Legislative Council

Tuesday, the 20th September, 1977

The PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths) took the Chair at 4.30 p.m., and read prayers.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Presentation to Governor: Acknowledgment

THE PRESIDENT (the Hon. Clive Griffiths): I have to announce that I have, in company with several members, waited upon His Excellency the Governor and presented the Address-in-Reply to His Excellency's Speech, agreed to by this House, and that His Excellency has been pleased to make the following reply—

> Mr President and honourable members of the Legislative Council: I thank you for your expressions of loyalty to Her Most Gracious Majesty The Queen, and for your Address-in-Reply to the Speech with which I opened Parliament.

QUESTIONS

Questions were taken at this stage.

PERTH MEDICAL CENTRE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South—Minister for Transport) [4.50 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to give effect to Her Majesty's gracious approval for the Perth Medical Centre to be named The Queen Elizabeth II Medical Centre.

I am sure members will agree that the adoption of this measure will provide the people of Western Australia with a tangible and lasting monument to a most gracious monarch and a reminder of Her Majesty's visit to this State on the occasion of the silver jubilee of her reign.

Apart from the provisions in the Bill which are necessary to bring about the change in name, the opportunity is also taken to correct an anomaly in section 20 of the principal Act where the word "regulations" appears in error.

It is a pleasure to commend this Bill for a second reading.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [4.52 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The main purpose of this Bill is to correct an anomaly which recently became evident in the provisions of the Local Government Act relating to the disqualification of members.

At present the Act provides that a person who has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in an agreement, to which the municipality is a party, be disqualified from membership of the council.

It resulted in two such instances occurring in connection with membership of the Perth City Council and elections were to be held to fill the resultant vacancies.

There are a number of exemptions from disqualification under the Act and these include a person who has the pecuniary interest as a member of an incorporated company which consists of at least 20 members and which is a party to the agreement, or as a director, manager or secretary of a company, has the pecuniary interest so long as he discloses to the council the interest prior to his election.

It also includes a person who, in the ordinary course of business and in good faith, sells goods to, supplies services or does work for the municipality, or for any person who has entered into a contract with the municipality.

The members who have been found to be disqualified are members of private companies having membership of less than 20 members, and therefore the exemptions mentioned above are not applicable although the transactions in which they were involved were made in the ordinary course of business.

It is considered equitable that a member of a private company or of a partnership should have the same protection from disqualification as would apply to a single trader who, in the ordinary course of business, has a pecuniary interest in an agreement with the council.

It is emphasised that the amendment is

designed to provide for exemption from disqualification which has always been thought to be applicable.

It is designed to remove an anomaly and not to remove any safeguards to the integrity of local government; nor is there any additional scope for members to have a conflict of interest or to profit from the fact of their membership of a council.

They will still be restricted by the provisions of section 174 and 174A from voting on, or discussing any matter in which they have an interest.

In the instances of disqualification arising from the present anomaly in the Act, there has been no suggestion whatsoever that the members concerned have acted reprehensively. Their integrity is unquestioned and they have merely been unwilling victims of a legal technicality which this Bill is designed to rectify.

Because councillors affected by existing legislation have resigned and dates have been fixed for elections to fill the resultant vacancies, it is desirable that there should be no controversy after the elections as to who is the holder of these offices.

Provision has been made excluding from the application of the validating clause persons interested in an office for which an election date has been fixed to fill a vacancy. However, under the provisions of the Bill these people will be deemed not to have committed an offence.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Question put and passed.

Adjournment of Debate

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON: I am afraid that our Standing Orders do not allow for the second reading to be passed at this stage. Perhaps you, Mr President, might put the question again because our Standing Orders demand that the debate be adjourned at this stage.

The PRESIDENT: The Leader of the House is perfectly correct. In the absence of any member moving for the adjournment of the debate I had no alternative but to put the question that the Bill be read a second time.

The Hon. G. C. MacKinnon: I appreciate your difficulty.

The PRESIDENT: The question is that the Bill be now read a second time.

The Hon. F. E. McKENZIE: I apologise for being remiss in not immediately moving for the adjournment of the debate. I was looking for a seconder to the motion. I am a new member of this House and I thought a seconder was required. I now realise that is not necessary. It is my wish to move that the debate be adjourned until the next sitting of the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. F. E. McKenzie.

CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South—Minister for Transport) [4.58 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to make provision in the Construction Safety Act, 1972, to enable safety orders, issued by inspectors to rectify unsafe working conditions, to be implemented with minimum delay or obstruction. Such authority is of particular necessity where the order has been endorsed by the chief inspector and the Construction Safety Advisory Board.

The need for this legislative action emanated from an unsatisfactory situation which arose recently during the construction of a large shopping complex in the metropolitan area.

The Chief Inspector of Construction Safety had issued an order on the main contractor to make safe some on-site work in order to protect the workmen involved.

At the same time, the main contractor had been served with a writ of prohibition through the Supreme Court from a property owner adjacent to the site over possible damage through excavation work to such neighbouring property.

Despite visits by the Construction Safety Advisory Board, which consists of representatives from the Government, employers in the industry, and a Trades and Labor Council representative for building workers, the contractor chose to ignore the order of the chief inspector in favour of the Supreme Court writ. The chief inspector was powerless to take other action due to provisions in the Act which allow for an appeal against any order within 28 days of its issue. This in turn presents a difficulty in obtaining an immediate injunction from a superior court.

Legal opinion obtained from the Crown Law Department suggests the best course is an amendment to the Act to provide for the chief inspector to apply for an injunction from the

Supreme Court to support a stop-work order, notwithstanding that an appeal under section 18 of the Act may be pending in relation to the matter.

At the same time where the court determines the matter is affected by the provisions of some other order made by a court of the State, the court may rescind or vary that other order as circumstances require it.

The Construction Safety Advisory Board supports the proposed amendment.

I commend the Bill to the house.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. D. K. Dans (Leader of the Opposition).

PHYSIOTHERAPISTS ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. D. J. Wordsworth (Minister for Transport), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. D. J. WORDSWORTH (South—Minister for Transport) [5.00 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

This Bill seeks to provide for alternative representation of the Public Health Department on the Physiotherapists' Registration Board and also for representation on the board by the Western Australian Institute of Technology.

In respect of the first proposal, the Act currently includes provision for the appointment of the Commissioner of Public Health on the board but makes no allowance for the Public Health Department to be represented on the occasions when the commissioner is unable to attend board meetings.

It is considered desirable that the interests of the department in such matters should be maintained at all times and the proposed amendment, therefore, would give the commissioner the option to nominate a legally qualified medical officer of his department to represent the department during times that he is unavailable.

The second amendment proposes to delete the requirement of a member on the board who is the nominee of the University of Western Australia and substitute a person nominated by the Council of the Western Australian Institute of Technology.

This has come about since the responsibility for the training of physiotherapists for the past few years has been assumed by the Institute of Technology, and it is more appropriate that the institute should be represented on the board.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott.

COAL MINE WORKERS (PENSIONS) ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.03 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The Coal Mine Workers (Pensions) Act presently provides that where a mineworker is awarded a pension on the grounds of partial or total incapacity, the total amount of pension payable shall be reduced by the average weekly amount which he earns in excess of $17 per week.

This Bill proposes to amend the relevant section of the Act to increase the amount of allowable weekly earnings to $34.50 per week without affecting his pension entitlement.

This will bring such category of pensioner into line with other pensioners under the Act in so far as permissible earnings are concerned.

A second amendment contained in this Bill seeks to provide the pension tribunal with some discretion in the matter of suspending a mineworker's pension entitlement in the event of that mineworker becoming a patient as defined in the Mental Health Act 1962-1973.

At present, under the principal Act, suspension is mandatory but it is desirable that suspension should be at the discretion of the tribunal to enable it to assist in special cases of hardship.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. T. Leeson.

METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY, SEWERAGE, AND DRAINAGE BOARD (VALIDATION) BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

COUNTRY AREAS WATER SUPPLY ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.06 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Section 65 of the Country Areas Water Supply Act, 1947-1976, provides that where the water rate computed on the estimated net annual value of a holding or, as the case may be, part of a holding other than a farmland holding, would be an amount less than $2, the Minister may fix the water rate to be charged at the amount of $2.

It also provides in a similar manner for a minimum annual rate of $4 for each farmland holding.

These provisions were incorporated in the Statute when it was enacted in 1947. Since then property valuations have increased considerably, and the existing minimums are no longer realistic. Collection costs have also increased in recent years so that ratepayers on the minimum rate contribute virtually nothing to the operation and maintenance of various water supplies.

