that facility in schools is established.

Another major achievement of the Government is in employment opportunities in the Esperance region. A local employment initiatives committee has been set up; Federal seed money was provided but it was basically started by Hon Julian Grill and his consultant, Emesto Sirolli. That committee has been recognised worldwide and has achieved a certain notoriety around Australia. People have visited Esperance to learn why it has been such a success. Forty or fifty businesses have been set up, none of which competes with existing businesses in the area; and many millions of dollars of business have been attracted to the town. Many members will be aware of the collapse of the southern blue fin tuna industry because of over fishing. After the collapse of that industry a sashimi industry was set up as part of this local enterprise initiative; that is a multi-million dollar business now exporting sashimi - raw tuna - to Japan. Esperance sashimi can be purchased in many of the better restaurants in Perth. In addition, smoked tuna is being produced in Esperance and sent all over Australia. It is supplied to businesses such as Qantas, and I understand that the Governor General orders a few kilos every now and again. The smoked tuna is served on the *Indian Pacific*, and in many of the best restaurants in Perth. In addition to these two major industries, 30 or 40 smaller industries have been established in Esperance; that is an important achievement by the local community and the Government.

I referred earlier to the improvements made to water supplies but did not cover the subject adequately. The Gibson water supply has been significantly upgraded, and the construction of the Munglinup water supply scheme was completed last year and recently opened by Hon Gareth Evans, the Federal Minister, and Hon Ernie Bridge, who is doing a great job for country communities by extending water supplies to them.

Before concluding this part of my speech, I will refer briefly to other issues: For example, the funds allocated to the Dalyup community to extend its hall; the major upgrading of the South Western Highway in the area; the widening of the bitumen road to the community of Cascades; the construction of the Esperance Airport terminal with Federal funds, although it was basically a shire project; and the action of local members in ensuring that the youth hostel received the land which was donated by the Fresh Air League in Kalgoorlie. It now has a large area of land on the Esperance foreshore and in years to come a major redevelopment of the hostel facility will be carried out as funds become available. A recent

achievement of the Government was the purchase of a block of freehold land within the Cape Le Grande National Park. It was a large and valuable block of land, for which more than \$100 000 was paid. It will allow the community to consolidate that park without fear of unacceptable development occurring within it. Extensions have been made to the regional museum; and the Esperance regional study has been carried out, in addition to many more initiatives.

I shall be disappointed when I cease to represent the Esperance region, but I am very proud of the Government's performance in that area. I am proud of the cooperation I have received from Hon Julian Grill, Hon Jim Brown - who will continue to represent the area after the next election if things go according to plan - and also Mr Graeme Campbell, the Federal member for Kalgoorlie. I acknowledge the help and cooperation I have received from the people in that community. Esperance is a very conservative area but I have found the people good to work with, particularly the shire councillors and the staff of that council. I have thoroughly enjoyed the five and a half years I have represented that area and I look forward to the opportunity some time in the future to continue that representation.

A further issue I wish to mention relates to an article which appeared in this morning's edition of *The West Australian*, which rather intrigued me. The editorial in that paper was excellent; I could not have written better myself. It was a great surprise to read such an editorial in *The West Australian*. I draw members' attention to the article on page 15 of that newspaper under the headline, "Dean angry at Zion 'smear campaign'". The article refers to the Dean of Perth, the Very Reverend David Roberts, who apparently addressed a seminar in Perth without realising that it was organised by the League of Rights. A videotape was made of the address and a newsletter advertising a function to be held in Adelaide indicated that the videotape of Dean Roberts' address to the Perth seminar would be shown. It was only then that Dean Roberts discovered that the Heritage Society, the group he addressed in Perth, was a League of Rights front group, and that the seminar had been organised by the League of Rights. In the article Dean Roberts states that he is neither a supporter nor a member of the League of Rights. I found that article interesting because it indicates how the League of Rights operates; it never openly states that it has organised a meeting; such meetings are always organised through a front group, in a dishonest and covert way.

Hon Neil Oliver: It sounds like the Fabian Society.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I will get to that in a moment because Hon Neil Oliver's interjection reflects the propaganda of the League of Rights. One of the pet hates of the League of Rights - which include Aboriginal culture, Negroes, non British immigration and many other things they regard as sickly - is the Fabian Society. I have been invited to join the Fabian Society on a number of occasions but have not done so because I regard its members as wishy-washy socialists.

Hon Fred McKenzie: That is why I am not a member.

Hon MARK NEVILL: The Fabian Society is similar to a Liberal Party speakers' forum; there is nothing sinister about the Fabian Society.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Is Bob Hawke a member?

Hon MARK NEVILL: Plenty of people belong to the Fabian Society.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Neil Blewett does not believe in private property.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Hon Phillip Pandal opposed the Bill of Rights which would have guaranteed the right to private property.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Rubbish! The Bill of Rights did not spell out a person's right to private property.

Hon MARK NEVILL: During the debate on the Bill of Rights the member asked about the right of trial by jury, but that is already in the Constitution. He knows nothing about civil rights and he masquerades as a civil libertarian, although he is not one. The League of Rights was set up in South Australia about 1946, and its founder was Eric Butler, the then executive director. That was quite interesting because the tie up between Dean Roberts' article and the League of Rights is that the league is very active in the Esperance area, and who have we had tripping down to Esperance in recent years but Eric Butler, Peter Sawyer, and these sorts of people, who are tied up with the League of Rights.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Peter Sawyer is not tied up with the League of Rights.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Yes he is.

Hon E.J. Charlton: I think he was being used.

Hon MARK NEVILL: He was used, and they have now jettisoned him because some of his claims have become so extravagant. Peter Sawyer has made the claim in recent months that the headquarters for the world Government is in the new Parliament House in Canberra.

Hon P.G. Pandal: Anyone would have to know that is a joke. I agree with you.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I am not convinced that all conservative members think Peter Sawyer is a nutter. I am sure most of them would, but I am not sure that all of them do. Peter Sawyer believes that the Rothschilds have 22 properties in Canberra which they intend using for embassies for foreign dignitaries, and that somehow Bob Hawke and Senator Stone, being Rhodes Scholars, are co-conspirators in this world Government plan. Peter Sawyer has gone a bit too far for members of the League of Rights, and they are now trying to dissociate themselves from him. However, that is the sort of caper they get up to.

I want to talk about Eric Butler. He came to Esperance and addressed a meeting of nine people - and I think it shows the great sense of the people of Esperance that he could attract only nine people, but there is a very small group of people in Esperance that is really operating as one of these fronts for the League of Rights. That group does not say it is the League of Rights, but that is pretty obvious to anyone who looks at what its members say and what their program is. Eric Butler was invited to Esperance, and I can show members the advertisement and whose phone number was on that advertisement so they can see who was the contact in Esperance; and I am not suggesting that Eric Butler is associated with any political party in this place. Eric Butler contributed to a magazine called *New Times*. This journal came out in Australia in the mid 1930s, and before the First World War was very pro the Axis; it was pro the German occupation of Poland; it was pro the fascist Governments in Germany and Italy. It opposed a lot of our efforts during the war. This was the same Eric Butler and the United Electors group, as I think it was called at the time, which tried to support the position of the Nazis in Europe. The same people, the Eric Butlers of this world, spin this line that the Jewish holocaust never took place; and their arguments for that are absolutely fanciful.

The people in the League of Rights are real; they are in the community; and they operate through these front groups. I think that in this State there probably are front groups other than the group in Esperance which members would be well aware of. These groups generally operate in areas where there are problems. A World Heritage area where timber workers are about to lose their jobs is the sort of area they will go to. They feed on people's fears and apprehensions. They do almost the same thing as the Trotskyites did, if members have ever seen them operate. We had a strike in Kambalda one year and who appeared on the scene but a group of Trotskyites from Perth. The League of Rights is the same sort of operation: They are extremist, racist, and anti-Semitic. They even objected to and opposed publicly the appointment of Sir Zelman Cowen as the Governor General of Australia on the ground that he was Jewish. That is the League of Rights.

Hon Fred McKenzie: Not the Trotskyites?

Hon MARK NEVILL: No. I am just talking about the way the League of Rights operates; I would like to get that point clear. I was saying they feed on situations where people are under stress.

Hon H.W. Gayfer: Did you not say a while ago in reference to something else that this is a democratic country?

Hon MARK NEVILL: I am not opposed to the existence of the League of Rights; I believe in free speech. What I am doing is exposing what it is doing.

Hon G.E. Masters: Mr Lockyer was exposing what the pixies were doing.

Hon MARK NEVILL: He was exposing what they look like.

Several members interjected.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I am exposing what the League of Rights is doing. I am not saying it

should be banned, any more than the Communist Party or any other group should be banned, because as soon as it is banned it will achieve its victory because that is when its membership goes up and it becomes strong, so that is the last thing I would do. I am just trying to expose what this group is doing and how it operates. As I said, its members are racist, anti-Semitic, and neo-Nazi. Their mode of operation is completely inconsistent with what I regard as democratic ideals: Tolerance, truth and generosity of spirit. They are intolerant and dishonest people and will do anything they can to discredit political parties in particular and to prey on the insecurity and uncertainty of people in difficult situations.

Hon P.H. Lockyer: I rest my case; I agree with you.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Good. I am glad I have some support there. I think I have probably said enough about the League of Rights, but it has front organisations around the place. Veritas Press in Perth is a front organisation for the League of Rights. I would like to commend this article to members of the House who have trouble with these sorts of groups in their electorate. It is a speech by Senator Boswell, a National Party senator for Queensland. I never realised there was such good sense in the National Party.

Several members interjected.

The PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon MARK NEVILL: It is certainly a thoroughly researched speech. It goes on for about 10 or 12 pages of the Senate *Hansard* of 27 April 1988 commencing on page 1941. Groups such as the Citizens Electoral Councils - for example, the one recently established in the new electoral district of Roe - are League of Rights fronts.

Hon Garry Kelly interjected.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Yes, and the Institute for Economic Democracy is another front, as is the Australian Heritage Society. Dean Roberts did not realise he was addressing a seminar organised by that neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic group - because that is what it is, and I make no bones about it and am not exaggerating when I say that; that is a fairly rational statement. Other front groups are the Ladies in Line against Communism, and the Christian Institute for Individual Freedom. The League of Rights has made probably its biggest progress in recent years through fundamentalist church groups. I recommend this article to any member who wants to do a bit of research on the League of Rights. There are also the speeches by Senator John Stone, Senator Austin Lewis and Senator Peter Baume of New South Wales, who are all conservative senators, and if members read what they had to say they will think twice about what this group is up to. The article documents the 63 predictions made by Peter Sawyer, none of which have come to fruition. He was the person going around and absolutely frightening the daylights out of people in Western Australia. Other members, like me, probably received a number of phone calls after Peter Sawyer had been through their towns. He was introduced at numerous meetings by Mr Jeremy Lee who is Executive Director of the League of Rights. It is a sinister group and is taking in people who do not know what is behind the organisations it is running. It is anti democracy - its members do not say who they are. The league runs through these front groups and changes all the time. I certainly recommend that members be aware of that.

Hon E.J. Charlton: Peter Sawyer was the person who talked about social security fraud.

Hon MARK NEVILL: I have only four minutes left and want to comment on the annual reports that are tabled in this House. There has been a dramatic improvement in their quality this year, which reflects the provisions of the Financial Administration and Audit Act which came into effect last year. The Government, and especially the Government agencies, are to be commended for the improvement in the standard of annual reporting this year - some really good reports were presented. A committee which I chaired judged the W. Lonnie award this year, which went to the Water Authority of Western Australia. Its was an excellent report. The Department of Mines, Transperth, the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Agriculture, the Port Hedland Port Authority, Westrail, the Totalisator Agency Board, the Agriculture Protection Board, the State Planning Commission and the Waterways Commission all produced excellent reports this year. Many Government departments and agencies were producing reports for the first time and as first efforts some were commendable, including that from the Ministry of the Premier and Cabinet. I have run out of time.

The PRESIDENT: Order! The honourable member still has two minutes.

Hon MARK NEVILL: Thank you, Mr President. The standard of information in the annual reports has improved dramatically. The financial statements are far better and now, despite what Hon Max Evans said, we can read the annual reports and know what has been happening in Government departments whereas a few years ago, for instance, the report of the Mines Department told us a lot about the mining industry in Western Australia but little about the Mines Department. If members look at the different reports submitted over the years they will see there has been a great improvement and certainly that is good from an historical point of view and also for members' research.

One complaint about the annual reports is that many of the reports tabled are photocopied documents, yet a printed copy is not made available to the public until sometimes six or eight months later. I believe there should be a time limit between the date a photocopied report is tabled and when it is made available for wider distribution. I support the motion.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon W.N. Stretch.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING OF STOCK AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Debate resumed from 30 August.

HON W.N. STRETCH (Lower Central) [5.43 pm]: The Opposition supports this Bill, for the very good reason that the Government saw fit to accept the amendment put by the Liberal Party in another place, which was also supported by the National Party. Before launching into the debate proper I should say that in my previous speech on agricultural matters I saw fit to comment on the quality of the second reading speech for the Agriculture Bill. The remarks I made then were not flattering, but I congratulate the Minister and the department on the preparation of this second reading speech because it is a very well prepared and informative one. That is particularly appreciated because the Bill we are dealing with now, although simple, deals with a complex matter.

The artificial breeding of livestock has a very long history. It really got under way in the early 1940s and by the late 1940s artificial breeding - or artificial insemination as it was called then - was widespread in the dairy industry and the enormous advantages of this technique to the livestock industries were very quickly realised. The attributes of a very high quality animal could be rapidly spread across the industry by the use of artificial insemination, and rather than having 20 or 30 calves from a bull in a year one could have several hundred spread across a large district. Now, with faster transport and better methods of refrigeration, that is a worldwide possibility; indeed, much of the genetic improvement in stock in recent times has been due to this process.

The only sticking point in the Bill as it was originally presented by the Government was the question of who could give the epidural injections into the spines of animals during the process of ova collection. The Government's original proposal was that a veterinarian should still have to be in attendance to give these injections. There were once good grounds for that and the veterinarians made a reasonable case for that remaining so. But practical experience in the field has proved that in fact the technicians who are operating widely in this field are capable of handling this side of the operation and it is quite evident that this amendment should have been put into the Bill. To the Government's credit it accepted the amendment from the Opposition and members will note that the second draft of the Bill - the one before us - includes that amendment.

The ovum transplant operation is a continuation of the steps that have developed in the artificial breeding of stock from the early days of simple artificial insemination. It is a complex operation, but with increasingly advanced technology, the availability of better stock and facilities, and a lot of input from overseas we have been able to make very great steps forward in this field. It is fair to say that this legislation really brings Western Australian practice under the umbrella of up to date legislation; in other words, the legislation probably has been lagging behind what is happening out in the wide world. Of course, this has enormous benefits for the industry and gives a certain amount of confidence to the way in which the industry can progress in the future.

I understand that the National Party will also support this Bill and that is very good to see. It is very pleasing that when we consider agricultural Bills in this House there is a reasonable consensus on most issues. It is evidence of an awareness that the Government fortunately now has about the importance of the agricultural industries, and I thank the Minister for the rapid acceptance of the amendment we proposed to the Bill. He did not necessarily like it but was good enough to accept it in good faith and good spirit, and I am confident that the same attitude will prevail in this House. As the Government has accepted the amendment moved in another place, there is very little more to say. We support the Bill and I believe this legislation takes us well down the track so that the legislation can keep pace with the technological advances in the industry.

We have come a long way in 35 years with the artificial breeding of stock, and we can go much further. There is general acceptance throughout the industry of the role of technicians, and the Bill is sensible in that it leaves the control and registration of technicians under the supervision of the chief veterinary surgeon. That will give the necessary safeguards for animal practices. The farming industry is very aware of the objections raised by people who do not altogether like what we do to animals during some treatment. For argument's sake, people get very emotional about the mulesing of sheep and emotional outbursts are made by animal welfare people. The industry has realised this and is now virtually self regulated. The industry is preparing codes of conduct for such practices and when the animal breeding technicians become self regulated this will be the best protection of all. Governments can go so far but the best regulation of all is that which is generated from within the industry. I welcome that, and I welcome the overall supervision of the chief veterinary officer. We support this forward moving legislation.

HON H.W. GAYFER (Central) [5.52 pm]: The National Party supports the Bill. This legislation is consolidated around the transference of ova from one female animal to another within the cattle industry. The prospect of this type of transplant, indeed the whole subject of artificial insemination, is one which will have a great deal of influence on the future of breeding and of stock generally within Australia. The Australian methods have a great influence around the world.

One of the most graphic illustrations of artificial insemination, and the advantages of it, was recently demonstrated at the Katanning ram sale when one ram brought \$103 000. A syndicate of 10 breeders from all over the State bought the ram, with the contribution from each breeder being around \$10 000. They will never see that ram because it will remain on the property of the person who sold it. The person who sold the ram will be responsible for the collection of semen from the animal and its distribution to the 10 purchasers. Each of the purchasers will receive 200 capsules of sperm and each capsule will be capable of impregnating three straws; that is, 600 female animals can be served by 200 capsules. A purchaser who has spent \$10 000 - that is, one tenth of the cost price of the ram - will be able to impregnate 600 ewes, whereas had he paid \$10 000 for one ram - as a lot of people do - and then turned the ram out with the flock, this would only enable the servicing of 100 ewes, with a fair chance that the lambing rate would be around 65 to 70 per cent. This indicates that the artificial insemination program is a very important adjunct to the breeding program, if we are able to expand in such a manner and receive the utmost gain from a quality animal, whether the process is applied to cattle by ovum transplant or any other process. The process must be fostered.

Having purchased a ram at Katanning in the past, when I saw the price paid by the syndicate of 10 breeders I was a little slow in working out the situation. But when I realised what was possible when a person has a one tenth share and receives enough sperm to impregnate 600 ewes, the process started to make sense to me. The purchase was a very good one and we will see that occurring more in the future. The system can be applied to cattle with ovum transplants by way of flushing out the ovum. This can be carried out easily on the property of the owner, providing he is attending to his own animals. Provision is made for this method within the Bill.

I have a complaint to draw to the attention of the House. The original Artificial Breeding of Stock Act was printed in 1965 and contained nine pages. Twelve years later, in 1976, a 12 page amendment was made which has not yet been incorporated in the original Act. As legislators, we find that we spend most of our time in this place inserting amendments to an Act to make a sensible reading of it. This is a gross waste of members' time. One would

hope, in this modern age of computers, that a reprint could be undertaken quickly and that the Act is readable at a glance. We should not need to spend hours - as Mr Stretch would have spent, and I have spent - trying to fit one portion with another. With the passing of this legislation I hope that another 12 years will not pass before the current amendments are incorporated in the Act.

With the quick incorporation of amendments to the Act the people who are obliged to use and understand the Act will be able to do so. If anyone wrote to me at the moment and asked me to send an Act on to enable him to discover where his boundaries lay, it would be difficult for him to sort out the situation. Many years ago in this place Acts were brought up to date and were readily available to members. When I was in the Assembly years ago, I would come to my friends in this place in order to get an updated Act. It was the Council, in those days, which did that work and you, Mr President, no doubt will remember that very well. If I might say so - because we are all part of this place - we have now slipped a little. I have an Act in my hand which has had a large number of amendments made to it since 1972 - 12 pages of amendments for a nine page Act - and has never been upgraded. I naturally support the second reading, and ask that in some way or other we bring about a system whereby Acts can quickly be brought up to date so that members will be able to get an up to date Act from the parliamentary papers library instead of spending hours putting it together.

Sitting suspended from 6.00 to 7.30 pm

HON GRAHAM EDWARDS (North Metropolitan - Minister for Consumer Affairs) [7.30 pm]: I welcome the support for this Bill from members opposite. As was identified by Hon W.N. Stretch, it is a simple Bill covering a fairly complex matter. It will certainly help Western Australia catch up with the rest of the world in this field.

The Government accepted the amendment which was put in the other place. Hon W.N. Stretch thanked the Government for its preparedness to support the amendment, and I thank the Opposition for the way in which the amendment was put. We all appreciate the bilateral support the amendment has received in both Houses. With those few comments, I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Bill read a second time.

Committee

The Chairman of Committees (Hon D.J. Wordsworth) in the Chair; Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Consumer Affairs) in charge of the Bill.

Clauses 1 to 4 put and passed.

Clause 5: Section 5A amended -

Hon W.N. STRETCH: This is the clause that was amended in the lower House. The clause now states in paragraph (a) that the operation does not include the making of an incision. Originally, it was intended to read that an "incision be made or an injection be given" to the animal. The difficulty with the injection was that it had to be administered at five hourly intervals which meant that the vet had to administer an epidural injection at the base of the spine and wait until the ovum was flushed out and implanted in the cow. It was a waste of time for the vet to wait around for that length of time and that is where the commonsense of the industry and the legislators came to the fore. The question of epidural injections being administered was debated by veterinarians. The injection is a deep injection administered at the base of the tail which is something that was not realised when the Bill was originally introduced in the other place. However, it has been demonstrated that technicians can administer the injections safely and that is the reason the veterinarians agreed to the amendment. Even though it does impinge on a certain area of the expertise of veterinarians it was felt the animal would be well cared for under supervision and the Opposition is of the opinion that everyone's interests have been catered for in the amendment.

Clause put and passed.

Clauses 6 to 9 put and passed.

Title -

Hon W.N. STRETCH: I support the remarks by Hon H.W. Gayfer about the need for the parent Act to be reprinted when this Bill is promulgated. The problem is that when reference is made, for example, to section 11 of the Act a person has to refer to section 10 of an earlier amendment and it is very confusing. I look forward to the reprinting of the Act. It is an important point, particularly with this legislation because the numbers are confusing.

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS: I will pursue that matter. I understand it is already in hand, but I will reinforce the points made by Hon H.W. Gayfer and Hon W.N. Stretch.

Title put and passed.

Report

Bill reported, without amendment, and the report adopted.

Third Reading

Bill read a third time, on motion by Hon Graham Edwards (Minister for Consumer Affairs), and passed.

SOIL AND LAND CONSERVATION AMENDMENT BILL*Second Reading*

Debate resumed from 31 August.

HON D.J. WORDSWORTH (South) [7.38 pm]: The long title of this Bill and the Act is "an Act relating to the conservation of soil and land resources and to the mitigation of the effect of erosion, salinity and flooding". The lengthy title was the result of an amendment made to the 1945 Act in 1982 in order that it more closely described the situation. The 1945 Act was introduced to cover the continuous cropping situation in the 1930s and the 1940s and the effect of wind erosion. As I said, the amendments were made to the Act in 1982. Now, six years later we have a Bill before the House in which the emphasis is taken off the word "soil" and put on the word "land". In some ways people may say we are being a little pedantic. Nevertheless, it can be argued that the word "land" incorporates many more things than does the word "soil". That is one of the objects of the Bill.

The Bill also recognises many changes in titles of public servants over six years. Once again, that is not necessary, but as the Bill is before the House those changes may as well be made. The Bill increases the powers and responsibilities of those land conservation committees set up under the original Act, and it provides the right to register a memorial on a title. I hope that this will result in more activity in the field of land conservation in this State. However, it is not the necessity to overcome some hindrance which is holding up more definite action in this field. Perhaps this Bill could be described as little more than window dressing.