Minimum rates in other States are prescribed each year and they have been adjusted progressively to the changing economic circumstances. Consequently, they are much higher than in this State.

Rather than set fixed minimum rates which could again become outdated, the Bill provides for the minimums to be as prescribed by the Minister. This will enable minimum rates to be kept at an appropriate level relative to property valuations from time to time.

The water rates for 1977-78 have already been struck so there will be no change in the minimum rates before the 1st July, 1978.

The Bill provides also for the removal of an obstacle to administrative efficiency by the proposed amendment to section 70 of the principal Act. This section currently requires that "water rates shall be payable within one month after notice of assessment in the prescribed form has been issued".

Preparation of rate notices is a function now being performed by automatic data processing methods, which render obsolete the use of a fully pre-printed form. The most economical and efficient way to collect water and sewerage rates is by the issue of a combined account, but this is difficult to achieve when the water rate must be on a form prescribed under the Country Areas Water Supply Act. No such prescribed form is required under the Country Towns Sewerage Act.

The Metropolitan Water Supply, Sewerage, and Drainage Act does not require a prescribed form for rates, and in section 98 it assigns to the by-laws the power to determine when rates are payable. Under this Bill similar provisions are made for the country water supply areas.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Hetherington.

LAND DRAINAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.09 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Section 90 of the Land Drainage Act, 1925-1972, provides that a minimum rate of $2 may be levied on any ratable land.

This provision has remained unchanged since the Statute was enacted in 1925. Increases since then in property valuations and in the operating costs of the drainage schemes have been such that the minimum rate has become totally unrealistic. Collection costs now take a substantial portion of this small charge, and leave very little as a net revenue contribution to the ever-increasing costs of maintaining the system.

The Bill provides for the minimum rate to be prescribed from time to time. In this way it will be possible to make any adjustments warranted by increasing costs and thus preserve an appropriate relationship to increased property values.

The drainage rating year commenced on the 1st September; therefore, no increase in the minimum rate is contemplated before the 1st September, 1978.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Hetherington.

COUNTRY TOWNS SEWERAGE ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Receipt and First Reading

Bill received from the Assembly; and, on motion by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), read a first time.

Second Reading

THE HON. I. G. MEDCALF (Metropolitan—Attorney-General) [5.12 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

Section 68 of the Country Towns Sewerage Act currently empowers the Minister to make and levy a minimum rate not exceeding $2.

This provision has remained unchanged since the Statute was enacted in 1948. Property valuations, however, have increased considerably in recent years, and the existing minimum is no longer realistic. Costs such as postage, printing, and labour involved in preparation of accounts also have increased to the point where collection of such a small charge is of doubtful economic value.

Minimum rates in other States are prescribed each year and, in general, they are now at a much higher level than in this State.

The Bill provides for the Minister to prescribe the minimum rate from time to time, thus preserving its relativity to the level of property valuations.

Sewerage rates for 1977-78 have already been struck, so there will be no increase in minimum rates before the 1st July, 1978.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. R. Hetherington.

BILLS (2): THIRD READING

1. Securities Industry (Release of Sureties) Bill.
2. Justices Act Amendment Bill.

Bills read a third time, on motions by the Hon. I. G. Medcalf (Attorney-General), and transmitted to the Assembly.

TOURIST ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Minister for Tourism) [5.15 p.m.]: I move—

That the Bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of this Bill is to amend the Tourist Act, in order to rectify an existing situation in that the tourist industry in the area of the State north of the 26th parallel is not represented on the Tourist Advisory Council.

The Act provides that one member shall represent the body known as the Northern Travel Council. However, this body has now been disbanded, and there does not appear to be any possibility of the organisation being reformed.

It is considered desirable to maintain representation on the Tourist Advisory Council by tourist interests from northern areas, and this could be achieved by calling for nominations from approved tourist bureau committees north of the 26th parallel. Such committees are established in Carnarvon, Exmouth, Roebourne, Port Hedland, Broome and Kununurra.

Because the number of these committees is small by comparison with the number existing in the remainder of the State, it is considered that the field from which a nomination for appointment may be made should be extended to embrace the industry as a whole.

In extending the range of nominations beyond the established tourist bureaus, the Government is taking steps to ensure that it will be in a position to appoint a member with the appropriate degree of knowledge and expertise, should such a nominee not be available from within the tourist bureau organisation.

I commend the Bill to the House.