Without doubt the public are becoming more and more concerned that this State is not giving land conservation the priority it deserves; the publicity received by the Select Committee of this House on the release of its discussion paper on salinity indicates the public's concern. The paper received front page coverage in *The West Australian*, and was commented upon in the editorial and in several other features on the day. The rural and country Press also gave it considerable coverage. I put on record some of the findings of that committee, particularly with regard to the concern about soil degradation and what is happening in Western Australia. It was pointed out in the report that the capital value of the agricultural land in this State can be measured in billions and billions of dollars. It was rather frightening to learn that in one shire 10 per cent of the arable land that had been cropped had been lost due to salinity. In the great southern region up to one per cent of arable land was being lost every year.

Hon G.E. Masters: Is that increasing?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It is one per cent cumulative, so members will realise that something must be done.

Hon J.M. Brown: It diminishes in a very wet year.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Regrettably, it increases in a very wet year. In addition, one

third of the irrigated land in Western Australia is affected by rising water tables. To summarise it very briefly, salinity is caused by a rising water table and occurs when more water falls than is utilised. That excess water unfortunately then joins the water table and the situation is likely to get worse in a wet year because the water is more likely not to be used and the water table will rise. Although the impact on agriculture is very significant, the impact perhaps on the stream salinity is the most dramatic. In the south west less than 50 per cent of divertible surface water resources remain fresh. The salinity levels of virtually all rivers draining agricultural land in areas with rainfall of less than 900 millimetres a year continue to deteriorate. The total cost of salinity to Western Australia is about \$75 million a year. That figure is likely to treble within the next 30 years if no control measures are introduced. Fortunately those measures are being taken. Work has commenced but, unfortunately, not at a rapid enough rate. The farmers have indicated their concern and they are seeking more direction and help.

There are other significant effects of salinity on the general environment; the high water tables are leading to a very high tree decline. Anyone driving through the wheatbelt will observe a high percentage of trees which were in the water channels dying or already dead. Salinity is also having a bad effect on the wildlife habitat. It has many social effects, not only because of the immediate financial loss, but also because many of the individuals are affected by this ongoing problem that is inequitably distributed among the farmers. There does not appear to be a guaranteed remedy within the grasp of the farmer, who has to cope with the reduced level of profitability of the farm as a result of the salinity. The high cost of curing this problem has led to many farmers becoming despondent, to be under excess stress, and it could possibly lead to social breakdown as farmers are forced to live with declining returns.

The Department of Agriculture, as required under the Act, prepared an annual report for this House. That report refers to the North Stirlings soil conservation district, and I use this as an example of the social problem caused by salinity. The Select Committee is very concerned for the farmers in that area; something like 50 000 hectares in the region have little topographic relief and no clearly defined drainage lines. Ground water levels are within two metres of the surface and frequently are above the ground during winter; the salinity of the water is six times that of sea water. The whole settlement based on the North Stirlings is under immense pressure and it is calling for Government help. In Western Australia three hydrologists are working on the other side of the range; an additional lass from Wales was working with the group and doing a great job, but I understand that she has now been transferred to another area. Without doubt the farmers in that area are feeling very despondent. It was interesting to note that when the hydrologists were moved around, the farmers they left felt they had lost their only opportunity of coming to terms with the problem.

While investigating the salinity problems, members of the Select Committee went to the irrigation area and spoke to a farmer who had paid \$5 000 a hectare for irrigated land, yet he was forced to grain feed his cattle because it was not worth irrigating the land he owned. That indicates the seriousness of the whole problem of salinity. Having raised the issue of salinity, I now swing back to the whole question of soil conservation and the purpose of this Bill.

Hon S.M. Piantadosi: Before you do, can you tell me when salinity became a problem?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: The question should be: When was salinity recognised as a problem? Obviously, it has been a problem for all of this century. It was first noted by railway workers who needed water for their steam engines and found after the land was opened up that it was difficult to obtain fresh water for their steam engines. I am told that that happened in 1911. When the Mundaring Weir was built, the Forests Department thought it could reduce the forest foliage and get more run off; but this caused salinity in no time. Fortunately the trees grew again and the problem was solved within a few years. Those were the first indications at the turn of the century. Although it has been recorded and spoken of, not enough action has been taken.

The title of the Bill suggests that salinity is just one of the problems, and in its annual report the Department of Agriculture stated that in the low and medium range rainfall zones each year farmers are losing production worth about \$38 million to wind erosion, \$26 million to

salinity, \$19 million to water erosion and water logging, and \$11 million to decline in soil structure. So one can realise with a little bit of calculation that salinity is causing only about a quarter of the total land degradation, and that being so the committee has often been asked why it looked only at salinity and not at the whole problem of land degradation. The committee realised once it started its examination that it was a major problem just to examine salinity, and one of the benefits of picking up just this one section of land degradation was that we could look also at the problem of water supply. I think that in the long run the future water needs of Western Australians will be of great concern. We can see this particularly in the Wellington water catchment area, which provides piped water over the wheatbelt - although not all over the wheatbelt because some of the water comes from the Mundaring Dam. In that area that is fed from the Wellington Dam we are now finding that we need to look for an alternative source of water from the Harris River Dam, and the Minister is considering bringing down water from the Ord River, which indicates the deteriorating situation we in this State have with water supplies.

In order to indicate one of the reasons for picking out salinity rather than the whole field of land degradation, I make a comparison with the problem of heart disease. Heart disease is only one field of medicine, and medical practitioners have chosen to tackle this disease by saying people should adopt better diets, give up smoking, and do more exercise. People could ask why should a general health problem such as heart disease be singled out, but it has been found that it does pay to pick one item out of many and give it attention. So despite the fact that salinity is only one quarter of the problem of land degradation, I believe our committee has done a worthwhile job in examining the problem and that many of the recommendations we made will also help solve the problems in both those fields.

Our only hope is that future Governments in this State will recognise the problem. It is interesting to note that the Victorian Government announced a couple of months ago that it would put \$100 million into controlling salinity over the next five years. This announcement was followed by the South Australian, New South Wales and Federal Governments, which matched another \$100 million, so we see that \$400 million is being spent by certain States to control salinity in the Murray River. If those States are putting in that amount of money, we in Western Australia need to do better than we are doing because the sort of money we are spending is probably little more than \$1 million, yet the problem is great.

We have some very dedicated people working in the field of land degradation, but they unfortunately do not have the support they need. There is no doubt that they have the commitment, and I think the farmers are alert to the problem. It is now a matter for the Government of the day to put in the resources that are required. I have stated previously that one of the objectives of the Bill is to take away the emphasis from soil to land; and that goes right through the Bill. The committee had the opportunity of seeing a video produced by the land management group of the Department of Agriculture, which was called "Landman", which of course is a play on the words "land" and "management". This video outlined what the department will do in the near future with the various district committees which are set up under clause 22 of the Soil and Land Conservation Amendment Act. The objective of the video was to make farmers aware that by changing some of their land management practices they could not only reduce salinity by using more water but also reduce the land degradation problem. The department collected all the information available from Government resources such as the various mapping sections and the Office of Titles, and was able to get the farmers to supply as much information as they knew about the particular catchments. The farmers were able to mark in fences, water supplies, the various drainage lines and what they knew about soil types and the uses of land. By using this program of "Landman" the department will show farmers that by changing their practices and putting fences in new positions to suit the soil types they can make a greater profit. This is a great idea because it is much easier to get farmers to follow a certain view if they can see there is a profit in it for them. If the department is able to use its computer program on the returns from various agricultural activities to show farmers that by changing their practices, fence lines and the like they can make more money, then I am sure the farmers will be willing to do so. It is a very good first step to being able to change previous farming practices to preferred farming practices.

One of the major things that the committee found was that farmers did not really know what was going on underneath the land surface and that while in various places the department had put down piezometers - which are plastic pipes in the ground - and farmers could see rising

water tables, this was only over given test areas, and farmers began to realise quickly they needed to know a lot more. It would seem that the Government has a responsibility to make this information available and to do the research that is required. This will be quite difficult. It is rather interesting that the Jerramungup soil conservation group, which is probably one of the foremost groups in Western Australia, last year planted the equivalent of a row of trees from Jerramungup to Perth, some 440 kilometres, as well as planting some 30 or 40 hectares of straight block timber. As well as doing that, they have set an aim to put one piezometer down on every one of their 270 odd properties. This is only scratching the surface of the problem. Having one of these gauges on each property is not really sufficient. Apart from anything else, the object of these devices is to judge the levels one with another, and one on each property obviously is not enough. However, it gives us an idea of where we are going if the farmers wish to go out and do it. It is fairly expensive and must be done carefully and, having been done, the gauges must be read regularly.

When I was in the United States I was interested to meet with a team in Montana which had been established in 1979 by one Paul Brown. Those who attended symposiums in this State in the early 1980s would recall that he was one of the American experts who gave us some advice. He had set up groups of about five people, each including a soil conservation expert and an economist, and in some cases a hydrologist. A group would go onto a property and give the farmer the necessary information to enable him to change his practices in such a way that the salinity in Montana has been largely overcome during the period this team has been working. For the record I will read to the House what those field teams were doing. I will quote from an article on Saline Seep Development and Control in Montana by Paul L. Brown, to whom I referred earlier, and others. I might add that the problem in America is not quite the same as ours - it is not the same salt as our NaCl; nevertheless they are tackling it in a similar manner.

Hon Garry Kelly: What sort of NaCl is it?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: It is sulphate there, and NaCl here in Australia. The article states in part -

The field team investigation of each application is divided into five steps: initial review, drilling, field work, plan development and delivery, and plan follow-up. An initial review of the saline seep is done with the landowner/operator to determine the extent of seep development, cropping history, surface water accumulation and any reclamation techniques tried to date. Important items used throughout the planning process are: the earliest and latest aerial photos available to enable stereoscopic viewing and document seep growth; U.S. Geological Survey topography maps, ASCS farm maps and SCS soil survey information. Monitoring well locations are plotted on the appropriate farm map, and a cost estimate that reflects the anticipated cost of drilling is developed. If the landowner accepts the cost estimate and signs a cooperative agreement, the project proceeds. Prior to the start of drilling, there are no costs to the individual.

Shallow groundwater monitoring wells are drilled as the first step in the reclamation planning process. There are many benefits derived from the drilling program. First, the wells allow for more accurate identification of the recharge area of the seeps in question. Soil textures, soil water conditions and depth to bedrock or an impermeable layer are recorded during the drilling process. The owner/operators are encouraged to assist with the drilling and be involved throughout the entire planning process. They are more willing to implement the recommendations if they have helped develop them.

The field work phase includes soil and water quality sampling and measurement of the static water table in the monitoring wells. An elevational survey of the wells, often assisted by the SCS, is also completed at this time. During plan development, information from the elevation survey, well logs and water table levels are combined to provide a three-dimensional picture of the shallow groundwater system and underlying geology. Groundwater flow patterns are determined by comparing the relative water table elevations at each monitoring well location. A reclamation plan is delivered to the applicant with specific cropping recommendations as to where and what needs to be planted. The long-term goals and management of the land as well

as economics and federal farm program participation are taken into account in developing rotations.

The last step in the field team procedure is the follow-up of plan implementation and reclamation progress. Cooperators are provided a well measurement device for periodic monitoring . . . of the depth to the water table. They send the measurements to the MSCA field office where well hydrographs are kept. Over time, the impact of land use decisions on the recharge area on the shallow ground water system will affect the seep or discharge area.

It is interesting to note the amount of time this is taking. The article continues -

Technical assistance is provided usually for five to six years or until reclamation of the salinized area returns land to near-normal production. The ultimate goal is to lower and stabilize the water table at 7 feet or more in the seep area through intensive cropping systems in the recharge area.

It is rather interesting that in America they are doing it entirely by changing the cropping rotations and the sorts of things that are planted, and by the use of permanent pastures, and they have not had to plant large areas of their land to trees, which many farmers feel might be necessary here. The article continues -

Since the program was funded in 1979, nearly 270 reclamation plans have been developed on more than 9,230 acres of saline seep.