Debate adjourned, on motion by the Hon. Lyla Elliott.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE

THE HON. G. C. MacKINNON (South-West—Leader of the House) [5.16 p.m.]: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

League Football Grand Final: Direct Telecast

THE HON. A. A. LEWIS (Lower Central) [5.17 p.m.]: I shall not keep members for any great length of time in bringing forward the topic of televising of the football grand final. In the football grand final week I believe that the issue of televising the final in country areas should be brought before the public and this House.

The last time I did the same was on the 26th May of last year. As a consequence of that move, Mr Stubbs, Mr Leeson, and myself—lately this move has been taken up by Mr Tom McNeil—launched a fairly virile attack against the forces that were opposed to television coverage of the football grand final in country areas.

It is amazing that travel agencies can find sufficient numbers from Western Australia to attend the Melbourne VFL grand final. Some people are prepared to travel that far to see the match. The people in the country who desire to attend the football grand finals do not seem to miss out. In fact, my staff have always been given time off to come to Perth to see the grand final; and sometimes the time taken off extended to more than the one day of the final!

It seems that the Western Australian National Football League has a fear that by permitting television coverage of the final the crowd attending the match will be reduced.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: Everyone who wishes to see the final will be there next week.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: Yes, and Mr Dans and I may be barracking for the same team, but such an occurrence takes place very rarely! I can assure Mr Dans that, as Donnybrook and Dumbleyung have won grand finals in their districts this year, my tipping on the outcome of the WANFL grand final will be accurate. However, Mr Dans will be at the match, as will be many of the people from East Fremantle. They will meander from their seaside resort to Subiaco.

Many people living in the country cannot do the same; and that is why every year I stand on my feet to hammer home this subject.

The Hon. D. W. Cooley: Many people in the metropolitan area cannot attend the final through various circumstances.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is true. I hope that the WANFL will be able to close the gates, after having filled the ground. Anyone living in the metropolitan area who cannot attend, but who wishes to attend, is either aged, infirm, or is not prepared to have his toes trodden on.

The Hon. Lyla Elliott: Some people may have to work.

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: That is so, and this is not a bad way of spending a Saturday afternoon.

I do not believe the WANFL would lose patronage by permitting the grand final to be televised direct. In this respect according to this evening's newspaper, Mr Tom McNeil has gone a bit further. He has suggested the grand final of the VFL should also be televised direct. However, I believe we should put the situation in this State right before we make an attempt to do what he has suggested.

I have heard some metropolitan clubs suggesting it is the fault of the Government that the final cannot be televised direct to the country, because the Government has not built a sufficient number of coaxial cables to enable televising to the city to be blocked off, and allow coverage to be extended to country districts. I believe that is all hogwash.

If the WANFL believes in promoting Australian rules football then it should televise the grand final at least to the country areas. I believe it would serve the wide interests of the league to televise the match also in the city to cater for people who are sick.

I have been a keen follower of Australian rules football for many years; and whenever a grand final has been played within a reasonable distance I have attended it. In fact, I am a football fanatic. I believe that I will attend this year's grand final. People may watch sporting events on television, but they do not get the same satisfaction as people who watch the events in the flesh and get the feeling of the crowd. It is far better to watch the match in person.

The Hon. D. K. Dans: I hope you are talking about football!

The Hon. A. A. LEWIS: I was talking about the blood and gore aspect. In my opinion, country people should not be disadvantaged. That should be the first aspect which the WANFL looks at. I am sure that after my last outburst the television stations felt they would be prepared to co-operate. The late Mr Ken Dunn had a great deal to say on this matter, and the best football club—Swan Districts—promoted a petition. I know that Mr Leeson agrees with what I am saying. It promoted a petition in the middle of last year to bring about television coverage of football finals.

For the reasons I have given I believe the matter should be brought before the House. I also believe it should be brought before the public. Having said that, I shall not hold up the House much longer.

If the WANFL does not make the move which I have suggested, then some members of this House might feel strongly enough about the matter to talk in fairly forceful terms about the appointment of a Select Committee to inquire into the administration of this sport in this State. I am sure some members are mindful of other facets of the dealings of WANFL with its affiliates in the country. I am not making any threats, but I believe this matter has become so serious that it is possible a suggestion for the appointment of a Select Committee will be put forward next year. I hope we will not have to go to those lengths; I hope sanity will prevail; and even at this late hour I hope the WANFL will agree to permit television coverage of the football grand final to the country next Saturday.

THE HON. W. R. WITHERS (North) [5.22 p.m.]: I would like to support the remarks made by Mr Lewis. As a country member I was horrified at the result of a move I made seven years ago. I came to the city to try to obtain some football colours for certain of the younger teams in my province which were starting to play Australian rules football. They wanted to know whether they could be given permission to wear the colours of certain league clubs.

Not only was I unable to obtain permission from the clubs to wear their colours, but I was also told by the then secretary of the so-called Western Australian National Football League that it was not interested in the people in the far north of the State. He said we were too far away, and that the league had too much to do to look after its own interests in the metropolitan area.

I was so upset by the remarks of the then secretary that I said to him, "You have no right to call yourselves the Western Australian National Football League. Henceforth you should call yourselves the southern national football league. We in the north are part of Western Australia."

That aspect appears to be lost sight of when football is to be shown on television. Those who oppose TV coverage expect the people interested to attend the match. Is that a sensible approach, when we take into account the fact that it costs about $400 for a person in my area to come down here for that purpose? It should also be borne in mind that we in my home town in the north do not have television. However, there are other people in the south of my province who are provided with TV and who would like to see the grand final on TV.

In conclusion I support this move of Mr Lewis.

THE HON. TOM McNEIL (Upper West) [5.25 p.m.]: The WANFL has once again taken unto itself the right to deny the people, particularly those residing in country areas, of the opportunity to look at our national sport. I consider that Australian rules football is our national sport, because in the main the children of this country are brought up on this game.

We are told that everyone likes to watch this game; yet as I pointed out previously in the House the rights of the players are not taken into consideration, because of the zoning laws of the various States. I have taken up this matter not only with the Minister in charge of the media, but also with the WANFL. The fact is that once again next Saturday our country cousins will miss out on seeing the grand final being televised direct. We have been told a variety of stories as to why television coverage cannot be provided in the country areas.

Recently a court case was decided in Victoria which pertains in some respects to the issue in question; that was the case of Peter Hall who requested a clearance from Collingwood, which regarded itself as the guardian angel of the rights of this young person to play Australian rules football with the club of his choice! Peter Hall won his case, but it took him three years.

Most people in Victoria were happy with the outcome, and they thought that would be the end of zoning. They thought that if a person wanted to play Australian rules football he would be able to play with whichever club he liked.

The costs of the case went against the VFL and Collingwood, and I believe the amount was in the vicinity of $7 000. However, that fact was not printed in the newspapers; it was kept quiet. The VFL did not want the adverse publicity.

The VFL immediately held a meeting, and decided to put an end to this matter. It added a clause to its constitution, and this was a move to get around the position by the back door. It formed an appeal board. The situation is that if a person lives in a certain district he must play for the club which embraces that district. Literally, that club controls the player until his football days are over, and it has extracted the last pint of blood.

The club has complete freedom in that it can clear a player to another club. If that is agreed to, only then will the club tell the player concerned and the deal is thus finalised.

In the case of Peter Hall, if he plays with the club of his choice—which is South Melbourne—South Melbourne faces a fine of $100 000. If he seeks a permit to play, with South Melbourne, and plays without the permit being granted, the club could lose four premiership points.

As I pointed out, the WANFL tried to bring in a law which stated that a player who used his legal rights to obtain a clearance would not be granted a clearance in this State for seven years; and that proposal was defeated by a majority of only one vote.

The day is fast approaching when people will not put up with this state of affairs any longer. I consider that this year the people in the country should be given the right to watch the grand final on television, because the country districts provide 40 to 50 per cent of the players in the league clubs. People in the country will not be able to see the match, unless they are prepared to pay the cost of their fare to and accommodation in Perth.

They will have to do that to look at the very players, which their own country districts have trained, playing in the grand final.

This morning I received a letter from one of the directors of the league who has sat in judgement in deciding not to televise the finals to the country areas. It relates to my request that direct television coverage of the grand final be permitted at centres 100 miles or more from the metropolitan area, so as to give our country cousins a chance to look at the match direct and not as a replay.

The letter states—

> It is my view that there exists a clear responsibility on the part of our Governments, irrespective of what political party to back up their policies of decentralisation and bring to country people everywhere, not only Australian Rules football, but all types of sport and entertainment by providing the technical facilities to allow this to happen and at the same time not interfere with attendances and the financial return of organisations running the event or entertainment.