In other words, an area that has been completely out of production. I give that as an example of a team that has been working in America since 1979, and they have treated only 270 farms. We have thousands of farms which need that sort of work. It highlights the amount of money that Government must put into this project. It is really quite ridiculous to expect to do what is necessary on today's funding. We made a great start - 80 of these soil conservation groups have been formed.

Hon W.N. Stretch: There are 90.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I thank the member; I gather there is one a week being formed, so I will say 90. But these committees have to be serviced. We have seen the Department of Agriculture start on a land plan which involves helping farmers to decide on better rotations and better use of their land, which is similar to what the team did in America. However, we must also learn more about the water levels and the water table, and we must go to the next stage and have more of the affected area in Western Australia covered by adequate water sampling.

In Victoria the Government involved schoolchildren in monitoring water levels. They held a Salinity Week and the children went out and measured water in various dams, wells, and anything else they could find. They managed to compile a map for the whole of Victoria showing how serious the problem was. I believe, and the committee believes, that we must become more involved with education in schools and make the whole of the population aware of the difficulties we are encountering with salinity and soil degradation, because only when the public become aware, involved, and concerned will Governments be forced into carrying out more work in this direction. At the moment 90-odd committees have been set up and currently are being serviced largely through the extension section of the Department of Agriculture. In an area such as Katanning, for example, the extension officer is probably also the head of the Department of Agriculture office with numerous people under his control. He has all the day to day work of organising those people, and he must also handle the farmers' many and varied problems, even to the extent of filling in the various forms concerning drought relief and the like. The department admits it cannot fully service these committees.

The Select Committee, saw a need to recruit people, apart from the normal extension officers in the Department of Agriculture, to help facilitate the necessary work. While the department is able to carry out some work through the existing officers, the need exists for more and more people to be placed in the field to work full time with them. Perhaps we will need to educate officers within our universities. If we cannot find the needed hydrologists and other skilled people, what is wrong with our universities educating people to fill those roles? The faculty of agriculture at the University of Western Australia spends most of its time training people from overseas. I am not criticising that fact but we need to train some of

our own people. If we do not have enough hydrologists we should take steps to train people in this area.

Hon Graham Edwards: As a matter of interest, the member for Katanning-Roe believes that a committee in that area is working exceptionally well and is very supportive.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: They are supportive, but are we supporting them?

Hon Graham Edwards: The member for Katanning-Roe did not find that in his area.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I am surprised that the member found that they have enough resources. The member for Katanning-Roe's area includes Jerramungup and over the next three years that area aims to put down one piezometer on every farm, bringing the total to 270. That is not sufficient because at least 10 piezometers are needed on each farm, and there is no hydrologist in the area.

Hon Graham Edwards: The point the member for Katanning-Roe made was that the local groups working in the areas are able to make decisions that take into account the local characteristics.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Yes, but they could become the great unled. They need people who are knowledgeable on the subject to help organise things. Up to date, the Department of Agriculture has been designed to help people who come to it with problems. The department does not cater for officers having to travel to every farm in a district and to encourage everyone to work together; that takes a lot of manpower. We are calling for that extra manpower to be attached to the Department of Agriculture to respond to these requests. The Select Committee went to one farm in an area where a new soil conservation committee was being formed. At Woodanilling people have become so enthusiastic that \$50 000 has been raised, and an aeroplane with infra-red equipment has been hired in an effort to understand what is under the ground and to investigate the water levels. These people are using techniques which have not been used by the department. Mining companies use these techniques for mineral detection, but I am not sure whether the system works. At least these moves indicate how keen the farmers are, that they are willing to raise money and fight hard in facing the situation. I have mentioned previously that a hydrologist was working in the North Stirling area; she has now gone to Katanning, and these people will be making use of her skills. However, each group would benefit from one such officer being attached to it for some time.

Let us now look closely at the amendments proposed in this Bill. Unfortunately, the other place does not seem to have considered them at all, so there is still a need for the Legislative Council. One of the reasons that this Bill is before this House is to give the soil conservation committees more power. In his second reading speech the Minister stated that the Commissioner for Soil Conservation will be able to pass on some of his duties and functions to the committees. In the past the committees have had the power under the Act only to give information to the commissioner.

Clause 9 of the Bill outlines the functions of the district committees as follows -

(1) The functions of a district committee are -

- (a) on behalf of, and accordance with any direction, approval or authorization given by, the Commissioner -
 - (i) to manage projects; and
 - (ii) to carry out or cause to be carried out works or practices, for preventing, remedying or mitigating land degradation and for promoting soil conservation and reclamation;
- (b) to review, assess and report to the Commissioner on the effects of land use or land management on the condition of the land within its land conservation district;

These are fairly strong directions. Further on the clause reads -

- (h) to perform such functions relating to land degradation and soil conservation as may be agreed between the Committee and the Commissioner.

To enable this to be done, proposed new section 24(2) provides that "a district committee has all such powers as are reasonably necessary to enable it to perform the functions set out in subsection (1)". One wonders how far a district committee can go to take on the functions which were originally given to the commissioner or his officers. Some concern has been expressed to the Select Committee over the transfer of those powers. Among other things, the commissioner has the right or power of entry onto properties. Will the committees have that right of entry? The commissioner or his servants have to hold an authority card to show to farmers; the card states that the holder is a soil conservation officer and the cards can refer to one explicit property or can give the general right to enter any property. Will the committee members be issued with cards which will allow the card holders to enter any property and carry out the required activities?

Under the Act fines can be imposed on those persons who hinder or obstruct an officer or an employee. One wonders whether those fines will be applicable if a person hinders or obstructs a committee member. Obviously, there will be a difference between having an officer from the Department of Agriculture and a neighbour going onto a person's property. I am concerned that we could be passing on powers to committee members which perhaps could lead them into difficulty.

We have received a submission from one of the conservation committees expressing concern and recommending that if a directive is necessary it should come from someone higher up in the hierarchy rather than from the local committee or coordinator. Concerns have been expressed that certain types of control of land denigration could become necessary - or banned.

Hon Graham Edwards: Where is this concern coming from?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: The first concern I mentioned came from a soil conservation committee and I referred to its recommendation. The second concern came from another group which spoke to us and which is concerned that the various committees will be able to decide what sort of practice will take place in certain areas and will lean one way or the other. I remind the House that the relative success of a particular type of interceptor bank has been a matter of controversy over the last 10 years and we do not want this issue to be the subject of debate again. The debate has been dampened by both the Department of Agriculture and the group concerned. Nevertheless, the group is concerned that it may be stopped from carrying out what it believes is successful work by using the WISALTS interceptor bank. Other farmers may be concerned that a committee may be in favour of the WISALTS bank and, if it is, that they will be encouraged to install them in areas in which they do not wish to do so. As soil conservation committees are given more responsibility a certain amount of conflict could arise.

I do not think it will be out of place for me to read from an article which was published in the *National Farmer* on 26 August 1988. The article was headed "'No-till' method forced on US farmers", and read as follows -

Radical changes in US tillage practices are set to follow far reaching legislation on soil conservation introduced in the United States.

Conventional tilling methods look like being assigned to the scrapheap which could have repercussions in this country if our Government decides to follow the US lead.

A largely unreported section of the 1985 Farm Bill requires all farmers participating in Government programs to have an approved conservation plan for their property by 1990.

Of course the article refers to America where millions of acres are being taken out of production. The visitor to the United States pointed out that if US farmers wanted to participate in that program they were not allowed to till and had to carry out their tillage requirements by the use of hormone sprays. The article reported the various meetings taking place around Australia on this subject. It was pointed out that water quality is the new frontier for the greenies, and various farm leaders in the Eastern States passed comments on the subject as follows -

The spectre of penalties and incentives for those Australian farmers who continue to drag their feet over the joint issues of soil erosion and land degradation surfaced at a Toowoomba conference.

Further on it states -

Jock Douglas of the CU believes that producers are in the right frame of mind to accept a national land care program. It would be funded by Federal Government, directed by State Government and operated by farmers.

"And I believe that producers will accept some restrictions on what, up until now, has been an open season for land management," he said.

Further on it states -

Badon Cameron for the UGA, whilst agreeing that a joint approach to the subject was essential, said he had some disagreement as to the role of these local committees.

"We see them as having an educational role and are looking for a carrot and stick approach to the matter," he said.

Rod McLeod of the Graingrowers Association said that if farmers were going to be disadvantaged, then they should receive some form of incentive by way of compensation.

"Talk of committees is commendable," he warned. "But they must have access to the right information and make sure it is the correct advice."

It was left to the discussion period to bring out the worries surrounding the establishment of land management committees. Many said they were "apprehensive" about the powers they might command.

It would be all too easy to end up dividing the community rather than solving the issues involved. Towards the end of the debate the committees seemed to be drawn in favor of a softer sell.

This State is not the only State in Australia that is contemplating giving the committees more power. I have every confidence that they will see their way through this minefield, but I draw the attention of the House to the fact that it will not be easy. Farmers do have to change their practices. Some will do it quickly, but in the case of others I guess they will have to be led more forcibly.

The membership of the district advisory committees will be increased under clause 8 of the Bill. Members will realise that the existing committees comprise the commissioner, his ex officio or his nominee, one or more persons appointed by the Governor - in future those persons will be appointed by the Minister - a nominee from the council of each municipality, three nominees from farmer organisations and three persons actively engaged in land use, or representing organisations, or Government departments. They must be actively involved in soil use in the soil conservation district. Under this legislation the membership will be increased so as not only to include persons actively engaged in, but also those affected by or associated with land use. I am not sure whether that is one of the reasons the Bill is before the House, but it certainly opens many doors. I wonder whether it has been included to cover areas such as Denmark where the town is situated within a water catchment area and the people in the town feel they should have a say in the management of the land around them. They probably have good reason to believe that because Denmark is having difficulty with its water supply they should also have representation.

Perhaps that is the reason, but I remind members that these committees have the right to strike a rate on the land. It is not hard to envisage a situation in which landowners would lose control to the committees. Nothing in the Act requires shire representatives to be landowners; in Denmark there is a reasonable chance that such people would be strong conservationists. The farmers' organisations can and do nominate three members and perhaps there is a reasonable chance that those nominees would have a farming background and represent landowners. However, if the other group formerly described as "actively engaged in" now represents people who are affected by or associated with the land they would perhaps no longer be landowners. It would depend on the people chosen by the Minister. I draw to members' attention that we are perhaps getting on difficult ground in that these people can strike a rate and influence the type of agriculture that will be carried out in those areas. The fact that it is being changed in this manner was not mentioned in the Minister's second reading speech, and I wonder how many committees realise that it has been introduced.

Another objective of this Bill is to allow soil conservation notices to be passed from one owner to another in the case of a sale. Members will realise that in the case of extremely bad land management a soil conservation officer can put a notice on a property. On Tuesday I asked the Minister how many of these notices had been placed on landowners. He replied that 18 conservation notices had been served; seven were for wind erosion, three for soil erosion, two for salinity control, four for land degradation and clearing, one for land degradation from overgrazing, and one for sheet and gully erosion from diverted runoff. Of those 18, 13 are still in effect and five have been discharged; in other words, the objective of this amendment is that those 13 notices should be recorded on the titles to the land. Often the Government has to carry out some work which costs money and it could be that money is outstanding on the work carried out in that work order. Under the provisions of this amendment that will become a memorial on the title so that a person cannot walk away from the debt by selling the property. I asked the Minister what sort of money was involved in those 13 notices. He replied that it was not clear what was meant by "What sum of money is involved?" He had only to read the Bill to know what it referred to, because that is the whole point of this clause.

Hon Graham Edwards: Are you supporting the Bill?

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: That is a favourite tactic of the Minister's; to ask a smart question.

Hon Graham Edwards: You have not indicated any support at all for the Bill. I am only asking the simple question of whether you support the Bill.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I do support the Bill; there is not the slightest doubt about that, but I am making members and the public aware of the contents of this Bill, which may have some significant consequences.

I hope the Minister will be able to answer the concerns I have expressed. One objective of the Bill is to change the description from "soil" to "land"; that is not very important. Another objective is to replace the name "Under Secretary of Land" with "chief executive officer, Land Administration"; that is not very important. The Bill also provides the extra powers for the committee and changes the conditions under which people can be members. I pointed out what that entails and I think it involves some dangers. A further matter dealt with is the question of memorials; quite frankly, I see little use for memorials. I asked what memorials had been placed on titles and I was told that none had been. I am trying to establish some reason for this provision. I started by saying that I hoped it would mean greater activity will take place. I have made it fairly obvious that the major need in this area is for more monetary support. With regard to memorials on titles, I always understood that when a property was purchased, the purchaser obtained a clear title to the land. I have titles to land with mortgages on them; the mortgage is marked on the title so that any person buying that property is aware of the mortgage and ensures that it is removed before he completes the purchase. In that way he purchases a clean title. These memorials will allow what is virtually a mortgage to remain on the title indicating that money is owed to the Government for soil conservation work carried out. It will also indicate that a notice has been placed on the property stating, for example, that the property has been overgrazed and it must be destocked.

Hon Graham Edwards: That seems reasonable to me.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: I am glad that the Minister thinks so. The Bill states that -

While a memorial of a soil conservation notice remains registered under section 34A, each owner and each occupier of the land to which the soil conservation notice relates shall, within a period of 14 days after the day on which he ceases to be such an owner or occupier, notify in writing -

In other words, the farmer has sold the property or given up the lease. The clause continues -

(b) each person who succeeds him in the ownership or occupation . . .

For example, let us assume that Hon Mick Gayfer had rented a property from someone, and was tossed off because the farmer had sold that property to another person; if Mick Gayfer did not notify the incoming tenant that there was a notice on the property - I do not know

why he should be interested in that tenant because he was evicted from the property - he would be liable to pay a penalty of \$2 000. I cannot understand the purpose of that provision. If the person purchasing or leasing a property is to be told of an order on the property, it is far better to tell him before the purchase or lease is finalised than within 14 days. Perhaps the Minister can explain that point.

Hon Graham Edwards: Yes, I will.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: There must be a good reason. I refer now to the responsibilities of the Commissioner for Soil Conservation under the provisions of the Mining Act. We have all heard of the events taking place in pastoral areas with people using graders to grade large areas of land, running metal detectors across the land in cross lines and so on. Under the Act the Commissioner for Soil Conservation is required to report this to the Minister for Mines and request that such activity cease. I was rather surprised when I asked the Minister representing the Minister for Mines whether the commissioner had ever asked the Minister for Mines to vary a mining lease or otherwise because of soil degradation taking place, because the answer was as follows -

The Minister is not aware of any occasion during the period 1982-88 on which the Minister for Mines was advised by the Commissioner for Soil Conservation that land degradation had taken place or was taking place on a particular mining tenement. The Minister understands that the commissioner has established a number of soil conservation district committees throughout the State. Where mining activities are occurring in specific areas, a representative from the Department of Mines has been appointed to the relevant committee.

While perhaps some of these soil conservation districts have been set up in pastoral and mining areas, I do not think that is the answer to it. I think the commissioner and his officers have to be a watchdog on poor mining activities, as does the land management department. I am not sure whether under CALM's Act they have the ability to request mining to cease or change its activities, or whether they have to do it through the Commissioner for Soil Conservation. They probably do. It is rather interesting that that whole field of activity has not yet been addressed in our soil conservation work in this State. I am not necessarily being critical because I think the commissioner has done an amazing job in tackling the work he has tackled, particularly in relation to salinity, but I am trying to highlight the fact that Governments must spend more money in this direction and there must be more staff because we are not really addressing all the problems that occur.

Finally, I was interested to see that the Minister said in his speech that when amendments were made to the Act in 1962 it was expected that only 12 soil conservation districts would be set up. Of course, we now know there have been 90. There is a great argument that they have worked like hell and it is amazing they have 90 farms, but I cannot believe that we ever thought there would be only 12 in the whole of Western Australia. I think one of the troubles is that we did not anticipate the number of committees that would be formed and the work needed to service them.

Hon J.M. Brown: That is support from the community.

Hon D.J. WORDSWORTH: Yes. That shows that farmers are doing their part and as parliamentarians we must respond to the needs contained in requests made to us. To help the Minister, I assure him that I support the legislation, if for no other reason than to encourage the Government to do more work in this direction. Nevertheless, I feel that few of these amendments were really necessary, but I give the Bill my blessing, if we can only get on with the task with haste.

HON J.N. CALDWELL (South) [8.44 pm]: I will put the Minister at ease immediately by telling him that the National Party supports the Bill. Unlike the previous speaker, I will not give a biography of the committee that I was on with him because he has covered it more fully, perhaps, than the interim report did. However, there is one small area that I draw attention to and that is the amount of funding this State is giving to landholders and the amount of funding that we are getting from the Commonwealth to help this State.

It was not noticeable that there was a bad salinity problem or a land degradation problem as we travelled around the Eastern States, and it came as a surprise to hear the amount of money that the Eastern States are to get from their funds, both State and Federal. I realise that the

Murray-Darling basin is of strategic importance because there is so much irrigation from the two or three rivers there and it is imperative that that waterway stay as fresh as possible so that it can support the people in that area. At the end of his second reading speech the Minister said that the amendments would assist land users and the Government to tackle more effectively the problem of land degradation. This is what it is all about, but unfortunately this Bill is only a minority thing so far as Western Australia is concerned.

I noticed in the second reading speech that \$7 million was given to Government departments and various landholders last year for buy back schemes and revegetation, but in the Eastern States we are talking of hundreds of millions of dollars, so we are tackling the problem from an outside path. In the Budget which was just brought down we were told that there will be a continuing commitment to soil conservation to investigate problems associated with soil degradation and salinity, including support for the work of farmer groups, and a figure of \$244 000 is given. I hope all members take particular notice of that amount - \$244 000.

While travelling around the State of Western Australia it was very apparent to the committee that this State has the biggest problem of any State. It was more noticeable and there are hundreds of thousands of acres out there that are absolutely denuded of vegetation, and not altogether because of wind erosion, although possibly in some cases because of a little over clearing; however, it is mainly because of salinity. This is where we must put our point of view to the Minister and the Government that we definitely need more finance and encouragement, especially for landholders. It was quite noticeable as we travelled around that landholders were very aware of the problem and extremely worried. Frustration appeared wherever we went about how they were to tackle the problem. Of course, there are some well known facts in relation to how to tackle soil erosion and salinity.

When one looks at the Bill one sees in the first paragraph changes to the title and the fact that "soil conservation district" is changed to "land conservation district". I agree with that because soil conservation could be anything. It is just the part on top that is most vulnerable to wind and water and, of course, to clearing. Adding the word "land" includes vegetation, trees and the way in which we produce on that land. I notice that the Minister said in his second reading speech that it is proposed the Minister will establish district committees and appoint members to those committees. I am a little worried about how the Minister will appoint those members. Perhaps he can explain exactly why the Minister has to have the authority to appoint these committees. I do not know how the Minister will have the time to race around and do all these things because there are some 90 odd soil conservation committees, and they are increasing at an alarming rate.

Hon J.M. Brown: Not alarming.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: I beg your pardon, they are increasing at an appreciable rate.

Hon D.K. Dans: At a fast trot.

Hon Graham Edwards: I will explain it in my summary.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: Possibly they were not increasing at the start, but I believe that the problem has now been exacerbated. It has been found that the soil conservation groups are having some success, and it is important to encourage them.

I notice that my colleague in another place mentioned 150 per cent income tax deduction for anything to do with soil conservation. I do not think he meant that to relate to any specific thing, but if farmers' land plans were not implemented by some Government body, such as the Department of Agriculture, that would probably be an area where that 150 per cent income tax deduction could be made. Specific areas could be looked at. I know that would work because landholders sometimes even go into debt to get a taxation saving.

Hon J.M. Brown: It is now 100 per cent.

Hon J.N. CALDWELL: What we have to remember is, this is a terrific problem in Western Australia and we must do all we can to rectify it. If we can achieve that 150 per cent taxation advantage, I know land-holders will use it to their advantage and to the advantage of the country as a whole. It is terribly important; we have to do it for the sake of our rural areas, because the land-holders are suffering. Unfortunately, when salinity appears, sometimes farmers do not think about fixing it up; they go and buy the neighbour's property. This contributes to the degradation of the country areas. I support this Bill and I reiterate that it touches only a very small portion of soil and land degradation.

HON MARGARET McALEER (Upper West) [8.53 pm]: When I was young in the early 1940s we often had occasion to drive along the Dudawa road. We passed an abandoned farmhouse -

Hon Graham Edwards: I think you are still quite young.

Hon MARGARET McALEER: I thank the Minister. We used to pass this abandoned farmhouse, and my grandparents or my mother would look at it rather fondly and say, "That was Peter McKenna's house." We children saw an old stone building falling down in the middle of a very bare, salty space with one or two dead trees still standing. In the recollection of my grandparents, and even of my mother, that house had been occupied by Peter McKenna, one of the early farmers of the district. The soil had been good and no doubt grew excellent crops. A little later, when I became more aware of such things, I realised that the paddock was in the middle of a wide drainage area. No matter what Peter McKenna had done, once the land behind him had been cleared, undoubtedly his land would have gone salty.

Where we lived was a great variety of country. We were the watershed for three drainage systems, one to the north, one to the west and one to the south. We got rid of most of our water; we did not have so much trouble as some of our unfortunate neighbours lower down. Also we were more sheep farmers than wheat farmers, so not only had we left more cover and shelter for our sheep than we would have done if we had concentrated solely on crops, but we did not have the same problem with fallow wheat rotations which earlier farmers so quickly found resulted in erosion. Nevertheless the sheep themselves in time created a hazard in the way of soil erosion, eating out the native grasses and top feed bush. Like our other neighbours, we in turn came to incur all those problems of erosion which are so prevalent throughout the State, such as wind erosion, water erosion as a result of rain coming after long dry summers, and also salt.

In those early days people did not clear their light land. The old people knew their land and cleared the best of it because in that district York gum and Jam country was that most frequently cropped, and it became subject to salt encroachment first. One might say that farmers did not know how to deal with the salt, but even at that time, although no-one knew of a cure, prevention methods were known. My grandfather, for instance, never cleared out his creek sides; they always had a couple of chains of trees on either side. He was very careful when clearing York gum country.

Hon J.M. Brown: Are they still there?

Hon MARGARET McALEER: Yes, and he tried to bring us up in the right way. My brother and I thought he exaggerated, so we experimented with clearing some of the York gum country which he had left and we paid the penalty. In spite of all the work which has been done since, we have not advanced very much on those early perceptions that vegetative cover was the best way of dealing with salt. We did not in those days clear light land, as I said, but thanks to Eric Smart we learnt the value of it. We planted the light land with lupins, and so in time we cleared a great deal of light land in our district. We also had seepage from the light land, which increased our salt problem. Here again the best solution, which is still recommended, is revegetation.