In other words, the directors of the WANFL are now asking us to intervene and provide them with a coaxial cable to enable them to telecast football to the country. But these facilities already exist, and over the years have been used by the WANFL as an excuse for saying attendances will drop if football is telecast live to country areas.

The attendance for the 1976 final round fell by 7 730 compared with the 1975 figure. This year, attendance is down 5 000 on the first two games alone. The WANFL no longer can use the excuse that televising the game will result in a declining attendance. Televising the game has not caused the fall in attendance; obviously, the league is failing to promote the game adequately. I believe the time has come when the directors of the WANFL should be advised by a Select Committee of Parliament as to the rights of Western Australians.

THE HON. R. T. LEESON (South-East) [5.31 p.m.]: I cannot let this opportunity pass without making some comment on the subject of televising football live to country areas. I think it is some six years since I first raised the issue in this House and in that time little, if anything, has been done. We have talked and talked in this place and raised the matter in various ways, but it is the same old story every year.

We have 20 country members in this House, and if we want to take the bull by the horns we can do it. I raised this issue in the House a month ago and suggested legislation was the only way to overcome the problem; this definitely is what is required.

The Hon. Tom McNeil quoted from a letter relating to this subject. If the WANFL is going to start using the lack of facilities as an excuse for not televising football live to country areas, it is simply asking for legislation to be introduced to control its activities. Let us do it.

If anybody knows the fellow who runs the microwave station at Kalgoorlie, he may be able to join that fellow on Saturday and watch the football live on a 26-inch colour television set at the Kalgoorlie station. However, the unfortunate people outside will not be given the same opportunity. I think it is a ridiculous situation. A great deal of time has been wasted in the House discussing this subject, and the matter should be resolved.

It seems to me that the directors of the WANFL have some sort of hold over members on this issue, because they have frightened us into a corner for a long time. I believe we must get down to tin tacks and make sure the WANFL agrees to telecast the football matches to country areas.

The Hon. R. G. Pike: It is good to hear you expounding on the number of country members in this House.

The Hon. R. T. LEESON: Yes, and we should use them.

Question put and passed.

House adjourned at 5.33 p.m.

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

ABORIGINES

Billiluna Pastoral Lease

129. The Hon. J.C. TOZER, to the Minister for Transport, representing the Minister for Community Welfare:

(1) Has the Billiluna pastoral lease in the East Kimberley been taken over by the Department of Aboriginal Affairs?

(2) Can the Minister confirm that the purchase price of $400 000 has been paid for this property?

(3) Will the Aboriginal people to occupy Billiluna be from the Walmadjeri group?

(4) Does the Walmadjeri group constitute an incorporated community body as

found on other properties purchased for the Aboriginal people?

(5) Is the pastoral lease vested—or to be vested—in the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission (Commonwealth) or the Aboriginal Lands Trust, the State body?

(6) If the answer to (5) is the first mentioned, why is this so?

(7) Has the State Department of Lands and Surveys any reservations about the tenure of the Billiluna pastoral lease under the incoming lessees?

(8) Is it a fact that an Adelaide firm of consultants made a feasibility study of the future operation of Billiluna by the Walmadjeris?

(9) On the assumption that the Walmadjeri people and the Commonwealth Government and the State Lands Department aspire to see this pastoral property operating on an "economic" basis, who will provide management guidance both on site and/or elsewhere?

(10) Has the lessee of the adjacent Balgo Hills pastoral lease expressed concern at the settling of Walmadjeris on Billiluna and any impact which such action will have on the Mission community, which is largely of Walmadjeri stock?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

(1) No. An application from Billiluna Pty. Ltd. to transfer to the Aboriginal Land Fund Commission was refused ministerial consent because Land Act requirements as to eligibility of the purchasers were not satisfied.

(2) No.

(3) Negotiations were undertaken with the Walmadjeri group in mind.

(4) No, but it is understood that the process has been commenced.

(5) and (6) Ownership of a pastoral lease must be registered in the name of any approved transferee.

(7) The Lands Department cannot comment upon the possible future performance of any incoming lessees.

(8) Yes.

(9) The intention had been to engage a pastoral management consultant.

(10) There is no Balgo Hills pastoral lease. The reserve adjacent, No. 26399, for "Use and Benefit of Aborigines", is vested in the Aboriginal Lands Trust which has not communicated any such concern.

DEAFNESS AWARENESS

Television News Sessions

135. The Hon. D. K. Dans for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Leader of the House:

In support of Deafness Awareness Week, will the Minister take steps, such as discussions between Station management, and Government and Deafness Council representatives, to encourage television stations to transmit news in sign language in a corner of the TV screen during news sessions?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

No. Hearing impaired children are taught to communicate in a variety of ways, any system of sign language being only one of them. In some instances it is considered to be highly undesirable that the children should commence to learn sign language.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Land Revaluations

136. The Hon. N. E. BAXTER, to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

Would the Minister please advise—

(a) the year each shire in the South West Land Division was revalued for rating purposes;

(b) what was the total figure of each revaluation;

(c) what was the percentage increase on the previous revaluation; and

(d) what year was each shire revalued previously?

The Hon. G. C. MacKINNON replied:

(a) to (d) The information requested has been set out in a schedule which I seek permission to table.

Important notes on the schedule are—

(1) As townsites are generally valued at different times from rural wards, it has been necessary to schedule the figures separately.

(2) The scheduled figures only show "major" townsites. However, small towns or townlets are, in most cases, valued in conjunction with, and form part of, the rural ward. In

any event, they would add little to the overall totals.

(3) The scheduled figures are all unimproved values.

The schedule was tabled (see paper No. 244).

ROAD FUNDS

Sources

137. The Hon. H. W. GAYFER, to the Minister for Transport:

(1) What were the sources, and individual amounts from each, which comprised the total Revenue of the Main Roads Department for the financial year 1976/77?

(2) What is the estimated revenue from the same sources, and any other sources, this financial year?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

(1) Federal Source

	$	$
National Roads Act	13 199 296	
Road Grants Act	44 000 000	
Transport (Planning & Research) Act	558 313	
Urban Public Transport Improvement Programme	230 290	57 987 899
State Source		
Road Traffic Act		
Motor Vehicle Licence Fees	31 388 085	
Drivers' Licence Fees	1 597 817	
Overload Permit Fees	290 577	
Oversize Permit Fees	9 459	
Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act	4 621 937	
Loan Borrowings	1 000 000	38 907 875
		96 895 774

(2) Federal Source

Road Grants Act	60 200 000	
Transport (Planning & Research) Act	422 000	60 622 000
State Source		
Road Traffic Act		
Motor Licence Fees	40 320 000	
Drivers' Licence Fees	2 160 000	
Overload Permit Fees	10 000	
Overweight Permit Fees	10 000	
Road Maintenance (Contribution) Act	4 750 000	
Loan Borrowings	1 000 000	48 250 000
		108 872 000

URANIUM

Overseas Markets

138. The Hon. D. K. Dans for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Attorney-General representing the Minister for Mines:

(1) Has the Government investigated possible overseas markets for Western Australian produced uranium?

(2) If so—

(a) what countries were surveyed in the investigation;

(b) has this information been made available to companies intending to mine uranium; and

(c) to what extent has the expected market potential declined over the last two years?

(3) At what stage in a proposal to develop a uranium mine is a company required to prove a market for its production?

The Hon. I. G. MEDCALF replied:

(1) As stated in my reply to a similar question on Thursday, the 25th August, 1977, the Government has not investigated potential markets for Western Australian uranium as it regards this and the choice as to which market offer(s) to accept as the commercial right and responsibility of the prospective developer, provided the safeguards are adhered to.

Potential purchasers, however—knowing that mining, processing and export are under State and Federal Government rules and regulations—keep in close contact with the Government.

(2) Not applicable.

(3) At the time of submitting its proposals for the development of the project and prior to the commencement of construction the developers will be expected to submit details of arrangements for financing the project and for marketing the products.

HEALTH

Spastic Welfare Home Fees

139. The Hon. D. K. Dans for the Hon. R. F. CLAUGHTON, to the Minister for Transport representing the Minister for Health:

(1) Is the Minister aware that persons attending the Spastic Welfare Association nursing home in Oswald Street, Innaloo, because of increased fees now receive approximately $40 per week where formerly they received approximately $57 per week?

(2) In view of the above, will the Minister undertake to determine what action the Government may take to at least restore the residual income of the above persons to its former level?

The Hon. D. J. WORDSWORTH replied:

(1) and (2) There appears to be some doubt as to the accuracy of the figures quoted. These are being checked and when this is done the information will be provided.