We did not learn of any curative measures until it suddenly burst upon us in 1956 that one could follow certain practices which would, if not totally cure the erosion and salt problems, certainly ameliorate them. This was due to the Commissioner of Soil Conservation at that time, Mr Lightfoot. Mr Lightfoot crusaded through the country areas and demonstrated the value of contour banks - that was the main weapon - and he attracted a certain amount of interest and enthusiasm. We all blossomed into contour banks. They were used not only for gullies and ordinary water erosion but also for salt problems. On certain soils and in certain areas they were very successful. In rough country where it was tried it was very expensive and only people who had the money were able to undertake such work. It is rather sad to say that although no doubt the Commissioner for Soil Conservation continued his work, somehow or other interest faded; while we were pleased with the work we had done - and I am only speaking personally - we did not do any further work, and I do not think anybody else in those districts did at that time either. It probably was not until Whittington and the WISALTS group took up the cause for salinity that people, seeing that problems were increasing and that there was a remedy for them, became more enthusiastic.

In 1982 when the Act was amended in response to the great anxiety about the increase in salt, a number of important speeches were made. Among others, Hon Jim Brown made a speech about the value of education, but perhaps one of the most extensive and interesting speeches in respect of tonight was made by Hon Neil McNeill. He expressed much the same sentiments as those expressed by Hon D.J. Wordsworth in the sense that he was disappointed that the Bill being introduced by the then Government - our own Bill - was not living up to its own high policies which had been announced in 1980. It was in fact merely a flea bite considering what needed to be done. He felt that we should have tackled the problem on a much greater scale and that in the first place we should have given the whole problem greater priority and a greater profile by using the Cabinet subcommittee to oversee the legislation. He felt we should have instituted a Ministry of land resources to administer it and to coordinate the efforts of the Department of Agriculture, the Forests Department and the Public Works Department, as they were then. He said that they each had their tasks and responsibilities but that no single department was really geared to oversee such an important program or to attract the resources the ministry would. While he gave very generous and due recognition to the work done by the Department of Agriculture, he identified its functions as being those of extension and research. He felt that the administration of such legislation was not really suited to it or in the best interests of soil conservation. He felt that the regulatory powers and the need for administration would take away from both extension and research and in fact administration itself, so that every aspect of the conservation program would suffer as a result and be attenuated.

Hon J.M. Brown: Was that in 1982?

Hon MARGARET McALEER: Yes. He also felt that because the department under the Bill then and subsequently the amended Act appeared to have dealt with regulations, that would be a weakness in the legislation because regulation was hardly the way to encourage farmers to improve their practices. He felt the farmers would do their best to circumvent regulations and they were not themselves encouraging. In that respect he particularly approved of Whittington and the initiative of the WISALTS group's work because he felt that, while it might not be as soundly based theoretically as the work done by the Department of Agriculture, nevertheless by being out in the field and by demonstrating the effects of their methods they had generated enthusiasm and performed an educative function, which the department up to that time - leaving aside Mr Lightfoot - had not been able to do. He was also concerned that the district committees would not in themselves succeed. He saw them as perhaps a source of danger because, firstly, they would be purely advisory, according to the Bill and, secondly, they might be the instrument by which the regulatory powers were used unknowingly but wrongly in the sense that wrong practices might well be enforced on the farmers. That would lead not only to further degradation but also to expensive losses. Finally he felt that the costs under the Act all seemed to be forced back onto the farmers; while undoubtedly the farmers in soil conservation had their share to pay, they could not be responsible for the total amount of money required.

While I think that much of what Hon Neil McNeill had to say on that occasion was a careful analysis of the Bill, I think he has been proved wrong in at least one important respect; that is, the success of the soil conservation districts. We have seen in past years - certainly we have seen it because of this Bill - that they have had precisely the effect for which he would have wished and for which he praised the WISALTS people in encouraging interest among farmers in soil conservation practices and making it possible for many who otherwise would not have done so to engage in those practices. A lot of the ideas which the soil conservation committees are now spreading are not new. Other ideas are new and, as Hon David Wordsworth has pointed out, need a great deal of expertise to develop. That of course is hardly within the realms of the soil conservation district committees. Therefore I very much support his call for greater resources to be devoted to servicing these district committees so they might not only have good and sound practices, which they are promoting, but they would also be able to make more advances than would be possible if they did not have access to good information.

I see the amendments to this legislation in some senses meeting the concern expressed by Hon Tom McNeil about the administration of the Act at that time. Hon David Wordsworth, for example, has pointed out that no management notices have ever been put on a property, and although the penalties have been raised, both in 1982 and now in this Bill, in fact no

farmer has ever been penalised for bad practices because that really has not been necessary. The district soil conservation committees have worked much better than anyone expected. There is a great deal of enthusiasm among people taking part in them, and I know of at least two areas where they are making very big efforts to form new district committees. It has been the philosophy of the department, in spite of the fact that these penalties are written into the Act, not to try to coerce people into good practices but to encourage them. Every member here would understand that farmers do not go all out to wreck their land if they possibly can avoid it. Economic pressure and sometimes ignorance have led to bad practices, but more often than not it is economic pressure and, given the opportunity, farmers will embrace the possibility of improving practices and methods. Nevertheless, farmers still feel they are restricted in the work they can do.

The conservation district in which I live is undertaking an important and successful project. It is only one of half a dozen which need undertaking in that district. In this case, this project was able to attract funds, I presume from the National Conservation Fund, and it was not very expensive for the farmers involved. They have done very good work at very little expense and it has been a great success. However, farmers in other parts of the district wishing to undertake work have to do so at their own expense and farmers who are not within a project area and who desire to do work are being frustrated by receiving very little help.

The 100 per cent tax deductibility incentive for soil conservation work has been mentioned tonight. It is important. However, the farmers have been asking for 150 per cent tax deductibility. I am not even sure how far that would go to alleviating the problem. Certainly, that sort of incentive has been a great help to the film industry, although I am not sure whether it would have the same effect on farming. Some farmers are actually asking for more in the way of cash. I am sure that, as matters stand, there is not enough money to supply that kind of aid. One wonders how many of the 90 conservation districts already in place have attracted funding, because that is a lot of districts over which the money must be spread. While commending the Government for encouraging soil conservation work and for endeavouring to push forward with the work within its resources, I join with my colleagues in encouraging the Government to set its sights higher, not just to talk but to act, to increase funding, and to give greater resources and a higher priority to soil conservation work.

One problem that I have had raised with me on a district to district basis is the effect of one project on another. Some farmers feel that projects undertaken in a district 50 miles away, for example, could have a bearing on the wellbeing of their district because sometimes drainage systems flow into their areas. They feel that not enough is being done to coordinate projects from one district to another. I suppose that, theoretically, this is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Soil Conservation. Farmers are being frustrated in this at a time when district committees are being given more and more responsibility and more power to advise on projects. Perhaps it is not always possible to monitor in advance the effects of projects from region to region but there is always a danger that the good work carried out in one region will detrimentally effect another region. Again, I think this is a question of resources and, given those resources and a slightly different structure, those problems will be solved.

I support the Bill and the aims of the Government. However, I ask the Government to raise its sights and regard this legislation only as a beginning. We still have a long way to go.

HON W.N. STRETCH (Lower Central) [9.15 pm]: Again, I find myself in the position of Elizabeth Taylor's seventh husband because, as what has been said tonight has been so appropriate, it is hard for me to raise new points on this Bill. Everything has been said and done! However, there are several serious matters that need addressing. I echo the comments made by my colleague, Hon Margaret McAleer, and others in stressing that land degradation is a community problem and not one that should be laid at the feet of the farmers, foresters or anyone else. I think it is fair that the cost of saving our land - I know that sounds melodramatic but it is the correct way of expressing it - is a community cost and one that Governments will have to accept.

Again I congratulate the Minister and his departmental officers who were involved in writing the second reading speech. It sets out things fairly well. However, I would like a little more detail on the \$7.2 million allocated in the 1987-88 Budget because I do not know where that money went. Nothing like that amount flowed through to the soil advisory committees. In

our small area we formed a soil conservation committee and applied for \$10 000 for a fairly comprehensive drainage project through the area to get rid of very large quantities of water. That application for funds has been consistently knocked back even though departmental officers have surveyed the area and said that it is a fantastic scheme and that all it needs is the money. With the increase in wool prices, most of the farmers are in a position to carry out the drainage works but have come up against the problem that, if they do the work individually rather than as a soil conservation district project, there could be legal complications in relation to the discharge of water.

I have heard - I hope it is wrong - that the discharge of even slightly saline water will, in future, be regarded as noxious waste and will not be allowed to be discharged into streams. If that is so, it reaches the heights of absurdity, because the salt water will have percolated through the soil and into the river system in time anyway. Our drainage scheme involves moving the water through a confined water course faster, leading to an increased leaching of salt from the surrounding soils, into the water systems, down the already saline river and into the sea. If the discharge of saline water is regarded as a noxious discharge and falls within the responsibilities of the Environmental Protection Authority, the whole thing will become bogged down to such an extent that we will not be allowed to get rid of the water anywhere. The only way we will be allowed to get rid of the salt will be to evaporate the water in ponds and cart the salt to chemical works or take it to the beach and tip it into the sea which may not be acceptable either. I hope that what I heard is wrong and that the Minister will clarify it for me because salt water is a fact of life in the Western Australian soil profile.

We are faced with a major problem, one which I would have said was insoluble were it not for the fact that salt is one of the most soluble compounds we have. On page 5 of the second reading speech it is stated that regulatory powers are very unlikely to solve general land use problems. I could not agree more. Like most of these problems, they will be best solved by self regulation, by a code of conduct in farming communities. That code of conduct is in place in many farming areas where increased awareness is forcing land and soil conservation measures on the community. That is the way to go. It is a community problem and we have to generate that sort of feeling within the community. I hasten to add that I believe that the feeling has been generated. One has only to drive through country districts now to see the immense areas of plantations, the reforestation projects on private land, and the planting of trees on main road verges done by shires. Farmers have spent immense sums on Whittington interceptor banks, general contour draining and several other schemes. That underlines their growing awareness and the fact that the general concern of the community is waiting to be fostered by meaningful schemes and meaningful support by Government.

I refer now to the soil conservation district committees. Like my colleague, Hon Margaret McAleer, I feel that problem areas must be tackled on a river catchment basis. I regret that some shire councils have moved in a little early and declared themselves soil conservation districts. A rating component was built into the old Act and the shires could see that if the power was there to attract rates, they had better be in it. Shire boundaries are not laid out with a view to catchment areas. In my district the catchment area runs through two shires directly. Indirectly, the river system involves several shires on its way to the sea. I disagree a little with one of my colleagues who earlier questioned the breaking up of the areas into only 12 districts. If, for argument's sake, we looked at the major river catchments as conservation districts and handled them on that basis we might have been nearer to an integrated control system for the State area. I accept that they could have been too big, but I question whether 90 reasonably small districts are the way to go. In the light of further experience, we might find that some of the areas will combine and use the same practices within the one general catchment area.

We are on a learning curve. Awareness of salinity has burst upon us in the last 10 or 15 years. For many years after I left school, I drove a bulldozer, clearing land. We worked then within the conventional wisdom of the time. Now, a little bit older and I hope a little wiser, if I were given my time again I would not clear certain areas that I cleared then. For instance, we thought all salt accumulated on the valley floor, so we cleared the hillsides. We now know that most of it is accumulated on the hillsides and gravitates to the valley floors. However, none of us is born with crystal ball gazing ability or unlimited foresight. We have to adapt as we go along. The adaptation from an insular district basis to a catchment basis will ultimately be the way to go.

I support the amending Bill with the one exception being that in relation to the matter raised by Hon David Wordsworth.

Hon Mark Nevill: You have just been given a glass of very salty water.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Now the Wellington Dam is filling, things are a lot better.

Hon Graham Edwards: It is full, chock-a-block.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: It has also given us an excellent course for the King's Cup to be rowed on the Wellington weir next April. The race will provide a great fillip to the Collie district.

Hon Graham Edwards: For the whole region.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: Collie and suburbs; I take it Bunbury will be involved.

Hon Tom Stephens: The sleeping tablet I put in that water should be taking effect on you in a moment.

Hon W.N. STRETCH: No such luck, Mr Stephens.

I would like the Minister to explain how it is envisaged the lessee system will work. I had some personal experience with it last summer. It was not altogether a satisfactory or a pleasant involvement, but it had to happen. At the same time I would like the Minister to clarify during the Committee stage the difference between a memorial and a caveat and any other condition that may be put on a title; how they can be lifted; and what must be done before a transfer of title can take place. I would also like the Minister to outline the actual executive power of the land conservation district, particularly in regard to other Government departments. I would enlarge on that by outlining my experience last summer.

I was asked to intervene in the case of a land holder who had a soil conservation notice put on him for alleged overgrazing of a property. To the outside eye there was a case for putting on that notice. As I take my duties as a member of Parliament very seriously, I went to that person's farm and walked over all the country that was regarded as degraded. The soil was certainly bare but the first rains had come and the clover had actually shot on the ground. I believe there was very little movement of soil on the surface. We were expecting heavy rains within a week or so. It was my judgment that the property would stabilise as soon as the clover was in its next stage of growth and the problem would disappear. The Lord was not on our side at that stage of the game and the rains did not come. The clover did not develop to such an extent that it would hold the soil as well as I had hoped, but no major damage had been done to the surface of the soil by the farmer's practice of stocking the sheep as he had done for many years. He ran sheep in what was predominantly regarded as a cattle area, as I do on some land not many miles away from him.

In my judgment, the main damage that was done to that property was done by a Government department which moved onto the property after it purchased it. The farmer had sold the property to the Department of Conservation and Land Management for the purpose of planting pine trees. He had negotiated with CALM an agreement whereby he continued to run his stock on the property. The property at that time was actually under the control of CALM, which moved in heavy machinery to cut down the extensive stands of marri - red gum shade trees and took them for chipping, which was quite a sensible land practice. However, in my opinion it should not have taken place while the ground was in a dodgy condition. It was not really sensible to move heavy machinery across it at that stage. When the rains did come, the roadings washed away and there were gullies up to three feet deep along the sides of the road that CALM had constructed to get the logs out. CALM had also done some embankment works which were not satisfactory. Instead of moving across the land in the normal way it would on a grazing property, the water was concentrated into gullies. Thus, instead of having minor sheet erosion in places, the property ended up with a massive washout problem and severe degradation and gullying down certain watercourses.

As I said, I would like to know what power the commissioner or the district committees will have in future to stop a Government department undertaking unsatisfactory land usages on territory under that Government department's control. The powers seem to be satisfactory but they are fairly draconian. As far as land management is concerned there is a need for expert, local input into these committees, and the Bill has addressed this satisfactorily on my reading of it. There is always a difficulty in that what is good land practice in one area is not

necessarily good land practice in another. The impact of one type of farming may be different on adjacent farms, and this aspect is best addressed by a sympathetic, locally based committee which has an awareness of the community, the code of good farming practice and behaviour in those areas. This gets back to where I started from, which is the need to build up the goodwill between the community, the districts and the commissioner if this problem is to be overcome.

I wish the Bill well. I believe there is a need to amend the matter of the lessee because it is a little peculiar at this stage. With those remarks I support the general thrust of the Bill. I hope my colleagues and I will have some time to look at an amendment to that part of the Bill.

Debate adjourned, on motion by Hon Fred McKenzie.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE - ORDINARY

HON KAY HALLAHAN (South East Metropolitan - Minister for Community Services) [9.33 pm]: I move -

That the House do now adjourn.

"The West Australian" - Editorial

HON GARRY KELLY (South Metropolitan) [9.34 pm]: For the edification of the House I would like to read the editorial in today's *The West Australian* headed "The Art of the innuendo". It reads as follows -

Opposition Leader Barry MacKinnon and discarded Opposition Leader Bill Hassell set out yesterday to try to establish that Premier Peter Dowding had exercised "proprietary rights" over *The West Australian*.

Hon W.N. Stretch: You are pathetic.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT (Hon John Williams): Order!

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Hon Garry Kelly has the right in the adjournment debate to speak on any matter he likes. I will give him the same protection the Chair affords members at all times.

Hon GARRY KELLY: I will start again. The article reads -

Opposition Leader Barry MacKinnon and discarded Opposition Leader Bill Hassell set out yesterday to try to establish that Premier Peter Dowding had exercised "proprietary rights" over *The West Australian*.

The exercise was typical of the journeys up dry gullies that have become the hallmark of this Opposition.

In the midst of a political climate primed for real and sustainable attacks on the Government's performance, the opposition has failed miserably to do its job. It has resorted to the easy smear, the sleazy innuendo and the cheesy grin of a leader apparently more concerned with his television image than with the issues.

Unlike the Opposition, this newspaper has assiduously pursued the big questions which revolve around how the Government runs the State and how it spends public money.

Unlike the Opposition, this newspaper is committed to establishing the truth and reporting it fairly and honestly. We are aware but unconcerned that our reporting does not always please everyone.

But if the Premier or the most humble citizen of Western Australia believes we are wrong in fact, he or she can speak to us and argue the case confident that we will listen, assess and act where necessary.

We will not, however, surrender the integrity of the newspaper to pressure from anyone who seeks to suppress or distort the truth.

It is true that Mr Dowding phoned *The West Australian* last Friday night to complain

that some aspects of a Page 1 report on the Danbury Affair were incorrect. After listening to Mr Dowding's arguments, the editor decided that some changes were needed.

Because the city edition of the paper was then going to press, the amended report missed the start of that edition. It was restored on Page 4 because that was the quickest way of getting it back into the paper.

HON P.H. LOCKYER (Lower North) [9.36 pm]: In the almost nine years that I have been here I have never heard someone stoop to the level of selectively reading out -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order!

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Give me 24 hours to select the editorials which have condemned the sleazy party opposite, members of which have their fingers in the till, and the ones that have been exposed -

Several members interjected.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: - for their little efforts with the Danbury group -

Several members interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! Hon Tom Stephens will come to order. I made a ruling when Hon Garry Kelly was speaking and I make the same ruling now. I find Hon Tom Stephens's comments highly disorderly.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Nobody in our party would take away the right of *The West Australian* newspaper to do precisely what it likes. It can write whatever editorials it likes. My colleagues and I have always found that newspaper to be very fair and balanced, but it is very strange that Hon Garry Kelly of all people, whose performance in this House over the years -

Hon Tom Stephens: It is one of the best performances.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I now warn Hon Tom Stephens.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: - whose intelligence, like that of Hon Tom Stephens, would fit on the top of a pinhead -

Hon Tom Stephens: We are two of the better members.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: Speaking of fingers in the till, no member of this House knows better than Hon Tom Stephens does about such things.

Hon Tom Stephens interjected.

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT: Order! I heard the interjection from Hon Tom Stephens, and it is true that I can only throw him out, but I will take other measures in following days to make sure he stays out for a long time if he does not come to order.

Hon P.H. LOCKYER: The whole effort of the honourable member reeks of insignificance. Editorials come and go. In the coming weeks the member's party will get equally bad editorials. It is true that no political party gets what it wants in the newspaper, even this Government. I can assure the Government that the amount of news concerning its little dealings with the SGIC and other things has exposed Government members for what they are, and those dealings will come home to haunt them.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 9.38 pm

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ABORIGINAL ART - LOUIS ALLEN COLLECTION OF ABORIGINAL ART *Purchase Negotiations - Dowding, Hon Peter*

292. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

- (1) Was any member of his staff in any way involved in the negotiations or the lead-up to the purchase of the Louis Allen art collection for \$2.1 million?
- (2) Is the Premier satisfied with the procedure where Treasury funds were released to the tune of \$2.1 million without the matter being referred to, or approved by, the body which normally advises on art purchases, namely the WA Art Gallery?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

- (1)-(2)
See question 281.

OFFICIAL CARS *Fleet Size*

375. Hon G.E. MASTERS to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:
What is the size and composition of the Government motor vehicle fleet?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

As the member should realise, the Government motor vehicle fleet varies in both size and composition on a daily basis. If the member would care to indicate precisely what information he is seeking, endeavours will be made to satisfy his requirements.

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION - EMPLOYMENT *Qualified Tradesperson - Signwriting Lecturer Appointment*

384. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE:

- (1) Will a fully qualified tradesperson be appointed as a signwriting lecturer to TAFE?
- (2) If so, when will this appointee commence duties?
- (3) If not, why not?
- (4) If (1) is yes, will the Minister advise the duration of this appointment and what salary level will be offered?
- (5) If (1) is no, what qualifications will be acceptable for an appointment to the position?
- (6) Is it correct that an appointee will be chosen on Monday, 19 September 1988?
- (7) Was the position advertised in *The West Australian* on Saturday, 20 August 1988?
- (8) Was an undertaking given to advertise the position on an Australia-wide basis so that the best qualified person could be appointed?
- (9) Was the position advertised elsewhere?
- (10) If so, what are the details?
- (11) If not, why not?
- (12) Have applications for the position been received from sources other than as a response to the advert in *The West Australian*?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE has advised me that -

- (1) Yes.
- (2) It is expected that the successful applicant will commence duties on 10 October 1988.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Appointment will be tenable until 16 December 1988. The salary level is \$23 275 - \$25 660 depending upon qualifications and experience.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) An applicant was selected who is qualified and meets all criteria of the advertisement.
- (7) Yes.
- (8) No.
- (9) No.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) The decision was made not to advertise Australia-wide due to the temporary short term nature of the position.
- (12) Presumably so as three applications have been received from persons situated in Victoria.

YOUTH TRAINEESHIP PROGRAM

Trainees

390. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Employment and Training:

- (1) How many persons are currently employed as trainees under the youth traineeship scheme -
 - (a) in the private sector;
 - (b) by the State Government and its agencies;
 - (c) by the Federal Government and its agencies; and
 - (d) by local governmentin each of the following statistical regions -
 - (i) Albany Shire;
 - (ii) Albany Town;
 - (iii) Augusta-Margaret River Shire;
 - (iv) Bunbury City;
 - (v) Busselton Shire;
 - (vi) Boyup Brook Shire;
 - (vii) Bridgetown Shire;
 - (viii) Capel Shire;
 - (ix) Collie Shire;
 - (x) Dardanup Shire;
 - (xi) Donnybrook-Balingup Shire;
 - (xii) Harvey Shire;
 - (xiii) Mandurah Shire;

- (xiv) Manjimup Shire;
- (xv) Murray Shire;
- (xvi) Nannup Shire; and
- (xvii) Waroona Shire?

(2) What are the corresponding figures for 1987 and 1986?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

(1) The total numbers of trainees employed under the Australian traineeship system - ATS - in the specific statistical regions required are -

		INDUSTRY SECTOR			
		Private	State Govt	Cwlth Govt	Local Govt
(i)	Albany Shire	1	1	-	-
(ii)	Albany Town	11	3	-	-
(iii)	Augusta-Margaret River Shire	-	2	-	-
(iv)	Bunbury City	6	9	-	-
(v)	Busselton Shire	1	-	-	-
(vi)	Boyup Brook Shire	-	-	-	-
(vii)	Bridgetown Shire	2	-	-	-
(viii)	Capel Shire	1	-	-	-
(ix)	Collie Shire	-	1	-	-
(x)	Dardanup Shire	1	-	-	-
(xi)	Donnybrook-Balingup Shire	1	1	-	-
(xii)	Harvey Shire	-	-	-	-
(xiii)	Mandurah Shire	3	-	1	-
(xiv)	Manjimup Shire	5	4	-	1
(xv)	Murray Shire	2	-	-	-
(xvi)	Nannup Shire	-	-	-	-
(xvii)	Waroona Shire	-	-	-	-
Total		34	21	1	1

(2) The regional details are not available to compare the current figures with those of 1987 and 1986. However, in mid 1988 the local government office clerical traineeship became available and should provide significant increases in the positions created in local government.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY - RESEARCH

Usage - Western Australian Businesses

391. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Small Business:

- (1) What was the Government's intention when it decided to commission a study into telephone and telecommunications usage by Western Australian businesses?
- (2) What is the total cost of this study?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

- (1) The intention of the study is to ascertain not just the usage, but more importantly the charging options preferred by small businesses so that the Government can accurately reflect their needs in discussion with the Federal Department of Transport and Communications and with Telecom.
- (2) \$25 800.

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN TREASURY CORPORATION - EXPENDITURE
1987-88 - 1988-89 Estimates

395. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

With regard to the 1987-88 expenditure of \$5 640 964 by the Western Australian Treasury Corporation on "financial expenses", what are the full details as to the nature of the expenditure, and what are the full details of the 1988-89 projected expenditure of \$8 650 000?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

The 1987-88 expenditure of \$5 640 964 by the Western Australian Treasury Corporation on financial expenses comprises -

	\$
Amortisation of the discount on borrowings	5 214 264
Depreciation of fixed assets	5 480
Loan raisings - bank fees, brokerage advertising	<u>421 220</u>
	<u>5 640 964</u>

The 1988-89 projected expenditure comprises -

Amortisation of the discount on borrowings	8 150 000
Loan raisings	<u>500 000</u>
	<u>8 650 000</u>

STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE - TREASURY, DEPARTMENT OF
Business Undertakings, Profits and Surpluses - 1987-88

396. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

With regard to the 1987-88 revenue of \$69 858 965 for "Treasury - Business Undertakings, Profits and Surpluses", what are the full details of this revenue?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

1987-88 details as follows -

	\$
Rural and Industries Bank	25 993 854
State Energy Commission - Statutory Levy	32 248 368
Water Authority of WA - Statutory Levy	8 490 707
Fremantle Port Authority - Statutory Levy	1 208 358
State Government Insurance Corporation	1 806 609
Country Water Boards	<u>111 069</u>
	<u>69 858 965</u>

STATE GOVERNMENT REVENUE - TREASURY, DEPARTMENT OF
Business Undertakings, Profits and Surpluses - 1988-89

397. Hon MAX EVANS to the Leader of the House representing the Treasurer:

With regard to the 1988-89 estimated revenue of \$154 518 000 for Treasury - "Business Undertakings, Profits and Surpluses", what are the full details of this revenue?

Hon J.M. BERINSON replied:

1988-89 details as follows -	\$
Rural and Industries Bank	31 817 000
State Energy Commission -	
Statutory Levy	33 044 000
Water Authority of WA -	
Statutory Levy	9 891 000
Fremantle Port Authority -	
Statutory Levy	1 220 000
State Government Insurance Corporation	3 000 000
State Government Insurance Commission	28 000 000
Western Australian Development Corporation	15 300 000
Landbank of WA	31 721 000
Country Water Boards	125 000
Other	400 000
	<u>154 518 000</u>

TECHNICAL AND FURTHER EDUCATION - EDUCATIONAL ADMISSION

400. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Education:

Will the Minister please advise the total student enrolment figures in TAFE for each of the years 1983 to 1987, and current student enrolment figures for 1988 and projected enrolments for 1989?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The Minister assisting the Minister for Education with TAFE has advised me that the information on enrolments in 1988 is in the process of being compiled and the member will be provided with the information requested in writing from the Minister as soon as possible.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

BRICKS

Demolished Stables - Old Swan Brewery

183. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for Community Services representing the Minister for Planning:

- (1) Can the Minister advise the whereabouts of the bricks that were salvaged from the demolished stables opposite the old Swan Brewery?
- (2) Have any of these bricks been sold, traded or otherwise disposed of so that the State is no longer in possession of them?
- (3) What does the Government intend to do with these historic bricks if they are still in its possession?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I thank the member for giving prior notice of the question. The answers are as follows -

- (1) The bricks have been stockpiled at the demolition contractor's premises in Osborne Park.
- (2) Some bricks were sold before the Minister for Planning issued instructions that they should be kept.
- (3) They will be used in an appropriate historic setting.

NURSING HOMES - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Coronial Inquiry - Elderly Person's Death

184. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Aged:

I refer to page 3 of today's *The West Australian* and an article which deals with the coronial inquiry into the death of an elderly person in a nursing home and ask the Minister -

- (1) Is she concerned that the Coroner's report was critical of some staff members and practices?
- (2) If so, can she see that these criticisms of alleged shortcomings could have the effect of unsettling elderly people and causing them to have less confidence in the system of nursing care in this State?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(2)

The incident that is referred to was most unfortunate. My advice is that the procedures within that nursing home have been changed and there will not be a recurrence of that incident. I understand that the people at that nursing home are also very concerned about the reported incident. If there is any other question on nursing homes per se I suggest the honourable member put it on notice for the Minister for Health to respond.

NURSING HOMES - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Coronial Inquiry - Unsettling Effects

185. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Aged:

I realise that the Minister for Health has responsibility for nursing homes, but I direct this question to the Minister in her capacity as Minister for The Aged. Does she intend to seek a copy of the Coroner's findings to see whether there is any action the Bureau for the Aged could or should take in view of the possibility that the incident could have an unsettling effect on elderly people's views of nursing homes?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

As I have said before, I understand that the procedures have been changed following this unfortunate incident. Of course, I give a reassurance to the elderly people of Western Australia that those procedures are in place and that that was a remarkably unfortunate, isolated incident, as I understand it. The honourable member's questioning, well intended though it may be, is more likely to add to an unsettling of the elderly in our community than his not pursuing this line, given the fact that the report to which he refers states that the procedures have changed and such an incident should not occur again.

NURSING HOMES - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Patient Mistreatment - Allay Fears

186. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Aged:

I remind the Minister that several of the staff were quoted in today's newspaper as saying -

"This sort of thing will never stop in nursing homes unless nurses come out and speak up."

Will the Minister seek to intervene by way of the Bureau for the Aged in an attempt to allay any fears on the part of the elderly in general, and patients in particular, that staff of nursing homes are not prone to mistreating patients, and that the overwhelming number of homes offer highly professional care to patients.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I will give some thought to what the honourable member proposes. If his suggested action is thought to be necessary, I will do it, but within the Federal Health Department there is a unit which has been considerably strengthened in order to deal with complaints in an effective way. I think that the matter is certainly well covered by strengthening what was, a few years ago, a situation for great concern. There have been very few complaints to the Bureau for the Aged on this matter. That is because people know the right place to go to make their complaints, and are getting satisfactory responses from that unit.

NURSING HOMES - NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Nurses - Complaint Avenues

187. Hon P.G. PENDAL to the Minister for The Aged:

To the nursing staff involved, at least, there do not seem to be valid avenues through which to pursue complaints. I ask the Minister, in the light of that, whether she is aware that the nurses are today quoted as saying -

"In one way we're slapped in the face and in another way we're patted on the back," . . . The women fear other nurses may now be afraid to come forward after the "ambiguous" finding.

Is the Minister further aware of the following quote -

"This sort of thing will never stop in nursing homes unless nurses come out and speak up,"

Will the Minister use the offices of the Bureau for the Aged to ensure that nursing staff in Western Australia do understand that there are avenues to go through in order to avoid a repetition of this unfortunate occurrence?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

I am sure the honourable member and I want to achieve the same end. My understanding is that this institution has changed its internal arrangements so that there is an avenue for staff, within their own organisation, to raise any matter of concern which they may have. My understanding is that they have responded in a very responsible manner to what they have perceived -

Hon P.G. Pendal: I agree. I am less concerned about that than the other parts.

Hon KAY HALLAHAN: I will take the matter up with the Minister for Health. If we think it appropriate to bring in the Bureau for the Aged we will do that. It may be more appropriate to go through the Health Department as it handles the administration of these areas. I certainly will not leave the matter unattended.

FOOTBALL

Future - Western Australian Football League Report

188. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

I refer to the widespread community concern at the fate of Western Australian football, and the report on its future which was made available to the WAFL commissioners yesterday.

- (1) Has the Minister received a copy of the report?
- (2) Has he read the report?
- (3) Would he like to make any comment on the report?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

I have made myself available to the Western Australian Football League for quite some time now, as I have to the Eagles, to offer any assistance that I can

at the appropriate time. I have also said that that appropriate time will be when the review, which has been put together by three members of the WAFL, is ready. When it is ready I will be happy to look at it. The report is not ready yet, however I understand it is in its final stages and will be ready in the next week or so. When I have looked at the report I will respond to it.

The best possible way that the future of football can be served in this State is for all of the groups which make up the football community to come together. I am concerned that in some areas that is not happening. If it comes to pass that we do not speak with one voice in football, and do not look to the future as one unit, then Western Australian football will be disadvantaged. I ask the member who asked that question to bear that statement in mind.

I reiterate that the report is not ready. When it is ready I will have a very quick look at it and respond to it as quickly as I possibly can. I will take the responsible action that will be necessary.

FOOTBALL

Future - Western Australian Football League Report

189. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Minister for Sport and Recreation:

- (1) Is it his intention to make the report available to the public?
- (2) If so, when?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(2)

The report is not mine. It is a report that has been put together by elected representatives of the Western Australian Football League. I think it is appropriate that it make that decision.

The PRESIDENT: I was about to tell the honourable member and remind the Minister that the control of the Western Australian Football League has absolutely nothing to do with the Minister for Sport and Recreation. It may well be that members in this place ask questions which are sometimes answered and on other occasions are not answered on the basis that they do not come under the control of the particular Minister's jurisdiction.

Hon G.E. Masters: It always happens.

Hon E.J. Charlton: We might have to make it his responsibility.

The PRESIDENT: Order! That is a different thing altogether. In the meantime, members will ask questions in accordance with the rules.

REMAND CENTRES - LONGMORE REMAND CENTRE

Bashing-Intimidation Claims - Inquiry

190. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services:

I refer the Minister to an article in the *Daily News* on 26 August 1988 headed "Hostel Criminals Terrorise Staff", in which it states -

And it is claimed the delinquents, many with long criminal records, are bashing and intimidating hostel workers, who cannot control them.

The article also states that the Minister for Community Services had called for an inquiry into bashing and intimidation claims. I asked the Minister -

- (1) Has the inquiry been completed?
- (2) If so, what are the findings?
- (3) Is there overcrowding at Longmore Remand Centre?
- (4) If so, what is being done about it?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

(1)-(4)

That report is due to be sent to me any day now and I will give the member an indication of its content when it is received. Longmore is a changing scenario and I am not sure whether it is overcrowded today. However, there are times when there is a demand on bed space beyond what we would ideally like it to be. There is no particular issue of concern at present.

REMAND CENTRES - LONGMORE REMAND CENTRE

Bashing-Intimidation Claims - Inquiry

191. Hon N.F. MOORE to the Minister for Community Services:

Who is conducting the inquiry into bashing and intimidation claims at Longmore Remand Centre?

Hon KAY HALLAHAN replied:

The regional director responsible for hostels has appointed an officer to conduct that inquiry.

DAIRY FARMING

Milk Transport Charges

192. Hon W.N. STRETCH to the Minister for Consumer Affairs representing the Minister for Agriculture:

- (1) Is the Minister considering proposals to alter the basis of charging dairy farmers for the transport of their milk from farm gate to factory?
- (2) If yes, can the Minister give the House details of these charges for the different milk producing areas of the south west land division?
- (3) When is it proposed to implement these charges?

Hon GRAHAM EDWARDS replied:

(1)-(3)

I thank the member for prior notice of his question. The Minister for Agriculture has received the report of the ministerial committee established to review dairy industry regulations. He intends releasing the report to all sectors of the dairy industry for comment in the near future. No changes will be undertaken without consultation with all relevant groups after they have had the opportunity to examine the review document. The Minister advises that comment on the committee's report will be sought from industry before any decisions are taken on its recommendations and that he expects to do this shortly.
